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## Current Affairs - 11 March 2026



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### CENTRAL INDUSTRIAL SECURITY FORCE (CISF)



**Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

- It is a Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) in India operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- It provides security to various critical infrastructures, including airports and important national installations.
- **Headquarters: New Delhi**
- **Motto: "Protection and Security"**.
- **Establishment:**
  - The CISF came into existence in 1969 through the CISF Act 1968 with a sanctioned strength of only three battalions.
  - The Act was amended in 1983, declaring the CISF as an Armed Force of the Union.
- **Organisation Structure:**
  - CISF is headed by an Indian Police Service officer with the rank of Director-General, assisted by an IPS officer in the rank of Addl. Director-General.
  - The force is divided into seven sectors (Airport, North, North-East, East, West, South, and Training) and also has a Fire Service Wing.
  - The force consists of seven training institutes – six Recruit Training Centers and the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA).
- **Functions:**
  - The CISF security umbrella includes India's most critical infrastructure facilities, like nuclear installations, space establishments, airports, seaports, power plants,
  - In addition, the CISF also protects important government buildings, iconic heritage monuments, Delhi Metro, Parliament House Complex, and Central Jails of Jammu and Kashmir.



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- The CISF also has a **specialized VIP Security vertical**, providing round-the-clock security to important protectees.
  - CISF personnel are **trained in disaster management techniques**, enabling them to actively respond to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, and cyclones.
  - CISF is one of the largest **Fire Protection Service providers** in the country. CISF is the **only force with a customized and dedicated fire wing**.
  - It is a **compensatory cost force**, which means that it bills its clients for the services it provides.
  - The CISF is the **only CAPF with a daily public interface** – in the airports, in the Delhi Metro, and in the iconic monuments.
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### ROOPKUND LAKE



- Roopkund, also known as the “**lake of skeletons**” is a **glacial lake** in Uttarakhand.
  - It is **surrounded by snow-capped peaks** and lush green meadows.
  - **Mystery:**
    - It is called the “lake of skeletons” as the **glacial body conceals** numbers of **human skeletons, some with preserved flesh**.
    - Depending on the season and weather, the lake, which remains frozen for most of the year, expands and shrinks.
    - **Only when the snow melts** are the **skeletons visible**.
    - The skeletons in the lake were **first discovered** by a patrolling **British forest ranger in 1942**.
    - These skeletal remains **dating back to around the 9th century AD**, have led to various theories about the cause of death.
    - Scientific studies used **radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis** to learn more about the victims.
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### NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAMME

**National  
Leprosy  
Eradication  
Programme**



• It is a **centrally sponsored scheme** under the overarching umbrella of National Health Mission (NHM).

- **Aim:** The primary aim is controlling leprosy through early detection and treatment.
- **Goal:** Its goal is to make India leprosy-free by interrupting transmission, eliminating stigma, and ensuring dignified care for all affected individuals.
- The programme offers **free-of-cost services for prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and** rehabilitation of leprosy through all public health facilities across India.
  - It provides both **technical and financial support to all States and Union Territories** for implementation of activities related to prevention, early detection, case confirmation, treatment, disability prevention, and post-treatment care.
- It also facilitates convergence with other national health programmes and deploys digital platforms such as **Nikusth 2.0** for surveillance and reporting.
- The programme is aligned with the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **WHO Global Leprosy Strategy**.
  - **WHO Global Leprosy Strategy** aims to achieve zero transmission, zero disability, and zero **discrimination by 2027**.
- It was **declared as a Notifiable Disease**.
- **Objectives:**
  - To **reduce Prevalence rate less than 1/10,000 population** at sub national and district level.
  - To reduce **Grade II disability % < 1** among new cases at National level.
  - To reduce Grade II disability cases < 1 case per million populations at National level.
  - Zero disabilities among new Child cases.
  - **Zero stigma** and discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.



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### AIR DROPPABLE CONTAINER- 150



Air Droppable  
Container- 150

- It is an **indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container** with 150 kg payload capacity.
- Key components of the system **were developed by several DRDO laboratories.**
  - The **parachute system** was developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment in Agra.
  - The Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification in Bengaluru provided **flight clearance and certification for the trials.**
  - Instrumentation support for the tests was provided by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory in Hyderabad.
- **Significance:** The system enables rapid delivery of **critical stores, equipment, and medical supplies to naval vessels** deployed in the open sea or in distress.

### What is P-8I Poseidon aircraft?

- It is a long-range, **multi-mission maritime patrol aircraft being manufactured by Boeing** (a U.S. aerospace company) for the Indian Navy.
- The P-8I Poseidon flown by the Indian Navy is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon used by the United States Navy.
- Its advanced sensors, weapons systems, and long-range capabilities enable it to detect and respond to a wide range of threats, from submarines and surface vessels to environmental challenges.
- It can **conduct anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (AsuW),** intelligence, maritime patrol, and surveillance and reconnaissance missions.
- **Speed:** It can fly at a maximum **speed of 789 km/h and** can reach a maximum altitude of 12,496 m.
- **Range:** It has a **maximum range of over 2,222 kilometres** with a time on station of four hours.



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### AMRIT BHARAT STATION SCHEME



- It was **launched in 2022** which aims at **development and upgradation of stations** over the Indian Railways (IR) network.
- The scheme envisaged **development of stations with a long term vision**.
- The policy is based on Master Planning for long term and implementation of the same as per needs and demand of the station to station.
- The ABSS has a long-term vision that involves **creating master plans, promoting multimodal connectivity**, better station accessibility for passengers, etc.
- The goal is to make stations cleaner, **more comfortable, and easier to use**.
- **Key Features of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme:**
  - **Amenities:** It includes providing entry and exit points, waiting halls, toilets, platforms, and roofing. Facilities like lifts, escalators, and **free Wi-Fi** are added wherever needed.
    - There are also better signs and information systems to help passengers. Some stations will have **executive lounges and special areas for business meetings**.
  - **Local Economy Support:** Local products **will be sold at kiosks** under the 'One Station One Product' scheme, and efforts will be made to make stations look greener and more attractive.

