Sanskriti IAS

DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

8th Mar 2026

TOPICS:-

1. Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)
2. G-SPIDER Robot
3. Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)
4. Sambar Deer
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BROADCAST AUDIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (BARC)

TH The Hindu

I&B Ministry orders halt to TRP reporting of TV news channels for four weeks

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Friday asked the Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) to suspend publication of...

Why in News

➤ The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** asked the **Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC)** to suspend publication of **Television Rating Points (TRPs)** for TV news channels for four weeks.

Television Rating Point (TRP)

➤ **TRP** is a metric used to measure the **viewership and popularity of television programmes**.

➤ Higher TRP indicates **greater audience reach**.

➤ Advertisers and broadcasters use TRP data to **decide advertising placement and investments**.

Method of TRP Measurement

➤ **BARC** calculates TRPs using **BAR-O-meters (people meters)** installed in **about 58,000 sample households**.

➤ These devices track **channels watched and viewing duration**.

➤ The collected data is **extrapolated to estimate national television viewership**.

➤ Another method called **picture matching** records small portions of screen images for analysis.

Institutional Structure

➤ **It** is a **joint industry body** representing **broadcasters, advertisers, and advertising agencies**.

➤ It was established in **2010** and is headquartered in **Mumbai**.

➤ It is the **sole organisation authorised to measure and publish TV audience data in India**.

G-SPIDER ROBOT

Why in News

PIB
https://www.pib.gov.in › PressReleasePage

ai robot powers the next generation of urban sanitation in ...

3 days ago — The **G-SPIDER** Automated Canal Cleaning Robot, created by Genrobotic Innovations, is engineered to operate in complex, high-risk canal ... Read more

➤ The **Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation** deployed an **AI-powered G-SPIDER robot** under **Swachh Bharat Mission–Urban 2.0**.

Technology and Design

➢ **G-SPIDER** is an **automated canal-cleaning robot** developed by **Genrobotic Innovations**.

➢ It is designed to operate in **hazardous canal environments without human entry**.

Technical Features

➢ The robot uses **Cable-Driven Parallel Robotics (CDPR)** architecture.

➢ It is powered by **AI-enabled vision and sensor systems** for detecting waste.

➢ It has a **five-degree-of-freedom robotic arm with a biomimetic claw grabber**.

Operational Significance

➢ The robot can remove **mixed and hazardous waste such as plastics and sharp debris**.

➢ Extracted waste is transferred directly to **collection vehicles**, enabling a **fully automated cleaning process**.

➢ It improves **urban sanitation and reduces manual scavenging risks**.

PRECISION STRIKE MISSILE (PRSM)

🔶 Al Jazeera

What is the PrSM missile that the US used for the first time in Iran?

US CENTCOM said Precision Strike Missiles were used in Operation Epic Fury.

Why in News

➢ The **United States** recently used the **Precision Strike Missile (PrSM)** during its conflict with **Iran**, according to **US Central Command (CENTCOM)**.

Nature and Development

➢ **PrSM** is a **surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile** designed for **long-range precision strikes**.

➢ It is developed primarily for the **US Army by Lockheed Martin**.

➢ The missile entered service in **2023**.

Technical Features

➢ It has a **range of at least 500 km.**

- It uses **solid rocket propellant** and **GPS with inertial navigation systems** for accurate targeting.
- The missile features **open-system architecture and modular design**.

Operational Capabilities

- It can be launched from **M142 HIMARS** and **M270A2 Multiple Launch Rocket Systems (MLRS)**.
- It follows a **hypersonic-class ballistic trajectory** and can integrate with **satellites, drones, and radar systems**.
- It carries an **Insensitive Munitions payload**, reducing accidental detonation risk.

SAMBAR DEER

The Tribune

A first: Camera trap captures sambar deer in Kalatop-Khajjiar sanctuary in Chamba district

The Wildlife Wing of the Himachal Pradesh Forest Department has recorded the presence of sambar deer (Rusa unicolor) in high-altitude...

Why in News

- **Camera traps** recorded the presence of **Sambar deer (Rusa unicolor)** in **high-altitude protected areas of Chamba district, Himachal Pradesh**.

Species Profile

- **Sambar deer** is the **largest deer species in Asia**.
- **Scientific Name:** *Rusa unicolor*.
- It is native to **South Asia, Southeast Asia, and southern China**.

Habitat and Distribution

- They inhabit **forested hills, thick forests, swamp forests, and scrublands**.
- Their distribution includes **India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines**.

