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**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

**9th Mar 2026**

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Governor Reshuffle**
- 2. Indonesia Restricts Social Media Access for Children**
- 3. Solomon Islands**
- 4. Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**
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- 7. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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## GOVERNOR RESHUFFLE

 The Times of India

Big governor reshuffle: Rashtrapati Bhavan issues orders for changes across 9 states and UTs - full list



Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday announced a major gubernatorial reshuffle involving several states and Union Territories, including Delhi,...

### Why in News

- President Droupadi Murmu announced a major reshuffle of Governors and Lieutenant Governors across several States and Union Territories.

### Key Constitutional Provisions

- Under **Article 155 of the Constitution**, the Governor of a State is appointed by the President of India.
- Governors hold office during the pleasure of the President (Article 156).
- Union Territories with legislatures, such as Delhi, are administered by a Lieutenant Governor appointed by the President.
- The Governor functions as the constitutional head of the State and acts on the advice of the Council of Ministers (Article 163).

### Major Appointments and Transfers

State / UT	Newly Appointed Governor / LG
Telangana	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Maharashtra	Jishnu Dev Varma
Nagaland	Nand Kishore Yadav
Bihar	Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Ata Hasnain
West Bengal	R. N. Ravi
Tamil Nadu	Interim charge: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Himachal Pradesh	Kavinder Gupta
Delhi (UT)	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Ladakh (UT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena

## INDONESIA RESTRICTS SOCIAL MEDIA ACCESS FOR CHILDREN

### Why in News

- **Indonesia** announced a new regulation restricting social media access for users under 16 years, effective 28 March.

 The Guardian

Indonesia to ban social media for children under 16

Platforms include YouTube, TikTok and Instagram as communication minister says 'our children face real threats'



## Policy Framework

- The regulation was announced by **Indonesia's Communications and Digital Minister Meutya Hafid**.
- Social media platforms identified as **high-risk** must **deactivate accounts belonging to underage users**.
- The implementation will occur **gradually until all platforms comply**.

### Key Facts

- **Indonesia's population:** about 280 million.
- **Internet penetration:** around 79.5% in 2024.
- Nearly 48% of children under 12 already have internet access.

## Platforms Affected

- Major platforms affected include **TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, and Roblox**.
- The restrictions aim to **reduce exposure of minors to harmful digital environments**.

## Reasons for Regulation

- The government cited risks such as **cyberbullying, online fraud, exposure to explicit content, and digital addiction**.
- Authorities believe stronger regulation will **promote safer and healthier internet usage among children**.

## SOLOMON ISLANDS

 Mint

Earthquake today: 6.7-Magnitude quake hits Solomon Islands' Kirakira

Earthquake today: 6.7-Magnitude quake hits Solomon Islands' Kirakira.



## Why in News

- A **6.7-magnitude earthquake** recently struck **Kirakira in Solomon Islands**, highlighting the island nation's **seismic vulnerability in the Pacific region**.

## Geographical Profile

- The **Solomon Islands** lie in the **south-western Pacific Ocean**, southeast of **Papua New Guinea** and northwest of **Vanuatu**.



- The country consists of **two parallel chains of volcanic islands and coral atolls**, formed along active tectonic zones.

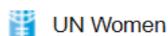
### Political and Historical Context

- The **capital is Honiara**, located on **Guadalcanal Island**, the largest island in the archipelago.
- It functions as a **parliamentary democracy within the Commonwealth**, with a **unicameral Parliament and ministerial system**.
- The islands were a **British Protectorate** before gaining **independence in 1978**.

### Demographic and Strategic Aspects

- The population is predominantly **Melanesian (about 93%)**, with **Polynesian, Micronesian, and other groups**.
- Its location in the **Pacific “Ring of Fire”** makes it prone to **earthquakes and volcanic activity** and geopolitically important in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

## COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN (CSW)



### The 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70)

The 70th annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70), taking place from 9 to 19 March at the UN Headquarters in New York, is the UN's...



### Why in News

- India is participating in the **70th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-70)** at the **United Nations Headquarters**.

### Institutional Background

- The **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)** is a **functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)**.
- It was established through an **ECOSOC resolution on 21 June 1946** to promote **gender equality and women’s empowerment**.

### Mandate and Global Role

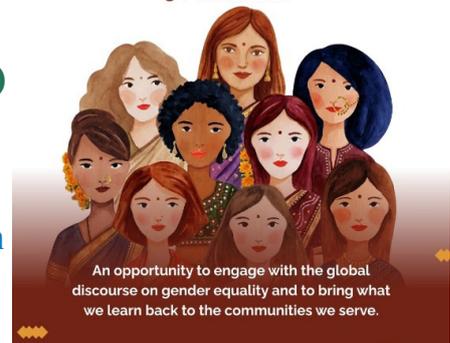
- The CSW promotes **women’s political, economic, civil, social, and educational rights worldwide**.



