



**Sanskriti IAS**



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**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

**12th Mar 2026**

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Bascule Bridge**
- 2. Blue-and-White Flycatcher**
- 3. PB-SHABD Platform**
- 4. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
- 5. Roopkund Lake**
- 6. Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS)**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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## BASCULE BRIDGE

S Swarajya

### Rs 117 Crore Upgrade Approved For Historic Bascule Bridge At Kolkata Port

The Union government has approved a major renovation project for the historic Bascule Bridge at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata,...



### Why in News

- The **Union Government** approved a **₹117.54 crore renovation project** for the **Bascule Bridge at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata.**

### Engineering Mechanism

- A **bascule bridge** is a **movable bridge** that lifts its span to allow passage of waterway traffic.
- It operates through a **counterweight system** that balances the movable span known as the **leaf**.
- The counterweight is usually **heavier than the bridge leaf**, reducing the energy required for lifting.
- **Cables or chains connected to the counterweight run through pulleys**, enabling controlled raising and lowering.



### Structural Characteristics

- The movable portion of the bridge is called the **leaf or span**, which rotates upward during operation.
- Bascule bridges can have **single-leaf or double-leaf spans**, while rare designs may include **triple or quadruple leaves**.
- The system works on **mechanical advantage**, where pulleys reduce the force needed to lift the structure.

### Historical Evolution and Global Context

- The term **“bascule” originates from French**, meaning a **seesaw-like balancing device**.
- The **Broadway Bridge in Portland, Oregon (USA)** is the **longest double-leaf bascule bridge in the world**.

### Infrastructure Significance

- Bascule bridges facilitate **efficient maritime navigation in busy ports and waterways**.
- Their design supports **urban transport networks while maintaining navigable waterways**, especially in major port cities.

## BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER

TOI The Times of India

### Rare blue-and-white flycatcher spotted on Pavagadh Hill

Vadodara: A male blue-and-white flycatcher, a small and striking migratory bird rarely seen in India and identified by its royal blue...



### Why in News

- A **male Blue-and-White Flycatcher** was recently sighted on **Pavagadh Hills in Gujarat**, a rare observation in India.



### Taxonomy and Identification

- The **Blue-and-White Flycatcher** belongs to the **Old World flycatcher family Muscicapidae**.
- Its **scientific name is *Cyanoptila cyanomelana***.
- It is also known as the **Japanese Flycatcher**.

### Geographical Distribution

- The species breeds in **Japan, Korea, northeastern China, and the Russian Far East**.
- During winters it migrates to **Southeast Asia**, including **Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, Sumatra, and Borneo**.

### Habitat and Ecological Behaviour

- The bird inhabits **wooded lowlands and submontane forests up to 1200 metres elevation**.
- It is also found in **scrublands, bushes, plantations, and forested slopes**.
- Its migratory movement highlights the **ecological connectivity of East Asian and Southeast Asian ecosystems**.

### Morphological Characteristics

- Adult males display **cobalt-blue upperparts with black throat, breast, and flanks, and a white belly and vent**.
- Females have **grey-brown upperparts with blackish wings and rufous-brown edges on tertials**.
- The bird possesses **dark brown eyes and a black bill**, aiding insect-catching behaviour.

### Conservation Status

- The species is classified as **“Least Concern” on the IUCN Red List**, though sightings remain relatively uncommon in India.

# PB-SHABD PLATFORM



Prasar Bharati's PB-SHABD provides logo-free news content; free access till March 2027



Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD) was launched in March, 2024 as a shared feed service to...

## Why in News

- **Prasar Bharati** announced that the **PB-SHABD platform** will provide **free access to logo-free daily news content until March next year.**

## Institutional Background

- **PB-SHABD (Prasar Bharati – Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination)** was launched in **March 2024.**

- It functions as a **digital news feed service operated by Prasar Bharati.**



## Digital Media Ecosystem

- The platform distributes **logo-free news content in video, audio, text, and photo formats.**
- It provides **approximately 1000 news stories daily** across sectors such as **agriculture, technology, governance, and international affairs.**
- Content is generated by **Regional News Units (RNUs) and the central headquarters** in multiple Indian languages.

