CURRENT AFFAIRS — 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Monday, 2 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

StudyForGS.com

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **GST** Oct 2026: **₹2.31 lakh cr**, up **22.9%** — second-highest ever after April's **₹2.43 lakh cr**.
- **NVS-03** launched by **GSLV-F18** (20th GSLV flight) from Sriharikota on **30 Oct** — strengthens **NavIC**.
- ACM **Ashutosh Dixit** is the **29th CAS**; vision **VAYU** = Vigilance, Aatmanirbharta, Yukti, Unity of effort.
- **Project-18**: ~**₹80,000 cr** plan for next-gen ~**10,000-tonne** stealth destroyers at **MDL**, Mumbai.
- **Binance** hit by **$6.3 bn** heist — largest crypto theft ever; about **$3 bn** frozen.
- **Bharat RE Summit 2026** (2–5 Nov, Bharat Mandapam) hosts the **9th ISA Assembly** and **4th ICGH**.
- First-ever **BIMSTEC maritime security exercise** (30 Oct–3 Nov) hosted by **Andaman & Nicobar Command**.
- From **2 Nov**, **Senior Advocates** cannot make **oral mentions** in the Supreme Court; juniors encouraged.
- **Digi Yatra** international trials at **7 airports** for **e-passport** holders till **Dec 2026**.
- **Guwahati airport** added as permitted export point for **agarwood** oil & chips (DGFT Notfn **46/2026**).

SECTION A — GS-III: SCIENCE & TECH • SECURITY • ENVIRONMENT

GSLV-F18 places NVS-03 in orbit — third next-gen NavIC satellite

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Space technology, indigenisation. **Prelims**: NavIC, GSLV, frequency bands, atomic clocks.
Context	ISRO launched **NVS-03** aboard **GSLV-F18** from the **Second Launch Pad, Sriharikota** on **30 October 2026**; the first **orbit-raising manoeuvre** was completed on **1 November** with the spacecraft healthy.
Key Facts	■ **20th flight** of the GSLV programme; satellite placed in **Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO)**. ■ Third of the **NVS series** after **NVS-01 (May 2023)** and **NVS-02 (Jan 2025)**. ■ Carries an **indigenous atomic clock** plus procured clocks for precise timing. ■ Adds **L1** signal to existing **L5** and **S-band** — better compatibility with civilian devices. ■ NavIC covers **India + ~1,500 km** beyond its borders.
Way Fwd	Replace ageing IRNSS satellites quickly, push **L1-enabled chipsets** in phones and vehicles, and mandate NavIC in critical infrastructure.
Concept	**NavIC** (earlier **IRNSS**) is India's **regional navigation satellite system**; **GSLV Mk II** uses an indigenous **cryogenic upper stage**. Global systems: **GPS** (USA), **GLONASS** (Russia), **Galileo** (EU), **BeiDou** (China).

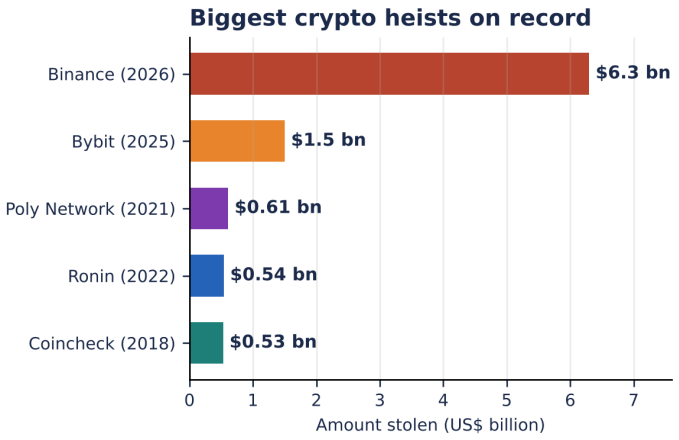
NVS-03 MISSION FACT SHEET

LAUNCH	GSLV-F18 • 30 Oct 2026 • SLP, Sriharikota
ORBIT	GTO → orbit-raising began 1 Nov
SIGNALS	L1 (new) + L5 + S-band
CLOCK	Indigenous atomic clock + procured
SERIES	NVS-01 (2023) → NVS-02 (2025) → NVS-03
COVERAGE	India + ~1,500 km beyond borders