Physical Characteristics

- Adults stand **1.2–1.4 m at shoulder height** and can weigh up to **550 kg**.
- The body has a **yellowish-brown to dark grey hairy coat**.
- Males possess **large antlers with 3–4 tines**, which are shed periodically.

Conservation Status

- Listed as **Vulnerable** on the **IUCN Red List**.

SWAYATT INITIATIVE

Why in News

➤ The **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)** celebrated **seven years of the SWAYATT initiative**.

Programme Overview

➤ **SWAYATT (Startups, Women and Youth Advantage Through e-Transactions**) was launched in **February 2019**.

➤ It aims to increase participation of **women entrepreneurs, startups, and youth in public procurement**.

Institutional Design

➤ The initiative operates through the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) platfo**rm.

➤ **GeM**, launched in **2016**, is the **national procurement portal for government purchases**.

Objectives

➤ Expand **market access for startups, women entrepreneurs, MSEs, SHGs, and small sellers**.

➤ Address key challenges such as **access to markets, finance, and value addition**.

Governance Significance

➤ Promotes **social inclusion in government procurement systems**.

➤ Supports **digital and transparent procurement through a paperless and cashless platform**.

LOW TEMPERATURE THERMAL DESALINATION (LTTD) TECHNOLOGY

Why in News

➤ The **Union Minister for Earth Sciences** reviewed the **Low Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) plant at Kavaratti in Lakshadweep**.

Technology Overview

➤ **LTTD** is a desalination method that converts **seawater into potable water using temperature differences in ocean layers**.

➤ It works without **chemical treatment or high-pressure membranes**.

Working Principle

➤ Warm surface seawater is **flash-evaporated at low pressure**.

➤ **Cold deep-sea water (4°C–8°C colder)** is used to condense the vapour into fresh water.

➤ The remaining salt is **diverted away**, producing potable water.

Advantages

➤ Produces **freshwater without chemical additives**.

➤ Generates **minimal pollution and low operational maintenance**.

➤ Particularly suitable for **island territories and coastal regions**.

Implementation in India

➤ The **first LTTD plant in India** was commissioned at **Kavaratti, Lakshadweep in 2005**.

MINUTEMAN III INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE (ICBM)

Why in News

➤ The **United States military** successfully test-launched the **Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)** from the **California coast** as part of a routine evaluation programme.

About Minuteman III Missile

➤ **Minuteman III (LGM-30G)** is a **land-based intercontinental ballistic missile** forming part of the **US nuclear triad**.

➤ It is operated by the **Air Force Global Strike Command** from **Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana**.

➤ First deployed in **1970**, it remains one of the **longest-serving strategic missiles** in the US arsenal.

Technical Capabilities

➤ The missile can travel about **6,000 miles (≈9,600 km)** at speeds exceeding **15,000 miles per hour**.

- ➢ It carries **nuclear warheads** with destructive power greater than the atomic bombs used in **World War II**.
- ➢ Around **400 missiles** are deployed in **Montana, North Dakota and Wyoming**.

Testing and Strategic Role

- ➢ The recent test (**GT-255**) was part of a **long-term reliability testing programme** conducted for decades.
- ➢ The unarmed missile travelled thousands of miles before reaching the **Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands**, a US missile test site.

Key Concepts

- ➢ **Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM):** Missile capable of travelling more than **5,500 km**.
- ➢ **Nuclear Triad:** Three delivery systems—**land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and strategic bombers**.

NITI AAYOG – UNICEF PARTNERSHIP FOR NUTRITION

PIB
https://www.pib.gov.in › PressReleseDetailm

NITI Aayog and UNICEF India Sign Statement of Intent to ... ✓

3 days ago — This collaboration aims to leverage the strengths of both institutions to advance efforts toward improved maternal and child nutrition outcomes ... Read more

Why in News

- ➢ **NITI Aayog** signed a **Statement of Intent (SOI)** with **UNICEF India** to strengthen **health and nutrition interventions in Aspirational Districts and Blocks**.

Focus Areas

- ➢ The collaboration aims to improve **maternal and child nutrition outcomes in underserved regions**.
- ➢ It will strengthen **healthcare delivery and nutrition services at the grassroots level**.

Institutional Framework

- ➢ The agreement was signed by **Rohit Kumar (NITI Aayog)** and **Arjan de Wagt (UNICEF India).**
- ➢ It will promote **multi-stakeholder partnerships involving government agencies, private sector and development organisations**.

