CURRENT AFFAIRS — 3 November 2026

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Tuesday, 3 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- MoD signs **₹53,866-cr** deal for **8 Next-Gen Corvettes** – GRSE **5**, GSL **3**.
- PM: India to add **500 GW** more non-fossil capacity in **10–11 years**.
- SC permits certified **green crackers** in Delhi-NCR on **7–8 Nov** only.
- SC: rescued **bonded labourers** to get aid within **7 days** of release certificate.
- **VB-G RAM G** grievance rules notified – **15-day** resolution deadline.
- **GRAP Stage II** in Delhi-NCR as AQI touches **327** ('Very Poor').
- Manufacturing **PMI** eases to **54.7** in October; export orders at **6-month high**.
- **FRROs** to come up in **all State capitals by 2027**.
- Maiden **BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise** ends at **Sri Vijaya Puram**.
- NSA **Doval** in **Hanoi** – India–Vietnam to deepen **defence ties**.

SECTION A — GS-III: SCIENCE-TECH • ECONOMY • ENERGY • SECURITY

MoD inks ₹53,866-crore deal for 8 Next Generation Corvettes

DEFENCE COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Security, **defence indigenisation**; Prelims – DPSUs, warship classes, **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**.
Context	On **2 Nov 2026** the Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth **₹53,866.50 crore** for **eight Next Generation Corvettes (NGC)** for the Navy, within a week of **CCS** clearance.
Key Facts	■ **GRSE, Kolkata** builds **5** ships and **Goa Shipyard Ltd** builds **3**; GRSE was the **lowest bidder (L1)** in **May 2025**. ■ **Multi-role stealth** ships for **anti-surface & anti-submarine warfare**, coastal defence and littoral combat; replace ageing **single-role missile corvettes**. ■ First Navy **in-house design** of this class awarded to **DPSUs via competitive bidding** – not nomination or foreign licence. ■ About **₹6,733 crore per ship**; **first delivery by 2030**; ~**72 lakh person-days** in yards and **460 lakh** in MSMEs over **10 years**.
Way Fwd	Keep **delivery timelines** tight, raise **indigenous weapon-sensor** content and pull **private yards** into the vendor chain.
Concept	**Corvette** – smallest ocean-going warship class (below frigate & destroyer). **CCS** is chaired by the **PM**; **DAP-2020** gives top priority to **'Buy (Indian-IDDM)'**.

Who builds the 8 NGCs?

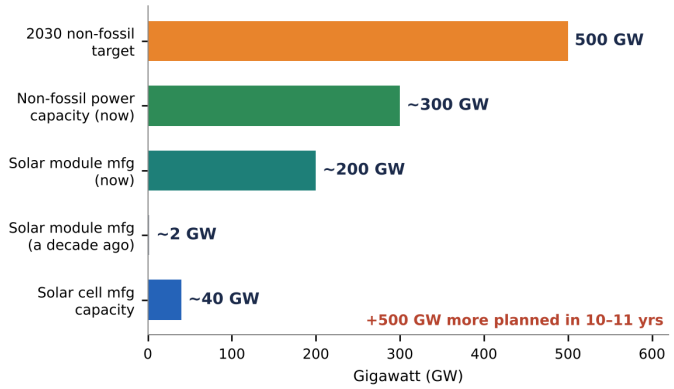


PM: India to add 500 GW more non-fossil capacity in 10–11 years

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Energy, infrastructure, **climate commitments**; Prelims – **ISA**, NDC, PM Surya Ghar, PM-KUSUM.
Context	Opening the **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026** at **Bharat Mandapam**, held with the **9th ISA Assembly (2–5 Nov)**, the PM said clean energy **cushioned India from the West Asia crisis**.
Key Facts	■ India has **~300 GW non-fossil** capacity towards the **500 GW by 2030** goal (**COP-26**); **50% non-fossil share** met in **2025**, **5 years early**. ■ **Solar module** manufacturing rose from **~2 GW to 200+ GW** in a decade; **solar cell** capacity is **~40 GW**. ■ Investment opportunity of **₹20 lakh crore (~US$220 bn)** by 2030; **₹15 lakh crore** invested in the last decade. ■ **PM Surya Ghar**: **65 lakh+** homes (target **1 crore**); **PM-KUSUM**: **30 lakh+** farmers; **US$200 mn Africa Solar Facility** proposed.
Way Fwd	Pair new capacity with **storage**, the next phase of **green energy corridors (~₹2 lakh crore)** and **cell-wafer** self-reliance.
Concept	**ISA** – launched by **India & France** at **COP-21 Paris (2015)**; HQ **Gurugram**. **Panchamrit (COP-26)** – **Net Zero by 2070**.