## Public Broadcasting Framework

- **Prasar Bharati** is the **statutory autonomous public broadcaster of India**, established under the **Prasar Bharati Act, 1990**, operational since **1997.**
- It comprises **Doordarshan and All India Radio**, previously under the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**
- The organisation aims to **inform, educate, and entertain citizens through public service broadcasting.**

## Governance and Media Significance

- The platform strengthens **digital dissemination of public information** and supports **regional language journalism.**
- It enhances **media accessibility for smaller news organisations lacking content production infrastructure.**

# CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE (CISF)

 The Indian Express

Security breach at Rourkela Steel Plant: Why Orissa High Court refused to save CISF constable who let 'vehicles slip in'



Orissa High Court news: The Orissa High Court has dismissed the plea of a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) head constable and upheld...

## Why in News

- India observed the Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) on March 10, recognising its role in securing critical infrastructure.



## Institutional Framework

- CISF is a **Central Armed Police Force (CAPF)** under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- It was established in **1969 under the CISF Act, 1968**.
- The **1983 amendment** declared it an **Armed Force of the Union**.

## Organisational Structure

- The force is headed by an **Indian Police Service officer of Director-General rank**.
- It is organised into **seven sectors—Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, and Training**.
- The organisation includes **seven training institutes**, including the **National Industrial Security Academy (NISA)**.

## Operational Mandate

- CISF secures **airports, nuclear installations, space establishments, seaports, power plants, and strategic industrial units**.
- The force also protects **Delhi Metro, Parliament House Complex, iconic monuments, and central jails in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- **Airport security responsibilities were assigned to CISF in 2000** following

## Specialised Capabilities

- CISF operates a dedicated Fire Service Wing, making it the largest fire protection provider in India.
- The force is a compensatory cost force, charging organisations for security services.

- After the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, its mandate expanded to provide security to private sector establishments.

### Governance and Security Significance

- CISF secures **over 70 airports and more than 361 critical national installations**.
- Its role reflects the increasing importance of **infrastructure security in national security strategy**.

## ROOPKUND LAKE

Moneycontrol.com

Roopkund, Uttarakhand: What really happened at India's skeleton lake?

Roopkund Lake, Skeleton Lake Uttarakhand, Roopkund mystery, Himalayan skeleton lake, Roopkund trek, Roopkund skeleton mystery, Nanda Devi...



### Why in News

- **Roopkund Lake in Uttarakhand**, known as the “**Skeleton Lake**”, continues to attract scientific attention due to hundreds of skeletal remains discovered there.

### Geographical Characteristics

- Roopkund is a **glacial lake located at 5,029 metres (16,500 ft)** in the **Garhwal Himalayas**.
- It lies at the **base of Mount Trishul in Uttarakhand**.
- The lake is **about 130 feet wide** and remains **frozen for most of the year**.



### Archaeological Discovery

- The skeletal remains were first documented in **1942 by a British forest ranger**.
- The lake contains **over 300 human skeletons**, some with preserved flesh.

### Scientific Investigations

- Researchers used **radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis** to examine the remains.
- Evidence suggests **multiple death events occurring in different time periods**.
- The remains belong to individuals from **three ancestry groups**.

## Key Anthropological Findings

- One group consisted of **South Asians who died around 800 CE.**
- Another included a **Southeast Asian individual from around 1800 CE.**
- A third group had ancestry linked to the **Eastern Mediterranean region, including Greece and Crete.**

## Research Significance

- The findings challenge earlier theories that the skeletons resulted from **a single catastrophic event.**
- Roopkund offers insights into **historical migration patterns, environmental disasters, and Himalayan trade routes.**

## AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME (ABSS)

THE Hindu

Renovated Kumbakonam railway station to be ready before Mahamagam in 2028

Kumbakonam railway station redevelopment to be completed before the 2028 Mahamagam festival, ensuring passenger comfort and improved...

