CURRENT AFFAIRS — 6 November 2026

Friday, 6 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Prelims + Mains GS-wise digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC CSE

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **92 GWh** storage scheme: **60 GWh** pumped hydro + **30 GWh** BESS + **2 GWh** new tech; VGF **₹14,500 cr**
- Lithium-nickel processing: **30%** capex subsidy, **₹2,814 cr**, **4 plants** (2 Li + 2 Ni)
- Agnipath: **75%** non-absorbed Agniveers get **2 more years** (4 → **6 yrs**)
- SC: **arrest = physical restraint**; **24-hour** clock under **Art 22(2)** starts then
- FTSC scheme extended to **31 Mar 2031**; courts **779 → 850**; outlay **₹3,788.04 cr**
- **VISTAR**: ₹4,371.10 cr statistics overhaul incl. **8th Economic Census**
- ECI **Special Summary Revision** in **6 States/UTs**; final rolls **21 Jan 2027**
- CERT-In issues **AI Security Auditing Guidelines** for **agentic AI**
- NPCI to SC: **zero MDR** unsustainable; defends **0.4%** on P2M above **₹2,000**
- Services PMI **55.8** (Oct) — **4-month high**; Composite **56.2**

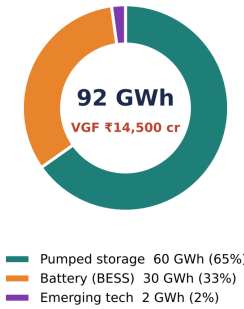
SECTION A — GS-III: Sci-Tech, Economy & Security

Cabinet approves ₹14,500 crore VGF scheme for 92 GWh energy storage

[ENVIRONMENT] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Infrastructure (Energy), Environment, Investment models. Prelims: **VGF**, **BESS**, **pumped storage**.
Context	On **4 Nov 2026** the Union Cabinet approved a **Viability Gap Funding** scheme to build **92 GWh** of grid-scale storage, so that solar and wind power generated by day can be supplied when demand peaks.
Key Facts	■ Capacity split: **60 GWh pumped storage (PSP)**, **30 GWh battery (BESS)**, **2 GWh emerging technologies**. ■ VGF outlay **₹14,500 crore**; period **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**; expected investment about **₹97,600 crore**. ■ Projects allotted through **competitive bidding**; battery projects need at least **40% domestic content**. ■ Implemented with **State governments** for equitable spread of storage capacity.
Way Fwd	Fast-track PSP site clearances, build a domestic **cell-manufacturing** chain and design **storage tariffs** so that discoms actually use the capacity.
Concept	**VGF**: a one-time capital grant that bridges the gap between a project's cost and its commercial viability. **Pumped storage**: water is pumped uphill when power is surplus and released through turbines at peak demand.

Energy Storage Scheme: 92 GWh target split



Pumped storage 60 GWh (65%)
Battery (BESS) 30 GWh (33%)
Emerging tech 2 GWh (2%)

FY 2026-27 to 2030-31 • min 40% domestic content for BESS

₹2,814 crore capex scheme for domestic lithium and nickel processing

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Industrial policy, Mineral resources, Energy security. Prelims: **critical minerals**, **cobalt by-product**.
Context	The Cabinet (**4 Nov**) approved capital support for **refining** lithium and nickel at home — the mid-stream step where India depends almost fully on imports for EV batteries and storage.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹2,814 crore** over **FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31**; **30% capital subsidy** on eligible investment. ■ **4 plants**: 2 lithium (min **30,000 t/yr** each) + 2 nickel (min **50,000 t/yr** each); nickel units also recover **cobalt**. ■ Cap per beneficiary: **₹500 crore** (lithium), **₹900 crore** (nickel). ■ Two-stage selection: **technical qualification**, then bidding for **least capex support**; paid in **3 tranches**.
Way Fwd	Secure **ore supply** through overseas assets and recycling, and link the plants to battery **PLI** units to create a full value chain.
Concept	**National Critical Mineral Mission** (2025) covers exploration to recycling. Critical minerals are those vital to the economy with **supply-concentration risk**; India has notified **30**.