Role of UNICEF and CSR

➢ **UNICEF** will provide technical support through its **IMPAct4Nutrition (I4N) platform**.

➢ The initiative will mobilise **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding** from businesses for nutrition programmes.

Policy Context

➢ The **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)** aims to accelerate development in **underperforming districts**.

➢ It focuses on sectors such as **health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources and financial inclusion**.

Key Interventions

➢ Strengthening **Anganwadi infrastructure and Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)**.

➢ Improving **nutrition awareness and capacity of frontline health workers**.

➢ Promoting **data-driven monitoring systems for better policy implementation**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Sports	**KHELO INDIA TRIBAL GAMES (KITG)**
	PIB
	Khelo India Tribal Games between March 25-April 6; 'Part of expanding opportunity and scope,' says sports minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya
	Khelo India Tribal Games between March 25-April 6; 'Part of expanding opportunity and scope,' says sports minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya.

Why in News

➢ The **first edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG)** will be held from **25 March to 6 April 2026 in Chhattisgarh**.

Organisation and Locations

➢ The games will be hosted in **Raipur, Jagdalpur and Sarguja**.

➢ They are organised under the **Khelo India Scheme** of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**.

➢ The event involves the **Sports Authority of India (SAI), Indian Olympic Association, and National Sports Federations**.

	Sports Disciplines ➢ **Medal sports:** Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming and Wrestling. ➢ **Demonstration sports: Mallakhamb** and **Kabaddi**. **Objectives** ➢ To **identify and nurture sporting talent among tribal youth**. ➢ To integrate athletes from **tribal communities into the national sports ecosystem**. ➢ To expand **grassroots sports participation in India**. **Key Facts** ➢ The **Khelo India Games** were declared an **Event of National Importance (2020)** under the **Sports Broadcasting Signals Act, 2007**. ➢ The official mascot **"Morveer"** represents the **courage and identity of tribal communities in Chhattisgarh**.
Environ-ment	## STRIPED HYENA 🔴 Down To Earth In run-up to CMS COP15, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan urge inclusion of striped hyena in Appendix I and II of the Convention of Migratory Species The elusive and nocturnal hyena faces a continuing population decline across borders, which warrants the step, notes submitted proposal. **Why in News** ➢ **Tajikistan and Uzbekistan** proposed including the **Striped Hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*)** in **Appendix I and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**. **Species Overview** ➢ The **Striped Hyena** belongs to the **Hyaenidae family**, which includes four species. ➢ It is **smaller than the spotted hyena** and has **distinct body stripes**.

Habitat and Distribution

➢ It inhabits **savannas, grasslands, semi-deserts, and mountainous regions**.

➢ It is distributed across **North and Sub-Saharan Africa, West Asia, Central Asia, and South Asia**.

Behaviour and Ecology

➢ It is primarily a **scavenger feeding on carrion and human waste**.

➢ The species is generally **solitary but shows limited social behaviour**.

➢ It can undertake **long-distance movements in search of food and water**.

Conservation Status

➢ **IUCN Red List: Near Threatened**.

➢ **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I**.

DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE

The Indian Express

A tiger, a 2.5-tonne rhino carcass in a marsh: Why a rare killing in Dudhwa reserve left forest officials stunned

A tiger was found atop a 2.5-tonne rhino carcass in Dudhwa Tiger Reserve. Officials say such attacks are rare as adult rhinoceroses are...

Why in News

➢ A **female one-horned rhinoceros** was reportedly killed by **two tigers** in the **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve** in Uttar Pradesh.

Location and Landscape

➢ **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve is located in Lakhimpur-Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh** along the **Indo-Nepal border**.

➢ It forms part of the **Terai Arc Landscape**.

Protected Area Composition

- The reserve includes **Dudhwa National Park**, **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary**, and **Katerniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**.
- The terrain represents the **Tarai-Bhabar ecosystem of the upper Gangetic plains**.

Hydrology and Vegetation

- Major rivers include **Sharda, Geruwa, Suheli, and Mohana**, tributaries of the **Ghagra River**.
- Vegetation is mainly **North Indian Moist Deciduous forest dominated by Sal trees**.

Faunal Diversity

- Key species include **tigers, leopards, swamp deer, rhinoceros, chital, hog deer, and wild boar**.
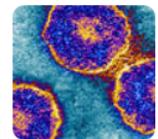- The reserve hosts around **400 bird species**, including the **Bengal Florican and Black-necked Stork**.

