



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs Today - March 11, 2026

11 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**SECURITY & DEFENCE****ECONOMY****SCIENCE & TECH****REPORTS & SCHEMES****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator •

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

Free UPSC & State PCS Resources

ujjari.com

Current Affairs Today - March 11, 2026

11 March 2026 · 6 min read

▼ On this Page

01 AI Warfare Is Changing Military Competition...

02 Renewable Expansion Is Being Slowed by...

03 The Debate on Chinese FDI Restrictions...

04 Jal Jeevan Mission Shows That Service...

WHY IN NEWS

March 11, 2026 brought together four questions with long-term consequences: how warfare changes under AI, why India's 500 GW renewable target is constrained by grid bottlenecks, the recent easing of Chinese investment restrictions under Press Note 3, and how to sustain rural tap-water delivery through Jal Jeevan Mission.

AI WARFARE IS CHANGING MILITARY COMPETITION FASTER THAN DOCTRINE IS ADAPTING

The debate on **AI warfare** is important because artificial intelligence is no longer limited to back-office analytics. It is increasingly tied to surveillance, target recognition, decision support, electronic warfare, swarming systems (autonomous drone swarms), logistics, and information operations. This changes both the speed and the uncertainty of conflict.

For India, the issue matters because the **Ministry of Defence** established the **Defence AI Council (DAIC)** and the **Defence AI Project Agency (DAIPA)** to integrate AI into military operations. The **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** initiative engages startups in developing AI-based defence solutions. India is also a member of the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)**. The real challenge is not whether AI will enter warfare, but whether doctrine, ethics, human control, and institutional safeguards — including the principle of **meaningful human control** over lethal autonomous weapons — can keep pace.

RENEWABLE EXPANSION IS BEING SLOWED BY GRID AND TRANSMISSION BOTTLENECKS

India has committed to **500 GW of installed electricity capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030** (announced at **COP26, Glasgow, 2021**). As of mid-2025, India has installed approximately **242.8 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity** (including ~233.99 GW renewable + ~8.8 GW nuclear), representing about **50%** of total installed power capacity of 484.82 GW. The government plans to bid out **50 GW of renewable energy capacity annually** for five years (FY24 to FY28), including at least **10 GW of wind** per year.

However, capacity addition on paper does not automatically translate into usable electricity. **Transmission constraints, evacuation delays, storage gaps** (India's battery energy storage is still nascent), and **discom stress** (aggregate losses exceeding Rs 60,000 crore annually) create a mismatch between announced targets and deliverable power. According to the **Global Energy Monitor**, India needs to nearly **double its current annual deployment rate** to meet the 2030 target.

This matters because wind and solar expansion requires not only generation capacity but also the ability to move power across regions, manage intermittency, and stabilise the grid. The **Green Energy Corridor** programme aims to build intra-state and inter-state transmission for renewable evacuation, but execution has lagged.

THE DEBATE ON CHINESE FDI RESTRICTIONS IS REALLY A DEBATE ON RISK AND CAPITAL

The discussion over easing or retaining restrictions on **Chinese FDI** goes back to **Press Note 3 of 2020**, issued by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)** on **17 April 2020**. The policy required **prior government approval** for all FDI from countries sharing a **land border with India** — namely **China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, and Afghanistan** — regardless of sector or investment size. It was framed around security concerns and the risk of opportunistic acquisitions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In **March 2026**, the Union Cabinet significantly eased these restrictions: investments through the **automatic route** are now permitted for **non-controlling stakes below 10%**, and a definitive **60-day timeline** has been introduced for processing proposals in sectors such as electronic components, capital goods, and solar cells. However, **direct investments by entities registered in China/Hong Kong** remain subject to the approval route.

The current debate is nuanced. India wants capital, technology, and manufacturing depth (especially for electronics, EVs, and solar), but also supply-chain security and protection against strategic dependence. The question is how to differentiate between sectors, risk levels, and national priorities.