Lithium-Nickel Processing Scheme — in numbers

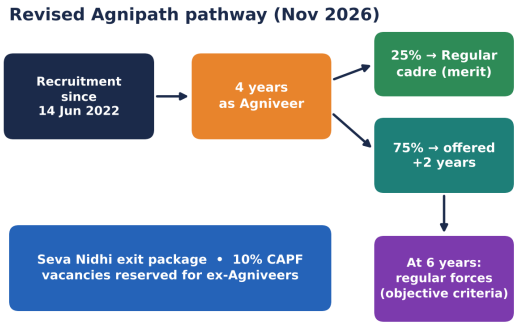
₹2,814 cr Total outlay	**30%** Capex subsidy	**4 plants** 2 Li + 2 Ni
₹500 cr Cap / Li plant	**₹900 cr** Cap / Ni plant	**5 yrs** FY27 – FY31

Agnipath revamped: Agniveers can now serve up to six years

[DEFENCE] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Security forces and their mandate; **GS-II**: Government policies. Prelims: **Agnipath**, **Seva Nidhi**.
Context	With the first batch of about **18,000** Agniveers nearing the end of their four-year term, the Cabinet approved a **two-year extension** for those not absorbed into the regular cadre.

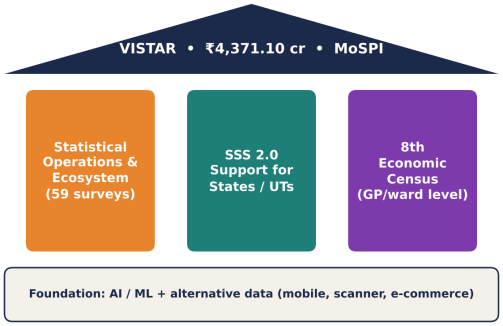
Key Facts	■ Scheme launched **14 June 2022**; engagement of **4 years** remains unchanged. ■ Up to **25%** are still selected for the regular cadre after **4 years** on merit. ■ Remaining **75%** are offered an extra **2 years** → maximum tenure **6 years**. ■ After 6 years, willing Agniveers can enter the regular forces subject to **objective selection criteria**.
Way Fwd	Publish clear **selection rules**, keep training standards high and widen **lateral job quotas** (CAPFs, States) for those who exit.
Concept	**Agnipath** aims at a **younger profile** of the forces. **Seva Nidhi**: a tax-free exit package built from equal contributions by the Agniveer and the government. MHA reserves **10%** CAPF vacancies for ex-Agniveers.



VISTAR: ₹4,371 crore plan to modernise India's statistical system

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Growth and its measurement; **GS-II**: Governance. Prelims: **MoSPI**, **Economic Census**, **Central Sector Scheme**.
Context	The Cabinet approved **VISTAR** (Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research), a **Central Sector Scheme** of **MoSPI** with **₹4,371.10 crore** for **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**.
Key Facts	■ Three components: **statistical operations & ecosystem**, **SSS 2.0** support for States/UTs, and the **8th Economic Census**. ■ MoSPI plans **59 surveys** in the 16th Finance Commission cycle (earlier **43**). ■ Proposed new indices: **Headline Index of Services Production** and **Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**. ■ Uses **AI/ML** and alternative data — mobile, retail-scanner and e-commerce data; census down to **Gram Panchayat/ward** level.
Way Fwd	Protect the **independence** of the statistical system, release data on a fixed calendar and build State-level capacity.
Concept	**Central Sector Scheme**: 100% Centre-funded and Centre-implemented. **Economic Census** counts all non-farm establishments; the **7th** was held in **2019-21**.



CERT-In issues security-audit guidelines for agentic AI

[SCI-TECH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Cyber security, IT & AI. Prelims: **CERT-In**, **Section 70B IT Act**.
Context	CERT-In released **AI Security Auditing Guidelines** for **agentic AI** — systems that plan and act on their own, keep memory and hand tasks to other tools or agents.
Key Facts	■ Flags risks from **autonomy**, **persistent memory** and **delegation**. ■ Auditors must test **excess permissions**, **unapproved tool use** and **credential misuse**. ■ Recommends **least privilege**, **audit trails**, human oversight and an **emergency-stop (kill-switch)**.
Way Fwd	Make audits mandatory for AI agents in **finance and critical infrastructure** and align them with the **DPDP Act** duties.
Concept	**CERT-In**: national nodal agency for cyber incidents under **Section 70B, IT Act 2000**, working under **MeitY**. Separate body **NCIIPC** (Sec 70A) protects critical information infrastructure.

