



Sanskriti IAS



DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

3rd Mar 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Porcelain**
- 2. AIDS (Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome)**
- 3. Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) Scheme**
- 4. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)**
- 5. India Meteorological Department (IMD)**
- 6. Centre Designates Legacy Thrust Territories**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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PORCELAIN

CNN

Record haul of rare Yuan Dynasty blue-and-white porcelain discovered at shipwreck off Singapore

A recently uncovered 14th century shipwreck with a huge cargo of Yuan Dynasty porcelain offers a window into the storied Chinese craft...



Why in News

- A **shipwreck near Singapore** carrying large quantities of **blue-and-white porcelain** has revived interest in ceramic production during the **Yuan dynasty (1279–1368 CE)** under Mongol rule.



Historical Evolution and Trade Networks

- Porcelain was first produced in China during the **Tang dynasty (618–907 CE)** in a primitive form.
- It reached technical perfection during the **Yuan dynasty**, becoming a major export commodity.
- The term “porcelain” derives from “**porcellana**”, used by **Marco Polo** for Chinese ceramics.
- Chinese porcelain played a central role in medieval **Indian Ocean maritime trade**.

Scientific Composition and Physical Properties

- Porcelain is made from **kaolin (china clay), feldspar, and quartz**.
- High-temperature firing gives it **high density, translucency, and mechanical strength**.
- It has a smooth, glossy surface and strong resistance to scratches and breakage.
- Hardness and vitrification distinguish it from ordinary ceramics.

Typology and Technological Variants

- **Hard-paste porcelain** originated in China and is fired at very high temperatures.
- **Soft-paste porcelain** was developed in Europe using ground glass and fired at lower temperatures.
- **Bone china**, developed in 18th-century England, contains up to **50% bone ash** for enhanced translucency.
- The exact composition varies by manufacturer and intended usage.

AIDS (ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME)

Scroll.in
<https://scroll.in> > India > Public Health Watch

The fight to make HIV 'wonder drug' affordable for Indians

5 hours ago — Patients at risk of contracting AIDS told Scroll that Lenacapavir might be a better alternative to existing preventive treatments. Mannu BJ, a ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- The **global health community** is accelerating efforts to achieve the **95-95-95 targets to end AIDS** as a public health threat **by 2030**.
- In India, the **National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO)** is implementing strategies under **National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) Phase V**.

Disease Mechanism and Clinical Progression

- The syndrome represents the advanced stage of infection caused by **the Human Immunodeficiency Virus**, which destroys **CD4 (T-helper) cells**.
- Continuous depletion of these immune cells severely weakens the body's defence system.
- Diagnosis is confirmed when CD4 count drops below critical levels or specific opportunistic infections develop.

TRANSMISSION DYNAMICS AND RISK FACTORS

What is HIV
 HIV stands for Human Immunodeficiency Virus. HIV after entering the human body gradually destroys the immune system, i.e. the ability to fight infections/diseases.

Threats
 The HIV can evolve into AIDS •
 Weakens the immune system •
 Is not curable •

Modes of transmission

- Unprotected sex with an HIV infected person.
- Transfusion of HIV infected blood or blood products.
- Sharing of needles contaminated with HIV infected blood.
- From HIV infected mother to her baby – during pregnancy, during birth or after delivery through breast milk.

www.mohfw.gov.in

Know The Difference!

HIV	v/s	AIDS
Human Immunodeficiency Virus		Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A virus that leads to AIDS ✓ Gradually attacks and weakens the immune system 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The later stage of untreated HIV infection ✓ Group of signs and symptoms emerge as the immune system weakens

Source: Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

- Casual contact such as **hugging, coughing, sharing food, or mosquito bites does not transmit the infection.**

Prevention and Public Health Interventions

- Early initiation of **Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)** suppresses viral load and prevents disease progression.
- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** reduces infection risk among high-risk individuals when taken regularly.

- **Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)** must be initiated within 72 hours of suspected exposure.
- Strict screening under the **Blood Safety Programme** prevents transfusion-related transmission.
- Regular testing and counselling services promote early detection and reduce community spread.