Health	**MUMPS**

CNN

Not just measles: Another outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease is happening

The FDA approved a vaccine for mumps nearly 60 years ago, so why are some areas of the United States experiencing outbreaks now,...

Why in News

- Health officials in **Maryland, United States** reported an **increase in mumps cases**.

Nature of the Disease

- **Mumps** is a **contagious viral disease** caused by the **mumps virus**, a member of the **Paramyxovirus group**.
- It mainly affects the **parotid salivary glands**, causing swelling (**parotitis**).

Transmission and Incubation

- Humans are the **only known host** of the virus.
- It spreads through **respiratory droplets and contact with infected saliva**.
- The **incubation period** is typically **16–18 days**.

	Symptoms and Complications ➤ Common symptoms include **fever, headache, sore throat, face pain, and gland swelling**. ➤ Severe complications may include **encephalitis, sensorineural deafness, and orchitis**. **Prevention** ➤ There is **no specific treatment** for mumps. ➤ Prevention is mainly through **MMR vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)**.
Miscella-neous	# SULPHURIC ACID PLANT–III AT IFFCO PARADEEP **TOI** The Times of India Amit Shah inaugurates third sulphuric acid plant at IFFCO's Paradeep unit in Odisha India Business News: NEW DELHI: Union home and cooperation minister Amit Shah on Saturday dedicated the newly commissioned Sulphuric Acid... **Why in News** ➤ The **Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Sulphuric Acid Plant–III (SAP-III)** at the **IFFCO complex in Paradeep, Odisha**. **Infrastructure and Capacity** ➤ The plant has been developed at an estimated cost of about **₹700 crore**. ➤ It has a production capacity of nearly **2,000 metric tonnes per day**. ➤ It represents the **third stream of sulphuric acid production** at the Paradeep complex. **Importance for Fertiliser Production** ➤ **Sulphuric acid** is a key raw material for **phosphatic fertiliser manufacturing**. ➤ Expansion will enhance the **production efficiency of the Paradeep fertiliser complex**. ➤ It will help ensure **timely fertiliser supply to farmers across India**.

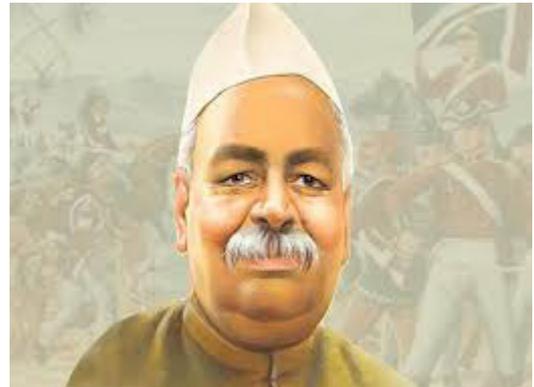|	**About IFFCO**
	➤ **Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO)** is one of the **largest fertiliser cooperatives in the world**.
	➤ It supports nearly **5 crore farmers** across India through the **cooperative model**.
	Growth of Paradeep Complex
	➤ The unit was acquired by **IFFCO in 2005 for ₹2,577 crore**.
	➤ Production capacity increased from **7.5 lakh tonnes annually to nearly 22 lakh tonnes** after expansion.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

GOVIND BALLABH PANT

Why in News

➤ The **Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath**, paid tribute to **Govind Ballabh Pant** on his **death anniversary (7 March)** in **Lucknow**.

Early Life and Freedom Struggle

➤ **Govind Ballabh Pant (1887–1961)** was a prominent **freedom fighter, lawyer, and political leader**.

➤ He was born in **Almora district of present-day Uttarakhand**, which was then part of the **United Provinces**.

➤ Inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi**, he left his legal practice to join the **Indian freedom movement**.

Political Career and Administrative Contributions

➤ In **1937**, he became the **Premier of the United Provinces** under the **Government of India Act, 1935**.

➤ After independence, he served as the **first Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh (1950–1954)**.

➤ As CM, he introduced **administrative reforms and development policies** that shaped the state's governance.

Role at the National Level

➤ Pant later served as the **Union Home Minister of India (1955–1961)**.

➤ He played an important role in **strengthening internal administration and promoting Hindi as an official language**.

Honours and Legacy

➤ He was awarded the **Bharat Ratna in 1957** for his contributions to **India's freedom struggle and public administration**.

➤ He is remembered as a **key architect of modern governance in Uttar Pradesh and an influential national leader**.