India's clean-energy scale-up



FM: Capex push to continue till private investment picks up

ECONOMY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Budgeting, investment models, growth; Prelims – **capital vs revenue expenditure**, FPI.
Context	On **2 Nov 2026**, FM **Nirmala Sitharaman** said the Centre will sustain **public capex** until **private investment** expands capacity, while **fiscal prudence remains non-negotiable**.
Key Facts	■ **Budget 2026-27** capex is **₹12.2 lakh crore**; FM cited its **multiplier effect** over five years. ■ India needs more **equity capital** for **7%+ growth**; GST and banks show **'no fragility'**. ■ **FPIs** sold ~**₹1.6 lakh crore** of equities in FY27 (till Oct) but turned **net buyers** in the last two weeks. ■ **Banking committee** under ex-CVC **S.N. Patel** to report by **April 2027**; **AI-training centres** planned in every district.

Siang Upper Multipurpose Project: Arunachal CM offers dialogue

ENVIRONMENT COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Infrastructure, environment vs development; **GS2** – tribal rights; Prelims – **Siang/Brahmaputra**, Adi tribe.
Context	After violent protests in **East Siang (23–24 Oct)**, CM **Pema Khandu** wrote to protesters promising **dialogue, transparency and public consultation** on the proposed **~11,000-MW SUMP**.
Key Facts	■ Proposed **11,000–11,200 MW** project on the **Siang (Yarlung Tsangpo)** – would be **India's largest hydropower** project. ■ Present work is limited to surveys for a **Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR)**; an **NHPC** office was torched on **23 Oct 2026**. ■ Seen as a **strategic buffer** against China's mega dam on the **Yarlung Tsangpo (Medog)** upstream. ■ Protesters, mainly **Adi** groups, want PFR surveys and central forces withdrawn; fear **displacement** and loss of land.

Way Fwd	**Crowd-in** private capex via **PLI, GST reforms** and ease of doing business, while staying on the **fiscal glide path**.
Concept	**Capital expenditure** creates assets or cuts liabilities and has a **higher multiplier** than revenue spending. **Crowding-in vs crowding-out**; **FRBM Act, 2003**.

Way Fwd	**Free, prior and informed consent**, credible **EIA and social-impact** studies and **benefit-sharing** can reconcile security with livelihoods.
Concept	The **Brahmaputra** enters India as the **Siang**; joins the **Dibang & Lohit** near **Sadiya**. **Article 371H** – special provision for **Arunachal Pradesh**.

INDIA IN NEWS — 3 November 2026



1. **Delhi**
   GRAP-II (AQI 327); SC green-cracker window; RE Summit & ISA Assembly
2. **Kolkata, West Bengal**
   GRSE to build 5 Next Generation Corvettes
3. **Goa**
   Goa Shipyard Ltd to build 3 Next Generation Corvettes
4. **Sri Vijaya Puram, A&N Islands**
   Maiden BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise (30 Oct–3 Nov)
5. **East Siang, Arunachal Pradesh**
   Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (~11,000 MW) – dialogue offer
6. **Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh**
   Brick-kiln rescue behind SC bonded-labour ruling

Linked to: Siang project & other locations in today's news • Map not to scale; boundaries as per India's official position

Delhi-NCR invokes GRAP Stage II as AQI turns 'Very Poor'

ENVIRONMENT **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Pollution, environmental governance; Prelims – **AQI categories**, CAQM, **GRAP stages**.
Context	**CAQM** invoked **GRAP Stage II** on **2 Nov 2026** as Delhi's **AQI hit 327**, up from **117 (31 Oct)** and **261 (1 Nov)** within three days.
Key Facts	■ Stage II curbs: ban on **coal & firewood**, limits on **diesel generators**, **higher parking fees**, more **mechanised sweeping & sprinkling**. ■ **IMD/IITM** forecasts AQI to stay '**Very Poor**'; calm weather and **farm fires** add to the load. ■ GRAP stages: **I** Poor (**201–300**), **II** Very Poor (**301–400**), **III** Severe (**401–450**), **IV** Severe+ (**>450**).
Way Fwd	Shift from **episodic GRAP** to **year-round airshed** action – clean transport, dust control and **crop-residue** solutions.
Concept	**CAQM** – statutory body under the **CAQM Act, 2021** for NCR and adjoining areas. **National AQI (2014)** tracks **8 pollutants** incl. PM2.5, PM10, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3, Pb.