JAL JEEVAN MISSION SHOWS THAT SERVICE DELIVERY DEPENDS ON LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE

The continuing discussion around **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** kept attention on one of India's largest rural service-delivery projects. Launched by **Prime Minister Modi** on **15 August 2019** (Independence Day), the mission's goal is to provide **Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs)** delivering **55 litres per capita per day (lpcd)** of safe drinking water to every rural household — the “**Har Ghar Jal**” target.

At inception, only **3.23 crore** (17%) of rural households had tap water connections. By **October 2024**, **15.19 crore households** (78.58%) had been connected, with **11.95 crore additional connections** provided under JJM. States like **Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, and Punjab** have achieved near-universal coverage.

Its importance lies not only in coverage numbers, but in whether systems remain functional after installation. This is where the harder governance questions begin: source sustainability (groundwater depletion, spring rejuvenation), local maintenance (village-level **Paani Samitis/Village Water and Sanitation Committees**), water quality testing (through **NABL-accredited labs** and field test kits), electricity for pumping, and long-term financing. In exam terms, JJM is useful because it shows the difference between **asset creation** and **service delivery**.

UPSC RELEVANCE

AI in defence (DAIC, DAIPA, iDEX); 500 GW non-fossil target (COP26); installed RE capacity ~233.99 GW; Press Note 3 (17 April 2020, DPIIT); March 2026 easing; JJM (15 August 2019), FHTC, 55 lpcd.

MAINS GS-2:

Rural service delivery and FDI regulation.

MAINS GS-3:

Military technology, power infrastructure, grid modernisation.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

AI WARFARE:

Uses: surveillance, target recognition, swarming, logistics, electronic warfare, decision support

India's institutions: **DAIC, DAIPA, iDEX** (under Ministry of Defence)

India is a member of the **Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)**

Key concern: **meaningful human control** over lethal autonomous weapons

RENEWABLE GRID BOTTLENECKS:

India's target: **500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030** (COP26)

Current non-fossil capacity: **~242.8 GW** (mid-2025); **~50%** of total

Solar installed: **~102.57 GW** (Feb 2025); needs to reach **~300 GW**

Annual bidding plan: **50 GW/year** (FY24-FY28), including 10 GW wind

Challenges: transmission delays, storage gaps, discom losses (Rs 60,000 crore+)

Green Energy Corridor: intra/inter-state transmission programme for RE evacuation

CHINESE FDI RESTRICTIONS (PRESS NOTE 3):

Issued: **17 April 2020** by DPIIT

Applies to: all land-border countries (China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Myanmar, Afghanistan)

Original rule: **prior government approval** for all FDI regardless of sector/size

March 2026 easing: automatic route for non-controlling stakes below **10%**

60-day approval timeline for key sectors (electronics, capital goods, solar)

Direct Chinese/Hong Kong entity investments still require approval route

JAL JEEVAN MISSION:

Launched: **15 August 2019** by PM Modi

Goal: **Functional Household Tap Connections** to all rural homes ("Har Ghar Jal")

Standard: **55 litres per capita per day (lpcd)** of safe drinking water

Baseline (2019): only **3.23 crore** households (17%) had tap water

Progress (Oct 2024): **15.19 crore** households connected (78.58%)

Additional connections under JJM: **11.95 crore**

Governance: village-level Paani Samitis, NABL-accredited water quality labs

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India reached 50% non-fossil fuel capacity in June 2025 — 5+ years ahead of NDC target

Press Note 3 was originally motivated by COVID-19 opportunistic acquisition fears

JJM total beneficiary families: over **19 crore rural families** targeted

Sources: [Ministry of Defence](#), [Central Electricity Authority](#), [Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade](#), [Jal Jeevan Mission](#), [PIB](#)

RELATED EDITORIALS

MINT

FDI and the Land-Border Rule — India's Calibrated Re-engagement with China-Linked Capital

20 Mar

THE HINDU

Fire and Fury — The Ill-Conceived War on Iran and Its Global Fallout

20 Mar

INDIAN EXPRESS

Energy Security Under Threat — The Ras Laffan Attack and India's Vulnerabilities

20 Mar

THE HINDU

AI-Powered Taxation — Project Insight's Gains and Governance Risks

20 Mar

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

 [Read Full Article on Ujyari](#) →

<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/03/11/current-affairs-today/>

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujyari.com