Legal and Institutional Framework in India

- The **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017** prohibits discrimination and ensures confidentiality and equal access to treatment.
- The **National AIDS Control Programme**, launched in **1992**, follows a phased strategy for prevention and treatment.
- The current phase focuses **on universal testing, expanded treatment coverage**, and integration with general healthcare services.
- **Targeted Intervention programmes** address high-risk populations such as sex workers and injecting drug users.

ELIGIBLE MANUFACTURER IMPORTERS (EMIS) SCHEME

ET The Economic Times

India allows eligible manufacturers to defer customs duty payments from April 1; aims to boost liquidity a

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs has launched a new scheme for manufacturers. Eligible importers can now defer customs duty...



Why in News

- The **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** has issued operational guidelines for the **Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMIs) Scheme**.

Policy Design and Operational Framework

- The initiative **promotes trust-based compliance** to improve ease of doing business.
- Approved manufacturers can clear imported goods without immediate customs duty payment.
- Duty is payable monthly under the **Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016**.
- The facility will operate from **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2028**.

Eligibility and Institutional Linkages

- Existing **Authorised Economic Operators (AEO-T1)**, including eligible MSMEs, may participate.
- Participants are expected to upgrade to **AEO-T2 or AEO-T3** status for enhanced facilitation.

Impact

- Deferred payment reduces working capital blockage and supports domestic manufacturing growth.
- The measure strengthens compliance culture while improving customs efficiency.

BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY (BEE)



Bureau of Energy Efficiency Commemorates 25th Foundation Day

The 25th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power, Government of India, was celebrated today at the India...



Why in News

- The **25th Foundation Day** of the **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** was recently celebrated in New Delhi.



Statutory Basis and Institutional Structure

- It is a **statutory body** established in **2002** under the **Energy Conservation Act, 2001**.
- The organisation functions under the **Ministry of Power**.
- Its core mandate is to reduce **energy intensity** of the Indian economy.

Regulatory and Promotional Functions

- It prescribes **Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS)** under the **Standards and Labelling Scheme**.
- It develops energy norms for designated consumers such as energy-intensive industries.
- It formulates performance standards for commercial buildings under the **Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC)**.
- It coordinates with designated agencies to ensure compliance under the Energy Conservation Act.

Flagship Schemes and Policy Impact

- It implements the **National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency (NMEEE)** under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- Programmes like **Municipal Demand Side Management (MuDSM)** and **Agricultural DSM (AgDSM)** promote efficient electricity use.
- These interventions support India's climate commitments under the **Paris Agreement** by lowering carbon emissions.

INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT (IMD)

THE Hindu

Above-normal heatwave days likely in most parts of India during March-May: IMD

Above-normal number of heatwave days are expected over most parts of the country between March and May, the India Meteorological Department...



Why in News

- The department **has forecast an above-normal number of heatwave** days between March and May across several regions.

Institutional Framework and Structure

- **Established in 1875**, it is the National Meteorological Service of India.
- It functions under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- The Director General of Meteorology heads the organisation **headquartered in New Delhi**.
- It has **six Regional Meteorological Centres** located at Mumbai, Chennai, New Delhi, Kolkata, Nagpur, and Guwahati.



Mandate and Core Functions

- It **provides weather forecasts** for agriculture, aviation, shipping, and disaster management.
- It **issues warnings for cyclones, heatwaves**, cold waves, and heavy rainfall events.
- It supplies meteorological statistics for water resource planning and infrastructure development.
- It **conducts and promotes research** in atmospheric sciences.

International Role and Strategic Importance

- It serves as a **Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC)** under the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**.
- It is **responsible for forecasting and naming cyclones** in the Northern Indian Ocean region.
- Accurate forecasts support climate resilience and disaster risk reduction under the **Sendai Framework**.

CENTRE DESIGNATES LEGACY THRUST TERRITORIES

TNIE The New Indian Express

Centre designates 'Legacy Thrust Territories' to prevent Naxal resurgence after major gains

According to security functionaries, the Centre does not intend to step back and leave the responsibility entirely to state governments at...