Maiden BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise concludes in Andamans

DEFENCE **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS3** – Maritime security; **GS2** – regional groupings; Prelims – **BIMSTEC members**, A&N Command.
Context	India hosted the **first BIMSTEC Maritime Security Exercise** at **Sri Vijaya Puram** from **30 Oct to 3 Nov 2026**, as announced by the PM at the **6th BIMSTEC Summit, Bangkok (April 2025)**.
Key Facts	■ Hosted by the **Andaman & Nicobar Command** – India's **only tri-service command**; theme '**Shared Seas, Shared Security and Shared Prosperity**'. ■ **3-day tabletop** + **2-day harbour phase**; ships incl. **SLNS Gajabahu** (Sri Lanka) and **UMS King Aung Zeya** (Myanmar). ■ Focus: **maritime domain awareness**, **HADR**, maritime crime, terrorism and **oil-spill** response in the **Bay of Bengal**. ■ Anchored in the **Delhi Declaration** of the **1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting (13 Oct 2026)**.
Way Fwd	Make it an **annual drill** and link it with **IFC-IOR** information sharing for a secure Bay of Bengal.
Concept	**BIMSTEC** (1997, **Bangkok Declaration**; Secretariat **Dhaka**) – **7 members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand; **Charter** in force **2024**.

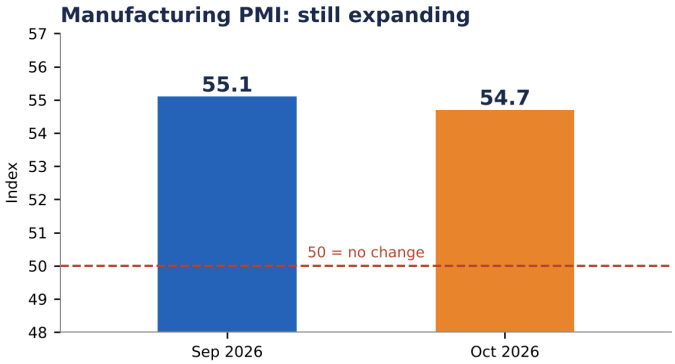
SECTION B — ECONOMY DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Manufacturing PMI (October 2026)

54.7

Down from **55.1** in September but well above the **50** mark (expansion). **New export orders** hit a **6-month high**; input-cost inflation was the **lowest since Feb 2026** and output-price rise at a **near 4-year low**.

Concept: PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) is a survey-based diffusion index of about **400** manufacturers; above **50** = expansion, below **50** = contraction. It is released on the **first working day** of the month – an early signal ahead of the **IIP**.



SECTION C — GS-II: GOVERNANCE • POLITY • INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SC allows certified green crackers in Delhi-NCR on 7–8 November

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Judiciary, Fundamental Rights; **GS3** – pollution; Prelims – **Art 21 & 25**, CSIR-NEERI, PESO.
Context	A bench of Justices **M.M. Sundresh** and **P.B. Varale** relaxed the blanket ban for **Deepavali**: certified **green crackers** may be sold and burst on **7–8 Nov 2026**; the full ban returns from **9 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ Bursting only **6–7 am** and **8–10 pm**; **no online sale**; sales only at **district-designated points**. ■ Only **CSIR-NEERI**-approved products with **QR codes** and **PESO** licence; **barium** and conventional **'laris'** stay banned. ■ **300-m cracker-free zones** near hospitals, schools and silence zones; **CPCB** to file daily AQI reports; next hearing **16 Dec**. ■ Court: blanket ban **fostered an illegal market**; **Art 25** is subject to the **Art 21** right to a **healthy environment**.
Way Fwd	Hard **enforcement and health-AQI data** should decide whether calibrated relaxation or a ban works better.
Concept	**Green crackers** (CSIR-NEERI) cut emissions by about **30%** and use no barium; types **SWAS, SAFAL, STAR**. Case: **Arjun Gopal v. Union of India** (petition of 2015).