NPCI tells Supreme Court zero-MDR on UPI is unsustainable

[ECONOMY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS3

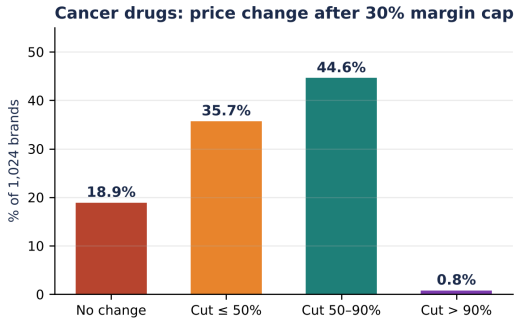
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-III**: Banking, digital payments, financial inclusion. Prelims: **MDR**, **PSS Act 2007**, **NPCI**.
Context	Defending the new merchant fee before the **Supreme Court**, NPCI said free UPI cannot fund the system's growth; the Court had earlier asked whether the charge is a **tax or a fee**.
Key Facts	■ MDR of up to **0.4%** applies only to **P2M** payments above **₹2,000**; **P2P** stays free. ■ UPI in **Aug 2026**: **24.51 billion** transactions worth about **₹29.82 lakh crore**. ■ About **70%** of value is P2P; only about **4%** of merchant transactions are affected. ■ Zero MDR began **January 2020** under **Section 10A, PSS Act 2007**.
Way Fwd	Keep **small merchants** exempt, cap fees transparently and pair them with a funded **subsidy** for low-value payments.
Concept	**MDR** (Merchant Discount Rate): the fee a merchant pays its bank for accepting digital payments. **NPCI** is a not-for-profit umbrella body set up under the **PSS Act** with RBI and IBA guidance.

Trade-margin cap on cancer drugs: big cuts, but uneven relief

[HEALTH] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Health, issues relating to services; **GS-III**: Inclusive growth. Prelims: **NPPA**, **DPCO 2013**.
Context	A new analysis of **1,024 brands** shows how the **30% trade-margin cap** set by **NPPA** on **137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs** has changed prices.
Key Facts	■ **45.4%** of brands fell by over **50%**; **0.8%** by over **90%**; about **194** brands saw **no change**. ■ Nearly **900 brands** became cheaper, some by **70-93%**. ■ Median treatment cost about **₹4.1 lakh**, roughly **80% out-of-pocket**. ■ 5-year breast-cancer survival: **65.5%** in India vs about **90%** in high-income countries.
Way Fwd	Extend the cap to costly **biologics**, use pooled procurement and widen **PM-JAY** cover for cancer care.

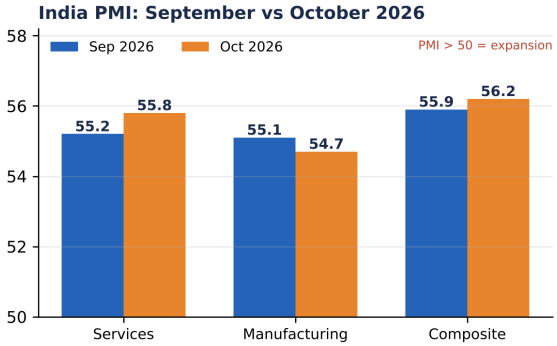
Concept	**NPPA** (1997) fixes and monitors drug prices under **DPCO 2013**; scheduled drugs come from the **NLEM**. **Trade margin** = gap between the price to stockist and the MRP.



SECTION B — Key Economy Data Point of the Day

55.8 — **India Services PMI — October 2026**

Up from **55.2** in September — a **four-month high**; Composite PMI **56.2** (from **55.9**), Manufacturing **54.7**. New business grew fastest since June, but **export orders** rose at the weakest pace since **Feb 2023**; input-cost inflation was the slowest in **over six years**. A reading above **50** means expansion.