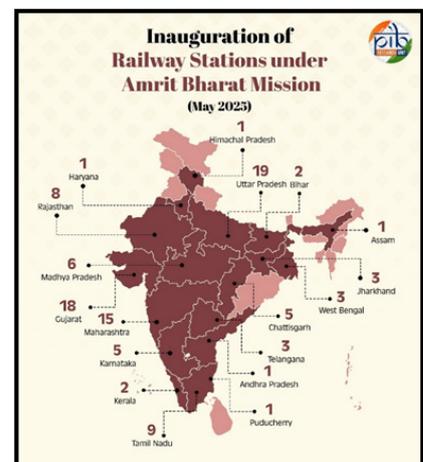


## Why in News

- A **Parliamentary Committee** recommended **periodic passenger satisfaction assessments** for stations redeveloped under the **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.**

## Policy Framework

- The **Amrit Bharat Station Scheme** was launched in **2022 by the Ministry of Railways.**
- The scheme targets **redevelopment of 1,309 railway stations across India.**
- It focuses on **long-term station master planning and phased infrastructure development.**



## Infrastructure and Passenger Amenities

- The scheme includes development of **modern entry and exit gates, waiting halls, toilets, and platform shelters.**
- Facilities such as **lifts, escalators, improved signage systems, and free Wi-Fi** are being introduced.
- Some stations will include **executive lounges and business meeting spaces.**

### Multimodal Connectivity and Accessibility

- The redevelopment plan emphasises **better integration with road transport and urban mobility networks.**
- Enhanced design aims to improve **universal accessibility for persons with disabilities and elderly passengers.**

### Economic and Cultural Integration

- The scheme promotes “**One Station One Product**”, enabling sale of **local handicrafts and regional products.**
- Stations are also redesigned with **green spaces and regionally inspired architectural elements.**

### Governance and Urban Development Impact

- The initiative supports **transit-oriented development and regional economic growth.**
- Continuous monitoring and passenger feedback can **strengthen service quality and infrastructure efficiency in Indian Railways.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Person in  
News

### AMOL PALEKAR

#### Why in News

- **Amol Palekar** will receive the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the **21st META 2026** in New Delhi (19–25 March 2026).



#### About META

- A **prestigious national theatre festival** instituted by the **Mahindra Group** and produced by **Teamwork Arts.**

#### Key Highlights

- **422 submissions** from **20+ states, 100+ cities, and 60 languages.**
- **10 productions** shortlisted across **13 categories.**
- Performances at **Kamani Auditorium** and **Shri Ram Centre, New Delhi.**

#### Award Ceremony

- Awards in **14 categories**; finale **META Awards Night on 25 March 2026.**

Places in  
News

## DEVON ISLAND

 The Times of India

**Secret of Devon Island: Why NASA uses this Canadian island to study Mars**

Science News: For any future human survival on Mars, scientists have identified several primary sites. One of the vital sites is the world's...



### Why in News

- **NASA** is using **Devon Island in Canada** to test **next-generation Mars rovers** due to its Mars-like terrain.

### Geographical Setting

- **Devon Island** lies in the **Canadian Arctic Archipelago** within the **High Arctic region**.
- It is the **largest uninhabited island in the world**.
- **Ellesmere Island** lies to its **north**, while **Baffin Bay** is located to its **east**.



### Climatic and Environmental Conditions

- The island experiences **extremely cold winters with temperatures dropping to  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$** .
- Summers remain very short **with temperatures between  $2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $8^{\circ}\text{C}$** .
- The **growing season lasts only about 40–55 days**, restricting vegetation growth.
- **Low precipitation and limited solar energy input** create a **polar desert ecosystem**.

Environ-  
ment in  
News

## SHARAVATHI LION-TAILED MACAQUE SANCTUARY

 The New Indian Express

**Karnataka HC halts works in Sharavathi LTM sanctuary**

Centre has serious concerns about Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project, says additional solicitor general of India.



### Why in News

- The **Karnataka High Court** directed the state government to halt activities within the **Sharavathi Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary and its Eco-Sensitive Zone**.

### Geographical and Ecological Setting

- The sanctuary is in **Karnataka** within the **Western Ghats**, a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- It was formed by combining the **Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Aghanashini Lion-Tailed Macaque Conservation Reserve**, and adjoining reserve forests.
- The sanctuary shares its **southwestern boundary with Mookambika Wildlife Sanctuary**.

### Terrain and Vegetation

- The terrain is **highly undulating**, with altitude ranging from **94 metres to 1102 metres**.
- The ecosystem includes **tropical evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous forests, grasslands, and savanna landscapes**.