$6.3 billion Binance heist — biggest crypto theft on record

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Cyber security, money laundering, challenges to internal security through communication networks. **Prelims**: VDAs, FIU-IND, CERT-In.
Context	Crypto exchange **Binance** estimated losses of **$6.3 billion** from a breach that began late on **29 October**; blockchain analysts attributed it with high confidence to a **North Korea-linked** hacking unit.
Key Facts	■ Bulk of funds drained in about **20 minutes**; entry via an engineer's **compromised laptop**. ■ About **$3 billion** located and **frozen**; stablecoin issuers froze large sums. ■ Previous record: **Bybit, Feb 2025 – $1.5 billion**. ■ Bitcoin fell to a **six-week low** after the news; exchange set aside reserves to cover user losses.
Way Fwd	Mandatory **cyber-audits and proof-of-reserves** for VDA platforms, faster cross-border freezing under **FATF** norms, and a comprehensive crypto law.
Concept	India taxes **VDA** gains at **30%** with **1% TDS** (Finance Act 2022); VDA service providers report to **FIU-IND under PMLA** (since **March 2023**). **CERT-In** is the nodal agency under **Sec 70B, IT Act 2000**.



New IAF chief Ashutosh Dixit outlines 'VAYU' vision

[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Security forces and their mandate, defence indigenisation. **Prelims**: Persons in news, Tejas, AMCA.
Context	Air Chief Marshal **Ashutosh Dixit** took over as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff**, succeeding ACM **A.P. Singh**, and a day later named restoring **combat strength to sanctioned levels** as his foremost task.
Key Facts	■ **VAYU** = **V**igilance & readiness, **A**atmanirbharta, **Y**ukti (ingenuity), **U**nity of effort. ■ Indigenous platforms prioritised: **Tejas Mk1A, Tejas Mk2, AMCA**. ■ New domains: **AI-enabled C2**, **layered counter-drone** defence, **near-space** operations. ■ Fighter pilot commissioned **6 Dec 1986**; earlier **CISC** and **Vice Chief**; Kargil veteran (**Op Safed Sagar**).

Way Fwd	Time-bound **Tejas Mk1A deliveries**, fast-track fighter acquisition and deepen **theatre-level jointness** with Army and Navy.
Concept	IAF's **sanctioned strength is 42 fighter squadrons**. **JAI** = Jointness, Aatmanirbharta, Innovation. **CAS** is appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**.

Navy readies ₹80,000-crore Project-18 next-gen destroyers

[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Defence indigenisation, maritime security. **Prelims**: Warship classes, shipyards.
Context	The Navy is set to launch a **~₹80,000-crore** programme for **next-generation stealth destroyers** to counter emerging maritime threats in the **Indo-Pacific**.
Key Facts	■ Reportedly **6 ships** (earlier 8) of about **10,000 tonnes** each — largest Indian surface combatants. ■ Builder: **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)**, Mumbai; roughly **₹13,000 cr per ship**. ■ Target of near-**100% indigenous content** (up from ~75%). ■ Successor to **Project-15B (Visakhapatnam class)**.
Way Fwd	Lock design early, expand shipyard capacity and integrate **indigenous radars, missiles and propulsion** to avoid delays.
Concept	**P-15A** = Kolkata class; **P-15B** = Visakhapatnam class (Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal, Surat). Capital buys need **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** from the **DAC** under **DAP 2020**.