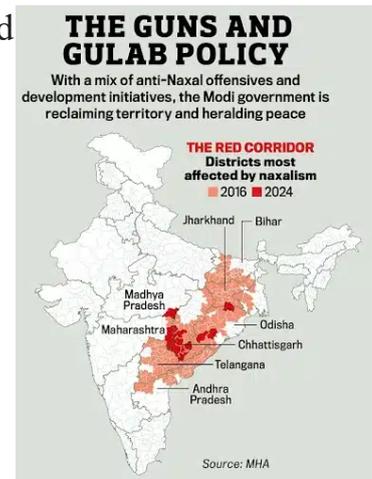


Why in News

- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has introduced **Legacy Thrust Territories** to prevent resurgence of **Left Wing Extremism (LWE)** after major security gains.

Security Background

- Nearly **200 districts** were affected by extremism in the early **2000s**.
- By 2025, the number declined to **38 districts** due to co-ordinated operations.
- Currently, only **7 districts** remain on the LWE list, mainly in **Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha**.



Core Strategy

- The framework identifies formerly affected districts for sustained security and development focus.
- It ensures gradual transition from security-led operations to governance-led consolidation.



Operational and Developmental Measures

- Continued deployment of **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)** prevents security vacuums.

- Focus on roads, telecom connectivity, welfare delivery, and administrative strengthening.
- Promotion of surrender and rehabilitation policies alongside intelligence monitoring.

Strategic Significance

- Prevents relapse into insurgency after operational successes.
- Strengthens **Centre–State coordination** in internal security management.
- Promotes long-term socio-economic integration of conflict-prone regions.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

**Environ-
ment**

FOREST OWLET

Why in News

- The **Forest Owlet** was recently sighted in **Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh**, after more than a century.



Ecological and Biological Profile

- Scientific name: **Athene blewitti**; family **Strigidae**.
- It was **first described in 1873** and rediscovered in 1997 after being presumed extinct.
- It inhabits tropical and subtropical dry deciduous forests, especially teak woodlands.
- It is diurnal and feeds on rodents, reptiles, and insects.

Geographical Distribution

- It is endemic to central India.
- It is found in **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and Gujarat**.
- Key habitat includes **Melghat Tiger Reserve**.

Conservation and Legal Status

- It is listed as **Endangered** under **the IUCN Red List**.
- It is included in **CITES Appendix I**, prohibiting international trade.
- Habitat fragmentation and deforestation remain major threats.

Environmental Governance Implications

- Protection under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** is **critical**.
- Strengthening habitat conservation in dry deciduous forests is necessary for species recovery.

Space

ALMA TELESCOPE

Why in News

ESO.org

Largest image of its kind shows hidden chemistry at the heart of the Milky Way

Astronomers have captured the central region of our Milky Way in a striking new image, unveiling a complex network of filaments of cosmic...



- Astronomers recently mapped complex gas filaments in the Milky Way using the **Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA)**.

Geographical and Institutional Profile

- The observatory is located in the **Atacama Desert, Chile**, characterised by high altitude and extremely dry conditions.
- It became **fully operational in 2013** as a next-generation radio astronomy facility.
- The project was developed jointly by the **National Radio Astronomy Observatory (USA), National Astronomical Observatory of Japan**, and the **European Southern Observatory**.

Technological Features

- The array consists of **66 high-precision antennas** spread across **distances up to 16 km**.
- It operates at millimetre and sub-millimetre wavelengths to detect faint cosmic signals.



- Antennas can be repositioned to modify resolution, functioning like a zoom lens in photography.

Scientific Significance

- Observations led to the identification of early **starburst galaxies**, refining understanding of cosmic evolution.
- High-resolution images of the protoplanetary disc around **HL Tauri** enhanced knowledge of planet formation.
- Detailed study of gravitational lensing phenomena such as the **Einstein ring** strengthened astrophysical modelling.

Science and Technology

SULPHUR DIOXIDE (SO₂)

Down To Earth

India still lacks national SO₂ emission standards for various steel plant stacks, compromising child health and the economy: CREA

The Bokaro SAIL steel facility, a single plant, is alone linked to an estimated 270 low birthweight births, 280 preterm births,...



Why in News

- **India currently lacks** national emission standards for **SO₂ from certain steel manufacturing** units such as sinter plants.