### Biodiversity Significance

- The sanctuary protects the **endangered Lion-Tailed Macaque (*Macaca silenus*)**, an endemic species of the Western Ghats.
- Other fauna include **tiger, leopard, wild dog, sloth bear, sambar, barking deer, mouse deer, and jackal**.
- The flora includes species such as **Dhoopa, Gulmavu, Surahonne, Mavu, and Nandi**, reflecting high ecological diversity.

### Conservation Governance

- Judicial oversight highlights the importance of **protecting eco-sensitive zones under environmental regulations**.
- Strengthening habitat protection is essential for **conserving endemic species of the Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**.

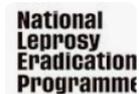
### Health

## NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME (NLEP)

Sanskriti IAS

India's National Leprosy Elimination Programme

The Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare recently informed the Rajya Sabha about the implementation and progress of the National Leprosy...



### Why in News

- The **Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare** informed the **Rajya Sabha** about the progress of the **National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP)**.

### Governance and Institutional Framework

- NLEP is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** implemented under the **National Health Mission (NHM)**.
- The programme provides **free prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation services** through public health facilities.
- The **Union Government provides technical and financial support** to **States and Union Territories**.
- Surveillance and reporting are strengthened through the **digital platform Nikusth 2.0**.

### Public Health Strategy

- The programme focuses on **early detection and prompt treatment** to interrupt disease transmission.
- It integrates **disability prevention, post-treatment care, and community awareness programmes**.
- Convergence with **other national health initiatives** enhances outreach and service delivery.

### Targets and Performance Indicators

- The programme aims to reduce the **prevalence rate of leprosy to less than 1 per 10,000 population** at sub-national levels.
- It seeks to reduce **Grade-II disability among new cases to below 1% nationally**.
- The goal includes **less than one Grade-II disability case per million population**.
- The programme also targets **zero disability among new child cases** and elimination of **social stigma and discrimination**.

### International Alignment

- The programme aligns with the **WHO Global Leprosy Strategy**, which targets **zero transmission, zero disability, and zero discrimination by 2027**.
- **Leprosy has been declared a Notifiable Disease in India**, strengthening surveillance and reporting systems.

Miscellaneous

## GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS (GCWAS-2026)

### Why in News

- ICAR is organising **GCWAS-2026** in **New Delhi (12-14 March 2026)** to promote **women's role in agri-food systems**.

### Institutional Framework

- Organised by **ICAR** with **TAAS**, supported by **CGIAR** and **PPV&FRA**.
- **ICAR** functions under **DARE, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare**.

### Theme and Participation

- Theme: **“Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights.”**
- Around **700 participants**, including **scientists, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and women farmers**.
- Held during the **UN-declared International Year of Women Farmers (2026)**.

### Focus Areas

- **Gender equality in agricultural policies** and institutions.
- **Economic empowerment of women farmers** through value chains and entrepreneurship.
- **Climate-smart agriculture and digital technologies** for women-led farming.

### Expected Outcomes

- Platforms such as **Women Farmers' Forum and Youth Forum**.
- Policy inputs for **gender-responsive and inclusive agri-food systems**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION CONCLAVE – INDIAN ARMY

#### Why in News

- The **Indian Army's Central Command**

ThePrint

Perception crucial amid weaponisation of narratives in modern warfare: Senior Army officer

Lucknow, Mar 7 (PTI) General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Army's Central Command, Lt General Anindya Sengupta on Saturday said...



organised its **first Strategic Communication Conclave in Lucknow on 7 March 2026.**

### Event Highlights

- The conclave was held at **Surya Auditorium, Lucknow Cantonment** with around **500 participants**, including **military officers, diplomats, and media professionals.**

### Theme and Focus

- Theme: **“Institutionalising Strategic Communication as a Capability for Future Preparedness in the Emerging Information Space.”**
- Discussions also covered **Strategic Communication in Emerging Multi-Domain Operations.**

### Key Objective

- To examine **strategic communication as a critical capability in India’s national security architecture**, especially in the **information and cognitive domains.**

### Strategic Significance

- The conclave highlighted the **weaponisation of narratives and perception management in modern warfare.**
- Experts **stressed institutionalising strategic communication as a doctrine-backed capability** for future security challenges.