PM opens Bharat Renewable Energy Summit; 9th ISA Assembly in Delhi

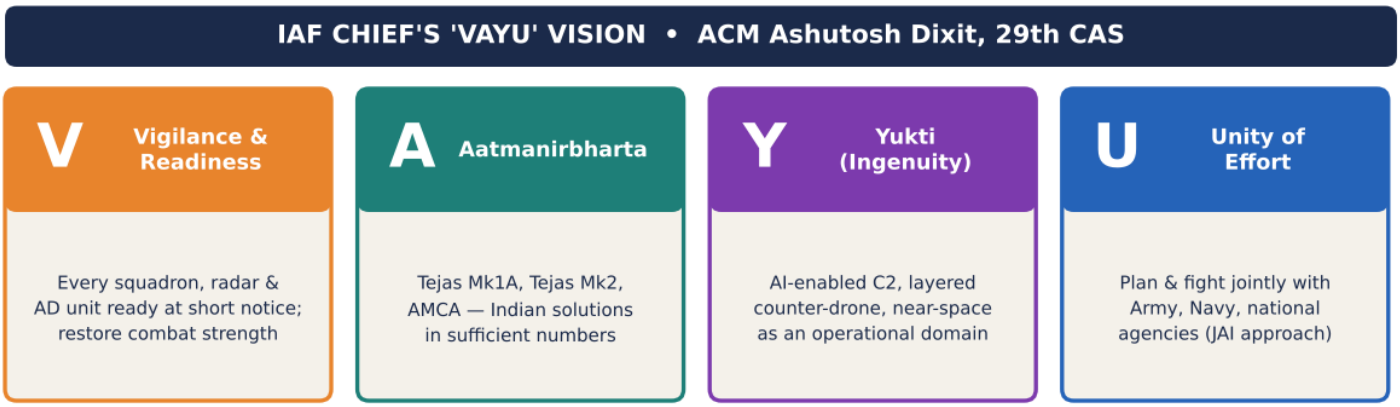
[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Energy, conservation, climate commitments. **GS2** – International institutions. **Prelims**: ISA, Green Hydrogen Mission.
Context	The **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026** runs **2–5 November** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** under the theme **'Invest. Innovate. Inspire.'**, with co-located global energy meetings.
Key Facts	■ Participants from **130+ countries**, **40+ ministers**, **400+ exhibitors**. ■ Co-located: **9th ISA Assembly** and **4th International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH)**. ■ **9 country partners** (incl. EU, France, Germany, UK) and **13 states** participating. ■ Builds on **RE-INVEST**, India's earlier flagship RE investment summit.
Way Fwd	Channel summit pledges into **storage, transmission and domestic manufacturing**, and use ISA for **catalytic finance** to Global South members.
Concept	**ISA** was launched by **India and France at COP21, Paris (2015)**; HQ **Gurugram**. India targets **500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030** and **net zero by 2070**; **National Green Hydrogen Mission**: **5 MMT/year by 2030**, outlay **₹19,744 cr**.

Why even a strong El Niño does not guarantee a poor monsoon

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS1

Syllabus Linkage	**GS1** – Important geophysical phenomena, Indian monsoon. **GS3** – Agriculture, disaster management. **Prelims**: ENSO, IOD, LPA.
Context	With the Pacific heading for a **strong, possibly historic El Niño**, analysts note that the 2026 monsoon ended at about **87% of LPA** — the **weakest since 2015** — yet El Niño alone does not decide India's rainfall.
Key Facts	■ Season rainfall **759.4 mm** vs normal **868.6 mm** (**~12.6% deficit**). ■ **Niño-3.4 anomaly +2.1°C** (8 Oct) — in the **strong** range; likely to persist to **Feb 2027**. ■ Worst hit: **East & NE India (74%)** and **South Peninsula (76%)** of LPA. ■ A **positive IOD** saved the **1997** monsoon despite a very strong El Niño; in 2026 it came **too late**.
Way Fwd	Plan **rabi water budgeting**, contingency crop plans and reservoir management early; improve **IOD–MJO-based** forecasting.
Concept	**El Niño** = warming of the central/east **equatorial Pacific**; **IOD** = west–east SST gradient in the **Indian Ocean**. IMD: **normal = 96–104% of LPA**; **deficient: below 90%**; LPA (1971–2020) **87 cm**.





SECTION B — ECONOMY: DATA POINT OF THE DAY

GROSS GST COLLECTIONS, OCTOBER 2026

₹2.31 lakh crore (+22.9% YoY)

Second-highest monthly mop-up ever after **April 2026 (₹2.43 lakh crore)**; **net GST ₹2.03 lakh crore** after refunds of **₹27,934 crore**.