### PB-SHABD PLATFORM



- **Prasar Bharati-Shared Audio-Visuals for Broadcast and Dissemination (PB-SHABD)** was launched in 2024.
- It is **news feeds service from Prasar Bharati**.
- It provides **access to logo free, daily news** items across various formats including video, audio, text, and photos to media organizations.

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- PB-SHABD offers the latest news from every corner of India.
  - Daily 1000 stories, covering varied news categories such as agriculture, technology, foreign affairs, and political developments, are uploaded daily in all major Indian languages from the Regional News Units (RNUs) and headquarters combined.

### Key Facts about Prasar Bharti

- It is the **Public Service Broadcaster** of the country.
  - It is a **statutory autonomous body** established in 1997 **under the Prasar Bharati Act**.
  - **Objective:** To conduct public broadcasting services intended to inform and entertain the public.
  - It comprises the **Doordarshan Television Network and All India Radio**, which were earlier media units of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
  - **Headquarter:** New Delhi.
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### CEC REMOVAL MOTION: LEGAL PROVISIONS

- The removal of the CEC is governed by **Article 324(5)** of the Constitution.
- It states that the CEC can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court.
- The Article also provides that Election Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the Chief Election Commissioner.
- The removal process is subject to laws enacted by Parliament.
- **Legal Framework**
  - Parliament enacted the **Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023**.
  - Section 11 of this Act deals with the resignation and removal process.
  - It reiterates the constitutional provision that the CEC can only be removed in the same manner as a Supreme Court judge.

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- **Grounds for Removal**

The grounds for removal are the same as those applicable to Supreme Court judges under Article 124(4):      Proved misbehaviour,      or      Incapacity.

- **Parliamentary Procedure for Removal**

- The removal process follows the procedure laid down in the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**.
- **Initiation of Motion** - A motion for removal must be signed by: At least 100 members of the Lok Sabha, or At least 50 members of the Rajya Sabha.
- **Admission of Motion** - The Speaker of the Lok Sabha or the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha may admit or reject the motion.

- **Inquiry by Investigation Committee**

- If the motion is admitted, a three-member inquiry committee is constituted to investigate the charges.
- The committee must include:
  - One Supreme Court judge
  - One Chief Justice of a High Court
  - One distinguished jurist

The committee investigates the allegations and submits a report to the Speaker or Chairman.

- **Parliamentary Voting**

- If the committee finds the charges proved, the motion is taken up for voting in Parliament.
- To succeed, the motion must be passed by:
  - A majority of the total membership of each House, and
  - A two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
  - Both Houses must pass the motion in the same session.

- **Final Order by the President**

- Once both Houses pass the motion, an address is sent to the President, who then issues an order removing the Chief Election Commissioner from office.
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### PRIORITISING NATURAL GAS SUPPLIES AMID WEST ASIA CRISIS

- The ongoing conflict in West Asia and the disruption of maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz have significantly affected Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supplies.
- To manage the supply shock and protect essential consumer sectors, the Government of India has invoked emergency powers under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to **regulate and prioritise** the allocation of natural gas.

#### **Strait of Hormuz Disruption:**

- The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway between **Iran and Oman**, connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea.
- Over 50% of India's LNG imports from countries such as Qatar and the UAE transit through this route.
- With Iran warning ships against transit and attacks reported on vessels, maritime **movement** has nearly **halted**, disrupting LNG shipments to India.

#### **Measures to Secure Supply:**

- **Increase in domestic LPG production:**
  - The government directed refiners to maximise LPG output by using propane and butane streams. This has led to a **10% rise** in LPG production.
- **Prioritisation of domestic consumers:**
  - Prioritising domestic LPG over commercial LPG users (e.g., hotels and restaurants).
  - Increasing the minimum refill booking gap from 21 days to **25 days** to prevent hoarding.
  - Ensuring daily distribution of about 60 lakh LPG cylinders, unchanged from pre-crisis levels.
- **Diversifying LNG imports:**
  - India is attempting to source LNG from alternative suppliers such as **Norway and the United States**.

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### Challenges and Way Ahead:

- **Geopolitical vulnerability:** Heavy dependence on West Asian energy supplies exposes India to disruptions during regional conflicts.
  - **Diversification:** India should expand LNG supply agreements with countries such as **Australia**, the U.S., and **African** producers to reduce reliance on West Asia.
- **Chokepoint risk:** Reliance on the Strait of Hormuz makes India vulnerable to maritime security disruptions.
  - Creation of strategic gas **reserves** similar to petroleum reserves could cushion temporary disruptions.
- **Limited domestic gas production:** Domestic gas output is insufficient to meet rising demand.
  - Encouraging **exploration** in deepwater, ultra-deepwater, and difficult basins can increase indigenous gas output.
- **Time lag in diversification:** Alternative LNG imports from distant countries involve long shipping lead times.
  - India must **strengthen partnerships** through long-term contracts and multilateral energy cooperation.
- **Industrial disruption:** Curtailing supplies to industries like petrochemicals and power plants may affect production and economic activity.
  - Accelerating solar, wind, and green hydrogen initiatives can reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

### Conclusion:

- The disruption of LNG supplies due to the West Asia conflict highlights the **fragility** of global energy supply chains and India's vulnerability to geopolitical shocks.
  - The crisis underscores the urgent need for energy diversification, domestic production enhancement, and resilient supply chains to ensure long-term energy security for India.
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