SC: Rescued bonded labourers must get aid within 7 days

SOCIETY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Vulnerable sections, Fundamental Rights; **GS1** – social issues; Prelims – **Art 23**, BLSA Act 1976.
Context	In **Surendra Manjhi v. Union of India** (**2 Nov 2026**), Justices **Vikram Nath** and **Aparesh Kumar Singh** held that **delay in rehabilitation amounts to denial** and set nationwide timelines.
Key Facts	■ **Immediate aid** ordinarily within **7 days** of the **release certificate**; complaints verified and certificates issued within **24 hours**. ■ Aid cannot be withheld over **inter-State disputes** or **pending criminal cases**; duty under **Arts 21 & 23** continues after release. ■ Centre: guidelines with **NHRC** in **3 months**, a **uniform release certificate** and an effective **NAVJIVAN portal**. ■ States: nodal officers, active **Vigilance Committees**; grievances settled in **30 days**; case arose from a **Shahjahanpur (UP)** brick-kiln rescue (**2019**).
Way Fwd	Assure **district rehabilitation funds**, convergence with welfare schemes and **one-year follow-up** to stop re-bondage.
Concept	**Article 23** bans **begar** and forced labour. **Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976**; **Central Sector Scheme for Rehabilitation (2016)** gives **₹1–3 lakh** aid. **Bandhua Mukti Morcha (1984)**.

SC timelines for rescued bonded labourers (Surendra Manjhi v. Union of India, 2 Nov 2026)



Centre: NHRC guidelines in 3 months • uniform release certificate • NAVJIVAN portal States: nodal officers • compliance in 6 months

Linked to: SC ruling on rescue & rehabilitation of bonded labourers

Centre notifies VB-G RAM G Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026

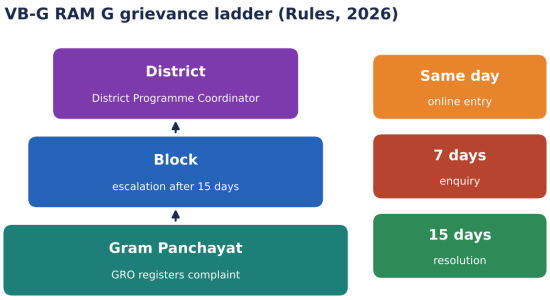
POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Welfare schemes, accountability; **GS3** – rural employment; Prelims – **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025**.
Context	The **Ministry of Rural Development** notified the **VB-G RAM G Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026** on **2 Nov 2026**, fixing a **15-day deadline** for complaints under the rural job guarantee law.
Key Facts	■ **Three tiers**: **Gram Panchayat → Block → District**; unresolved cases escalate after **15 days**. ■ Physical complaints go on the **digital platform the same day**; **enquiry within 7 working days**. ■ No grievance can be refused for **format, language or procedural defects**; appeals under **Schedule I** of the Act. ■ Critics say some **key provisions** of the draft were **dropped** from the final rules.
Way Fwd	Independent **ombudspersons**, regular **social audits** and real-time MIS can make the 15-day clock enforceable.
Concept	**VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)) replaced **MGNREGA, 2005**; guarantees **125 days** of wage work per rural household.

MHA to set up FRROs in all State capitals by 2027

POLITY COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Governance; **GS3** – border & migration management; Prelims – **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**.
Context	The **Ministry of Home Affairs** said on **2 Nov 2026** that **Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs)** will come up in **all State capitals by 2027** under the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**.
Key Facts	■ **5 new FRROs** since 2025: **Jaipur, Chandigarh, Guwahati, Aizawl, Amaravati**; notified next: **Kohima, Agartala, Bhubaneswar**. ■ FRROs handle **registration**, **residential permits**, **visa extension/conversion**, **protected-area permits** and **exit permits**. ■ The **2025 Act** merged **four laws**: Passport (Entry into India) Act **1920**, Registration of Foreigners Act **1939**, Foreigners Act **1946**, Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act **2000**.
Way Fwd	Scale up **e-FRRO** services and integrate data with **State police** to track overstay and illegal migration.
Concept	**Citizenship, naturalisation & aliens – Union List (Entry 17)**; **Article 11** lets Parliament regulate citizenship. **Bureau of Immigration** (MHA) runs immigration check posts.