GST mop-up surges 23% to ₹2.31 lakh crore — highest growth in 4 years

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

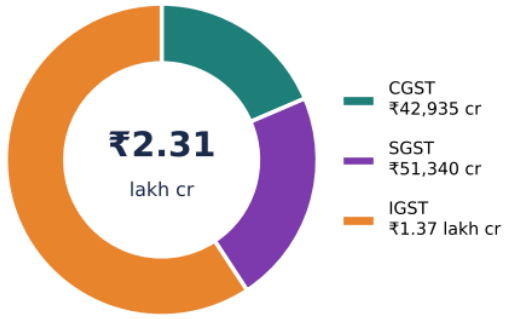
Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Mobilisation of resources, fiscal policy, indirect taxes. **Prelims**: CGST/SGST/IGST, GST Council.
Context	Official data released on **1 November** show **gross GST of ₹2.31 lakh crore** for **October 2026**, up **22.9%** on festive demand — the **second straight month above ₹2 lakh crore**.
Key Facts	■ **Domestic** gross **₹1.59 lakh cr (+15.8%)**; **imports ₹72,246 cr (+42.2%)**. ■ **CGST ₹42,935 cr**, **SGST ₹51,340 cr**, **IGST ₹1.37 lakh cr**. ■ Refunds **₹27,934 cr**; **net GST ₹2.03 lakh cr**. ■ Record remains **April 2026: ₹2.43 lakh cr**; **Apr–Oct** gross **₹14.77 lakh cr (+13.2%)**. ■ Top state: **Maharashtra ₹35,150 cr**; **UP & Bihar** grew **24%**.
Way Fwd	Sustain compliance through **e-invoicing and analytics**, and watch whether festive buoyancy persists beyond the season.
Concept	GST came via the **101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016**; **Art 246A** (concurrent taxing power), **Art 269A** (IGST on inter-state supply), **Art 279A** (GST Council). **GST 2.0** (from **22 Sept 2025**): main slabs **5% and 18%**, plus **40%** on sin/luxury goods.

Guwahati airport opened for agarwood exports

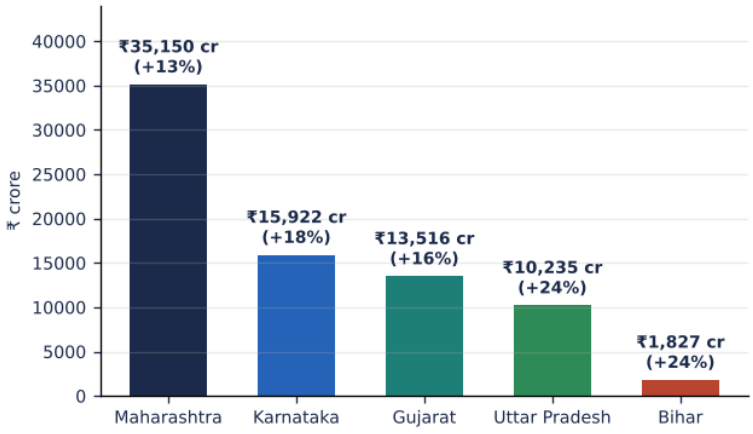
[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Exports, NE development, biodiversity trade. **Prelims**: CITES, IUCN status, DGFT.
Context	**DGFT Notification No. 46/2026 (30 Oct)** adds **Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport, Guwahati** to the permitted ports for exporting **agarwood oil, chips and allied products**.
Key Facts	■ Issued under the **FT(D&R) Act, 1992** and **Foreign Trade Policy 2023**. ■ Existing points include **Mumbai, Nhava Sheva, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai, Kandla, Mundra**. ■ **CITES export permit** still mandatory for listed species. ■ Assam (esp. **Golaghat**) is India's agarwood hub — the resin is prized as **'oud'**.
Way Fwd	Promote **plantation-sourced** agarwood with traceability so exports grow without pressure on wild stock.
Concept	Agarwood comes from **Aquilaria malaccensis** — **CITES Appendix II**, **IUCN: Critically Endangered**. Resin forms after **fungal infection** of the heartwood.

Gross GST, Oct 2026 (+22.9% YoY)



State-wise collections, Oct 2026 (YoY growth)



SECTION C — GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • IR • SOCIAL JUSTICE

Supreme Court bars Senior Advocates from oral mentioning from 2 November

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Structure and functioning of the Judiciary, judicial reforms. **Prelims**: Art 145, Senior Advocate designation.
Context	A Supreme Court circular dated **27 October 2026**, effective **2 November**, says **Senior Counsel will not be permitted to make oral mentions** before any court; **young and junior counsel** are encouraged to mention instead.
Key Facts	■ Builds on the **29 Nov 2025** circular (effective **1 Dec 2025**) on mentioning procedure. ■ Urgency letter & **mentioning proforma** due by **3 PM** of the previous working day. ■ Matters covered by **automatic listing** generally cannot be mentioned. ■ Separately, the **CJI** asked **High Courts** why litigants must rush to the SC for early hearings.
Way Fwd	Pair the rule with **tech-driven auto-listing** and HC-level urgent-hearing mechanisms to cut pendency and improve access for junior lawyers.
Concept	**Art 145** lets the SC frame rules of practice and procedure; the **CJI is 'Master of the Roster'**. Senior Advocates are designated under **Sec 16, Advocates Act, 1961**.