### TRI at CSW70

TRI is proud to be at 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

United Nations Headquarters, New York  
9 - 19 March 2026



- It develops **international policy standards and recommendations on gender equality**.

### Monitoring Global Commitments

- In **1996**, ECOSOC expanded its mandate to review progress on the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**.
- The declaration, adopted by **189 countries**, is the **most comprehensive global agenda for gender equality**.

### Membership Structure

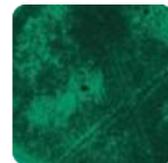
- The commission has **45 member states elected by ECOSOC** based on **equitable geographical representation**.
- Members serve **four-year terms** in the commission.

## DEINOCOCCUS RADIODURANS

TH The Hindu

Science Snapshots: March 8, 2026

Supertough bug may also survive colliding worlds. The bacteria Deinococcus radiodurans is famous for being able to survive extreme radiation...



### Why in News

- Researchers found that **Deinococcus radiodurans** can survive **extreme pressures of 14,000–24,000 Earth atmospheres**, supporting research in **astrobiology and planetary survival of microbes**.

### Biological Characteristics

- **Deinococcus radiodurans** is a **gram-positive, non-motile bacterium** known for its **exceptional resistance to ionising radiation**.
- It was first discovered in **1956 in radiation-treated canned meat** and has a **distinct reddish colour**.

### Mechanisms of Resistance

- The bacterium contains **manganese-based antioxidant complexes** that protect proteins from radiation damage.
- Efficient **DNA repair mechanisms**, including **thioredoxin reductase enzymes**, restore damaged genetic material.

### Environmental Resilience and Significance

- It can withstand **radiation levels thousands of times higher than lethal doses for humans**.

- The organism survives **extreme cold, dehydration, vacuum, and nutrient scarcity**, earning the nickname **“Conan the Bacterium.”**
- Its resilience supports the **panspermia hypothesis** about life spreading between planets.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

**Person in News**

### SMRITI MANDHANA BARBIE DOLL RECOGNITION

**18** News18

**Smriti Mandhana As A Barbie! Indian Star Honored With One-Of-A-Kind Doll**

Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana was named to Barbie's first-ever Dream Team on Thursday (March 5). This recognition made her the first...



#### **Why in News**

- Indian cricketer **Smriti Mandhana** became **the first cricketer to receive a Barbie doll modelled after her.**

#### **About the Recognition**

- The doll was created by **Mattel**, the manufacturer of **Barbie**, ahead of **International Women’s Day 2026**.
- It is part of Mattel’s **“Role Model” initiative**, which honours influential women worldwide.

#### **About Smriti Mandhana**

- She is a **leading batter of the Indian women’s cricket team** and one of the most prominent figures in women’s cricket.
- Her performances and leadership have helped **increase global visibility of women’s cricket.**

#### **Global Role Model Line-up**

- Mandhana joins other honoured figures such as **Serena Williams, Chloe Kelly, Regina Sirvent Alvarado, Kellie Gerardi, Helene Fischer, Zoja Skubis, and Stephanie Gilmore.**

#### **Key Facts**

- **Barbie** was introduced in **1959** by the **American company Mattel.**
- **Indian para-badminton champion Manasi Joshi** received a special Barbie doll in **2020.**
- **Katrina Kaif** became the first **Bollywood personality** to have a Barbie modelled after her in **2010.**

Sports

**LIMBO SKATING WORLD RECORD – SHRISHTI DHARMENDRA SHARMA**

**Why in News**

- Indian roller skater **Shrishi Dharmendra Sharma** set a new **Guinness World Record in limbo skating**.



**Record Achievement**

- She completed a **50-metre limbo skating challenge in 7.46 seconds**.
- The attempt took place on **28 February 2025 in Umbred, Maharashtra**.

**Previous Record**

- Sharma had earlier set the record in **2023** during “**Lo Show Dei Record**” in **Monza, Italy**.
- Her previous time was **9.59 seconds**, meaning she improved the record by **2.13 seconds**.

**About Limbo Skating**

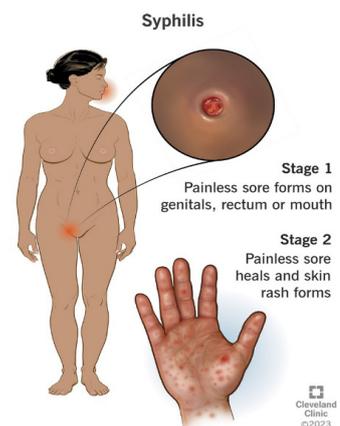
- Limbo skating is a **roller skating discipline where athletes glide under low horizontal bars**.
- It requires **extreme flexibility, balance and speed**.
- Skaters maintain a **body posture almost parallel to the ground** while moving forward.

Health

**SYPHILIS**

**Why in News**

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has certified **Denmark for eliminating mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis**.