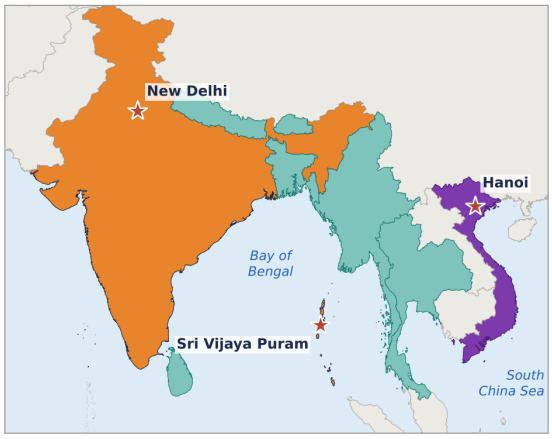
Linked to: VB-G RAM G Grievance Redressal Rules, 2026 (Section C)

NSA Doval in Hanoi: India–Vietnam to deepen defence cooperation

IR **COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2**

Syllabus Linkage	**GS2** – Bilateral relations, **Act East Policy**; Prelims – Vietnam, **South China Sea**.
Context	NSA **Ajit Doval** met Vietnam's Deputy PM and Defence Minister **Gen. Phan Van Giang** in **Hanoi** on **2 Nov 2026**; both sides agreed to **further deepen defence engagement**.
Key Facts	■ Ties raised to an **Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** in **May 2026** during President **To Lam's** India visit. ■ Progress reviewed on the **Joint Vision on Defence Partnership towards 2030**; links **Viksit Bharat 2047** with **Vietnam Vision 2045**. ■ **4th India–Vietnam Security Dialogue** held in **New Delhi (Oct 2026)** – counter-terror, cyber, maritime security; held every **two years** under a **2016 MoU**.
Way Fwd	Expand **defence co-production**, **maritime domain awareness** and connectivity with **ASEAN**.
Concept	**Act East Policy (2014)** upgraded **Look East (1991)**; focus on Commerce, Culture, Connectivity. Vietnam joined **ASEAN** in **1995**.

India's eastern partners in news



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

Linked to: NSA Doval's Hanoi visit & BIMSTEC exercise

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **3 November** – **International Day for Biosphere Reserves** (UNESCO); India has **18** BRs, **13** in the **UNESCO World Network**.	**4.** **Dinesh V. Ganvir** – **55th Director General** of the **Geological Survey of India** (Ministry of **Mines**).
2. **Manisha Bhanwala** – India's **first woman World Champion** in wrestling (Senior Worlds, **Astana, 2026**).	**5.** **2 November** – International Day to End **Impunity for Crimes against Journalists**; 2026 theme **'Threats Evolve. Impunity Endures.'**
3. **EPFO** marked its **74th Foundation Day** (**1 Nov**); launched services on **WhatsApp** and auto-settlement of inoperative accounts up to **₹1,000**.	**6.** **Operation Cactus** (**3 Nov 1988**) – Indian forces foiled a **coup attempt in the Maldives**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to bonded labour in India, consider the following statements: 1. Article 23 of the Constitution prohibits begar and other similar forms of forced labour. 2. The Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act was enacted in 1976. 3. Vigilance Committees at district and sub-divisional levels are constituted under this Act. Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (d) — All three are correct: **Article 23** bans begar and forced labour; the **BLSA Act, 1976** abolished bonded labour and provides for **Vigilance Committees** at district and sub-divisional levels.

Q2. Which of the following countries are members of BIMSTEC? 1. Bhutan 2. Maldives 3. Myanmar 4. Nepal 5. Indonesia. Select the correct answer using the code given below.

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only
(c) 2, 4 and 5 only
(d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (a) — **BIMSTEC** has **7 members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand. **Maldives** and **Indonesia** are not members.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS3): Public capital expenditure has been the mainstay of India's growth while private investment has lagged. Critically examine the 'crowding-in' effect of public capex and suggest measures to revive private investment without compromising fiscal prudence. (250 words, 15 marks)

Hint: Intro: **₹12.2 lakh crore** capex in 2026-27, FM's 'capex till private investment picks up'. Body: **multiplier & crowding-in** (logistics, rail, roads), limits (debt, interest burden, capacity utilisation, FPI outflows); measures – **PLI, GST reforms**, credit flow, regulatory certainty, PPPs. Conclude with the **FRBM glide path**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Corvettes **₹53,866 cr** (GRSE 5 + GSL 3) | **+500 GW** clean power in 10–11 yrs | Green crackers only **7–8 Nov** | Bonded-labour aid in **7 days** | VB-G RAM G grievances in **15 days** | PMI **54.7**

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com Research Team** • ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** • ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**