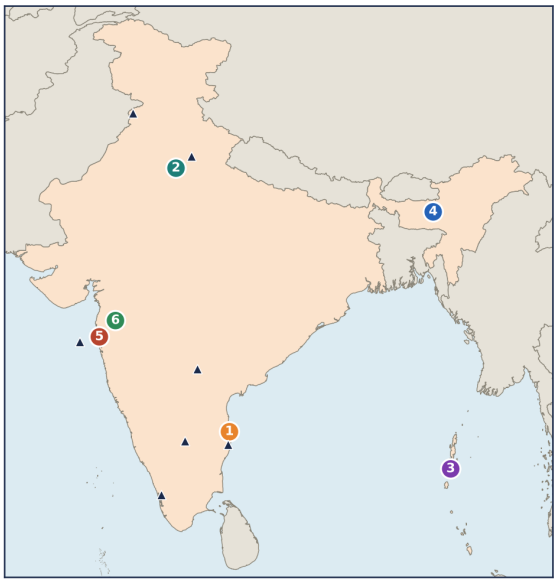
Digi Yatra begins international passenger trials at seven airports

[GOVERNANCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – e-Governance, citizen services. **GS3** – Digital public infrastructure, privacy. **Prelims**: Digi Yatra, DPDP Act.
Context	From **1 November 2026**, **Indian e-passport holders** on international flights can use **facial-recognition-based Digi Yatra** at **7 airports**; trials run till **December 2026**, with wider rollout planned in **2027**.

Key Facts	■ Airports: **Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kochi, Amritsar**. ■ App reads passport **MRZ + NFC chip**, matches a **selfie**; credential stays in the phone's **digital wallet**. ■ Platform has **26.5 million+ users** and **110 million+ journeys**. ■ Plans interoperability with **IATA One ID** and **ICAO Public Key Directory**.
Way Fwd	Ensure **voluntary, consent-based** use with audits under the **DPDP Act 2023**, and keep manual options for those without smartphones.
Concept	**Digi Yatra Foundation** is a **not-for-profit (Sec 8 company)** of **AAI** and major airports under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation**; domestic enrolment uses **Aadhaar**. Model: **decentralised, self-sovereign identity**.

INDIA IN NEWS — 2 NOV 2026



■ 1 Sriharikota – NVS-03 launch
■ 2 New Delhi – Bharat RE Summit / ISA
■ 3 Sri Vijaya Puram – BIMSTEC drill
■ 4 Guwahati – agarwood export point
■ 5 Mumbai – MDL (Project-18)
■ 6 Nashik – Simhastha Kumbh
▲ Digi Yatra international-trial airports (7)

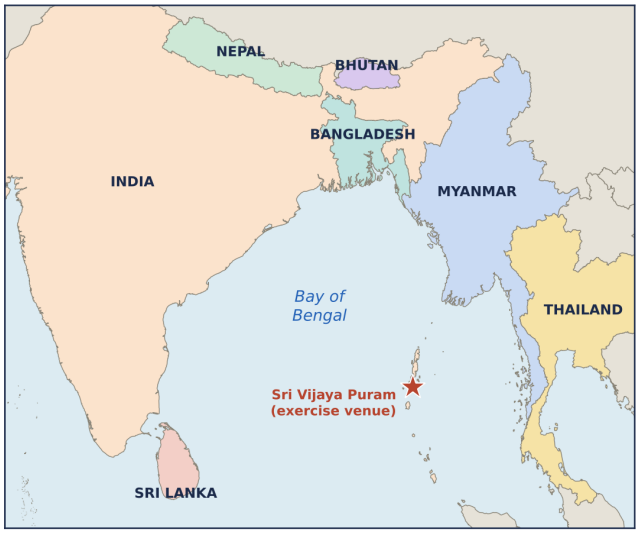
Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