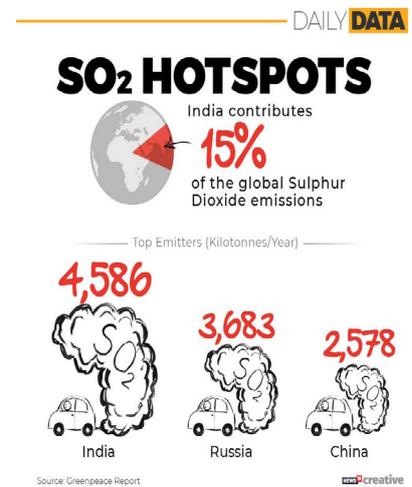


Chemical Nature and Industrial Relevance

- It is a **colourless gas** with a **pungent odour** and the chemical formula **SO₂**.
- The compound **dissolves easily in water** and can form **sulphurous acid** in the atmosphere.
- It is used in **chemical manufacturing, paper pulping, and food processing industries**.

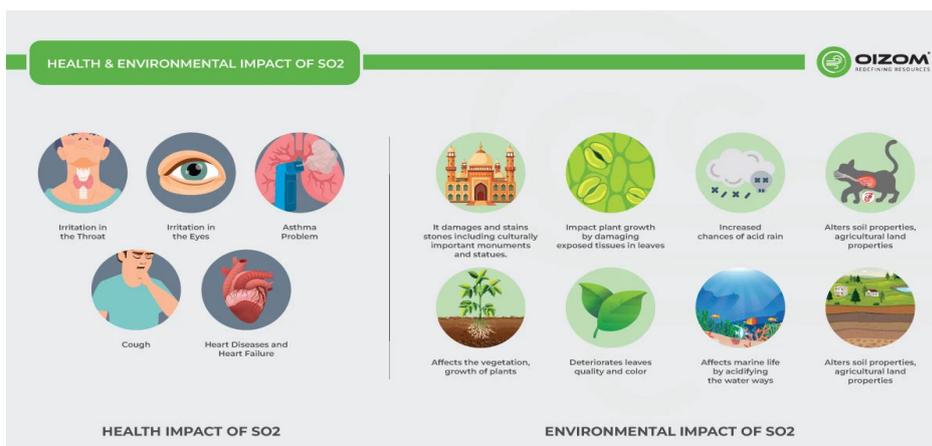
Sources and Atmospheric Occurrence

- Major emissions arise from burning fossil fuels in thermal power plants and industrial facilities.
- **Smelting of sulphide ores** such as iron pyrite and copper pyrite releases the gas.
- Volcanic eruptions contribute to natural atmospheric presence.



Environmental and Health Implications

- **Exposure can irritate the respiratory system** and aggravate asthma and bronchitis.
- **Atmospheric oxidation leads to acid rain formation**, damaging crops and aquatic ecosystems.
- Establishing sector-specific emission standards can strengthen India's air quality governance under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.



UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

PILIBHIT TIGER RESERVE (PTR)

TOI The Times of India

Tiger found dead in PTR, 27th since 2012

Pilibhit: An adult male tiger, estimated to be between six and seven years old, was found dead near the Dhamela watchtower in Mala forest...



Why in News

- An **adult male tiger** was recently **found dead** near the **Mala forest range** within the reserve.

Location and Landscape Features

- The reserve is in Uttar Pradesh within the **Terai Arc Landscape** of the upper Gangetic Plain.
- It lies along **the India–Nepal border** in the Himalayan foothill region.
- The **Gomti River** originates here, and the area forms catchments of the Sharda and other streams.

Ecological Characteristics

- Major forest types include **Tropical Moist Deciduous, Dry Deciduous, Semi-evergreen, and Swamp forests.**
- **Sal forests constitute nearly 76 %** of the total area.
- Grasslands support species such as **Saccharum** and **Imperata.**

Biodiversity and Conservation Significance

- It is home **to endangered species** including the **Bengal tiger and swamp deer.**
- The landscape connectivity strengthens genetic exchange under **Project Tiger.**
- **Conservation management** in this corridor supports long-term ecological stability in the Terai region.