SECTION C — GS-II: Governance, Polity & IR

SC: arrest begins at physical restraint; 24-hour clock starts then

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

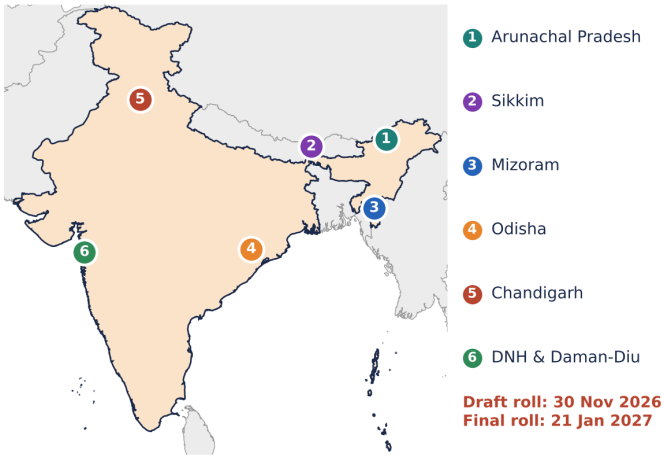
Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Fundamental Rights, Judiciary, criminal justice. Prelims: **Art 22**, **BNSS 2023**, **D.K. Basu**.
Context	A bench led by **Justice Ujjal Bhuyan** held that a person is arrested the moment police **physically restrain** their liberty — not when the arrest is formally recorded.
Key Facts	■ The **24-hour** limit for producing the person before a **Magistrate** (**Art 22(2)**, **BNSS Sec 58**) runs from that moment. ■ Only **journey time** to the Magistrate's court can be excluded. ■ **Informal custody** without recording arrest is **unconstitutional**. ■ No penal statute, including the **BNSS**, defines the word **"arrest"**.
Way Fwd	Use **CCTV in police stations**, digital arrest memos with timestamps and strict action against **illegal detention**.
Concept	**Art 22(1)-(2)**: right to know grounds, to a lawyer, and production within 24 hours. **Art 22(3)** excludes **enemy aliens** and **preventive detention**. **D.K. Basu (1997)** laid down arrest guidelines.

ECI announces Special Summary Revision of rolls in six States/UTs

[POLITY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Elections, constitutional bodies. Prelims: **Art 324-326**, **Forms 6/7/8**, **RPA 1950**.
Context	The **Election Commission** scheduled a **Special Summary Revision (SSR)** for **Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim, Chandigarh** and **Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu**, even as **SIR** disputes continue elsewhere.
Key Facts	■ **Draft rolls**: **30 Nov 2026**; **final rolls**: **21 Jan 2027**. ■ **Aadhaar** linking in **Forms 6 and 8** is **voluntary**. ■ Forms: **6** = inclusion, **7** = objection/deletion, **8** = correction or shift of address. ■ **SSR** is a routine update; **SIR** is a fresh door-to-door verification.
Way Fwd	Publish deletion lists with reasons, give notice before removal and audit **bulk Form-7** filings to protect voters.
Concept	**Art 324**: superintendence of elections by ECI; **Art 326**: adult suffrage. **61st Amendment (1988)** cut voting age from **21 to 18**. Rolls are prepared under the **RPA 1950**.

India in News: SSR of electoral rolls



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

Fast Track Special Courts scheme extended till 2031

[SOCIETY] COMMON: Prelims + Mains GS2

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Judiciary, vulnerable sections (women & children). Prelims: **Nirbhaya Fund**, **POCSO Act 2012**.
Context	The Cabinet approved continuing the **Centrally Sponsored** FTSC scheme, including exclusive **POCSO courts**, from **1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2031** to speed up rape and child-abuse trials.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹3,788.04 crore**: Centre **₹2,353.15 crore** (from **Nirbhaya Fund**) + States/UTs **₹1,434.89 crore**. ■ Courts to rise from **779** to **850**; **399** are exclusive POCSO courts. ■ Over **4,02,457 cases** disposed of since launch on **2 Oct 2019**. ■ Each court: **1 judicial officer**, **1 Special Public Prosecutor**, **6 support staff**.