India hosts first-ever BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise

[IR] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – India and its neighbourhood, regional groupings. **GS3** – Maritime security. **Prelims**: BIMSTEC members, ANC.
Context	The **Andaman & Nicobar Command** is hosting the maiden **BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise** (**30 Oct–3 Nov 2026**) at **Sri Vijaya Puram** under the banner '**Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity**'.
Key Facts	■ All **7 members** take part: **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand**. ■ Aims: **interoperability**, **maritime domain awareness (MDA)**, coordination and best practices. ■ Follows the **6th BIMSTEC Summit (Bangkok, 2025)** — theme '**Prosperous, Resilient and Open**'. ■ **ANC** (est. **2001**) is India's **first integrated tri-service command**.
Way Fwd	Institutionalise the drill, link it with the **IFC-IOR** for information sharing, and use BIMSTEC as an alternative to a stalled **SAARC**.
Concept	**BIMSTEC** was formed by the **Bangkok Declaration (1997)**; Secretariat **Dhaka**; its **Charter** entered into force in **2024**. Links to India's **Neighbourhood First**, **Act East** and **MAHASAGAR** vision.

BIMSTEC — 7 MEMBERS ROUND THE BAY



★ First BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise, 30 Oct–3 Nov 2026

Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

National Social Security Board notified for gig and platform workers

[SOCIETY] **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections. **GS3** – Employment, informal economy. **Prelims**: Labour Codes, e-Shram.
Context	The **Labour Ministry** has notified the **National Social Security Board** for **unorganised, gig and platform workers** under the **Code on Social Security, 2020** (in force since **21 Nov 2025**).
Key Facts	■ Chaired by the **Union Minister of Labour & Employment**. ■ Members: Centre, states, **aggregators**, employers, unions and **gig-worker associations**. ■ Eligible aggregators pay **1–2% of annual turnover** (capped) into a social security fund. ■ Board will **recommend schemes**, **monitor welfare** and review fund expenditure.
Way Fwd	Universal **e-Shram linkage**, portable benefits across platforms and focus on **decent wages**, not just coverage.
Concept	The **Code on Social Security, 2020** merged **9 labour laws** and first defined **gig worker** and **platform worker** in law. **e-Shram** portal (2021) is the national database of unorganised workers.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

TOPIC	QUICK FACT
Bhutan / IR	**Bhutan** built **108 stupas in 9 hours**; **Chorten No. 76** was dedicated to **PM Modi**.
Defence (World)	**US** approved a proposed sale of **500 PAC-3 MSE** Patriot interceptors (~**$2.1 bn**) to **Ukraine**.
Economy – LRS	Indians remitted about **$20 bn** abroad under the **LRS** in the first **8 months of 2026** (limit **$2.5 lakh** per year).
Important Day	**2 November**: **International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists** (UNGA Res **68/163**).
Internal Security	Union Home Minister said **Chandigarh** will become **India's first drug-free city**.
Culture	President **Droupadi Murmu** hoisted the flag marking the start of the **Nashik–Trimbakeshwar Simhastha Kumbh** on the **Godavari**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to the recently launched NVS-03 satellite, consider the following statements:
1. It was launched by GSLV-F18 from Sriharikota.
2. It adds an L1 navigation signal alongside the L5 and S-band signals.
3. NavIC's primary service area extends about 1,500 km beyond India's borders.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) — All three are correct: **GSLV-F18** launched **NVS-03** on **30 Oct 2026**; it carries **L1, L5 and S-band** payloads; NavIC covers India plus **~1,500 km**.

Q2. Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of BIMSTEC?

(a) Myanmar
(b) Bhutan
(c) Maldives
(d) Thailand

Answer: (c) — BIMSTEC's **7 members** are **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand**; **Maldives** is not a member.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3): The record crypto-exchange heist of October 2026 shows that virtual digital assets are now a security concern, not just an investor-protection issue. Examine India's regulatory framework for VDAs and suggest reforms. (15 marks, 250 words)

Hint: Intro: **$6.3 bn** heist, state-linked hackers. Body: current framework — **30% tax + 1% TDS**, **PMLA/FIU-IND** registration, **CERT-In** 6-hour reporting; gaps — no comprehensive law, offshore exchanges, weak proof-of-reserves; global lessons (**FATF travel rule**). Way forward: licensing regime, cyber-audits, international freezing cooperation. Conclude with balancing innovation and security.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **GST ₹2.31 lakh cr (+23%)** • **NVS-03** strengthens **NavIC** • **VAYU** = Vigilance, Aatmanirbharta, Yukti, Unity • First **BIMSTEC** maritime drill at **ANC** • No **oral mentioning by Seniors** in SC from **2 Nov**.

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