### Disease Profile

- **Syphilis** is a **sexually transmitted infection (STI)** caused by the bacterium **Treponema pallidum**.
- It spreads mainly through **sexual contact with infectious sores or rashes**.

### Transmission and Health Impact

- The infection can also pass **from mother to child during pregnancy or childbirth**, causing **congenital syphilis**.
- Untreated infection can damage **the heart, brain, and nervous system**.

### Symptoms and Progression

- The disease begins with a **painless sore (chancre)** on the **genitals, rectum, or mouth**.
- Later stages may involve **skin rashes, lymph node swelling, and systemic complications**.

### Treatment and Public Health Relevance

- **Penicillin-based antibiotics** are the **standard treatment**, particularly effective in early stages.
- Untreated maternal infection leads to **adverse birth outcomes in 50–80% of cases**, making prevention crucial for **global health targets under SDG-3**.

## Defence

### **BLUE SPARROW MISSILE**

#### Why in News

- Reports **indicate Israel used the Blue Sparrow missile** in a targeted strike in **Tehran**, highlighting its **advanced air-launched ballistic capability**.

#### Development and Strategic Role

- The **Blue Sparrow** is part of a missile family including **Black Sparrow and Silver Sparrow**.
- It was developed by **Rafael Advanced Defense Systems**, an Israeli defence technology company.
- Initially designed as a **target missile for testing the Arrow missile defence system**, it was later adapted for **offensive use**.

### Technical and Operational Features

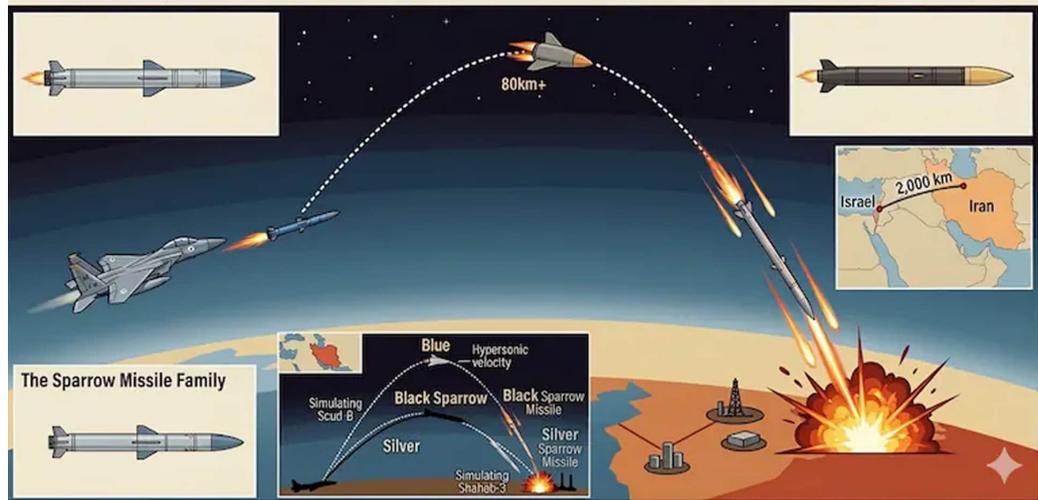
- The missile is **6.5 metres long** and weighs about **1.9 tonnes**.
- It is launched from **fighter aircraft such as the Israeli F-15**, with a **range of around 1,995 km**.
- It follows a **quasi-ballistic trajectory**, briefly exiting the atmosphere before descending toward the target.

### Strategic Implications

- The **ex-atmospheric flight path** complicates interception by **air-defence systems**, increasing strike effectiveness in contested regions.

### STRATEGIC IMPACT: THE BLUE SPARROW MISSILE'S ROLE IN ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT

An In-Depth View of the Exo-Atmospheric Strike System and its Family of Variants.



## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### VAAMA SAARTHI FELICITATION – UP POLICE FAMILIES

#### Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Police Family Welfare Association “Vaama Saarthi”** honoured **14 women and girls from families of non-gazetted police personnel** on **International Women’s Day 2026**.



#### About Vaama Saarthi

- It works for the **welfare and empowerment of UP Police families**.
- The event followed the **International Women’s Day 2026 theme of the Vaama Saarthi event – “Give To Gain.”**

- Around **530 nominations from districts across Uttar Pradesh** were received, with **14 awardees** selected.

### Notable Achievements Recognised

- **Swati Rozha (Shamli) – motorcycle vlogger and digital creator** with over **4.6 lakh** YouTube subscribers.
- **Apurva and Apurvi (Bulandshahr) – promoters of Sanskrit** through the “**Ek Kadam Sanskrit Ki Aur**” campaign.
- **Bhavana Chaudhary – first female flying aircrew/flight engineer in the BSF Air Wing.**
- **Dr. Padmini Mishra – Scientist-B at ICMR** with research on **rabies published in The Lancet.**

### Significance

- The initiative highlights **women’s empowerment, recognition of police families, and social inclusion**, aligning with **gender equality goals under SDG-5.**