Way Fwd	Fill **forensic-lab** vacancies, set up **vulnerable witness deposition centres** and ensure child-friendly courtrooms in every district.
Concept	Scheme followed the **Criminal Law (Amendment) Act 2018** and SC directions of **25 Jul 2019**. Nodal body: **Department of Justice** (Ministry of Law). **Nirbhaya Fund** set up in **2013**.

US midterms: Democrats win both Houses — what it means for India

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

Syllabus Linkage	**GS-II**: Effect of policies of developed countries on India; bilateral relations. Prelims: **US Congress**, **veto override**.
Context	In the **3 Nov 2026** midterms, Democrats won majorities in both the **House** and the **Senate**, creating **divided government** for the rest of President Trump's term.
Key Facts	■ New Congress takes office in **January 2027**. ■ Congress can override a presidential veto by **two-thirds** in **both Houses**. ■ Key India issues: **tariffs** (incl. the **50%** duties of 2025), **H-1B** visas, technology and defence deals. ■ **Trade Promotion Authority** (fast-track trade deals) has been lapsed since **2021**.
Way Fwd	India should engage **both parties** and Congressional committees to push the **trade deal**, **iCET/TRUST** tech ties and Quad cooperation.
Concept	**Midterms**: held midway through a 4-year presidential term; all **435** House seats and about **one-third** of the **100** Senate seats are contested. Treaties need **two-thirds Senate** consent.

SECTION D — Prelims Rapid-Fire

Topic	Quick fact
Visa rule (MHA, 4 Nov)	minorities from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan** who entered by **31 Dec 2024** must now obtain an appropriate visa; **CAA** cut-off remains **31 Dec 2014**.
6 November	UN **International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict** (UNGA, **2001**).
5 November	**World Tsunami Awareness Day**, designated by UNGA in **2015** (Res. 70/203).
Annual Survey of Industries 2024-25	manufacturing **GVA up 9.28%**; top State by GVA: **Maharashtra**.
QS Asia Rankings 2027	**IIT Delhi** is India's best at **66th**; India has **325** ranked universities.
Census 2027	India's **first digital Census**; reference date **1 March 2027** (snow-bound areas **1 Oct 2026**).

SECTION E — Practice Corner

Q1. With reference to the energy storage scheme approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2026, consider the following statements:
1. It targets 92 GWh of storage, of which the largest share is battery energy storage.
2. Support is given as Viability Gap Funding.
3. Battery projects must meet a minimum domestic-content requirement.
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: (b) — The largest share is **pumped storage (60 GWh)**, not batteries (**30 GWh**), so statement 1 is wrong. Support is **VGF (₹14,500 crore)** and battery projects need **40% domestic content**.

Q2. Under Article 22 of the Constitution, the safeguard of production before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours of arrest does NOT apply to which of the following?
1. An enemy alien
2. A person arrested under a preventive detention law
3. A person arrested without a warrant under the BNSS.
Select the correct answer using the code given below:

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

Answer: (b) — **Art 22(3)** excludes **enemy aliens** and persons held under **preventive detention**. A person arrested without warrant under the **BNSS** must be produced within **24 hours** (Sec 58).

Mains Practice (GS-III): Grid-scale energy storage is the missing link in India's renewable-energy transition. Discuss in the light of the recently approved 92 GWh storage scheme. (150 words, 10 marks)

Hint: Intro: **500 GW** non-fossil target and the day-night mismatch. Body: scheme design (**VGF**, **60/30/2 GWh** split, **40%** local content), benefits (curtailment, peak supply, grid stability), challenges (PSP clearances, battery imports, discom finances). Conclude with domestic manufacturing and market reforms.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Storage **92 GWh** (60 PSP + 30 BESS + 2 new) • Li-Ni processing **₹2,814 cr** • Agniveers up to **6 yrs** • Arrest = **physical restraint** • FTSC till **2031** • Services PMI **55.8**

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team
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