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School of Research Based Learning & Competition

## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026



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### BROADCAST AUDIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL (BARC)



- It is a joint industry company founded by stakeholder bodies that represent Broadcasters, Advertisers and Advertising & Advertising Agencies.

- It owns and manages a transparent, accurate, and inclusive TV audience measurement system.
- **Established in 2010**, the BARC has since been the **sole body which can measure and publish television audience data in the country.**
- It is **based in Mumbai, India.**

### What is Television Rating Point (TRP)?

- It is a **metric used to measure the popularity and viewership of television programs.**
- The **more viewers** a program has, the **higher its TRP rating.**
- It is calculated by measuring the viewership of a particular program over a period of time, usually a week.
- TRP ratings are **used by broadcasters and advertisers to determine the popularity of different TV programs.**
- **According to the TRP** of a TV channel or programme, **advertisers decide where to display their advertisements**, and investors will decide about the investment of the money.

### How is TRP Calculated in India?

- In India, TRP is **calculated by BARC using “BAR-O-meters”** that are **installed in televisions in selected households.**
- It **uses audio watermark technology to measure viewership** of TV channels, and it also **measures time-shifted viewing and simulcasts.**
- These gadgets **record data about the channel or programme watched** by the family members or selected people. This method is called the **People meters.**

## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026

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- In this way, **some thousand viewers are surveyed** in the form of **justice and sampling**.
  - The **data** is then **extrapolated** to estimate the viewership of the entire population.
  - Another method is known as **picture matching**, where the **people meter** records a **small portion of the picture that is being watched** on the TV.
    - This **data** is collected from a set of homes in the **form of pictures** and later on is **analysed** to calculate the TRPs.
  - The BARC releases weekly TRP results every Thursday ranking all TV channels and TV programmes.
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### WHAT IS THE PRECISION STRIKE MISSILE (PRSM)?



- It is a **surface-to-surface guided ballistic missile** to strike targets at long distances with high precision.
  - It is being **developed and manufactured** primarily for the **US Army** by **Lockheed Martin** (a US aerospace and defence company).
  - **Features:**
    - It features an open system architecture and a **modular design**.
    - It is **launched from** existing artillery platforms, including the **M142 High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS)** and the **M270A2 Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS)**.
    - The missile uses **solid rocket propellant** and advanced navigation systems, including **GPS and inertial guidance**, to hit targets accurately over long distances, even in challenging weather conditions.
    - It has a range of at least 500 km.
  - It has a **hypersonic-class ballistic trajectory** that **can even be integrated with satellites, drones and radar systems**.
  - It is equipped with an **Insensitive Munitions (IM) energetic payload**, designed to **reduce the risk of accidental detonation**.
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## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026



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### WHAT IS DARK OXYGEN?



Scientists exploring the Pacific Ocean seafloor have reported the presence of what they describe as “dark oxygen” in an environment where sunlight does not reach.

- It is the **oxygen** that is being produced thousands of feet below the ocean surface, **without any light or photosynthesis.**
- The phenomenon was **first observed in 2013** while studying the **Clarion-Clipperton Zone**, an area in the **Pacific Ocean** between Mexico and Hawaii.
- **Why is the discovery important?**
  - **Until now**, it was **thought that oxygen was created only through photosynthesis**, a process that **requires sunlight.**
  - Oceanic plankton, drifting plants, algae, and some bacteria are the primary elements attributed to the production of oxygen in the ocean. All these organisms are capable of photosynthesis.
  - The production of oxygen at **such depths** is thought to be impossible because **there isn't enough sunlight for plants to do photosynthesis.**
  - However, **in this case, oxygen is not being produced by plants.**
  - The oxygen **comes out of polymetallic nodules** that are similar in resemblance to lumps of coal.
  - These nodules, **made up of metals like manganese, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper**, and lithium, produce oxygen without the process of photosynthesis.
  - These **nodules generate enough electricity to drive electrolysis**, which **splits water molecules apart and releases oxygen.**
  - The **researchers think the same process**-battery-powered oxygen production that requires no light and no biological process - **could be happening on other moons and planets**, creating oxygen-rich environments where life could thrive.



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### DUDHWA TIGER RESERVE



• **Location:** It is located on the Indo-Nepal border in the district of Lakhimpur-Kheri in Uttar Pradesh.

- It includes the **Dudhwa National Park** and two nearby sanctuaries, viz. **Kishanpur and Katerniaghat**.
- **Topography:** It is a typical **Tarai-Bhabar habitat** of the upper Gangetic plains biogeographic province.
- **Rivers:** The **Sharda River** flows by the Kishanpur WL Sanctuary, the **Geruwa River** flows through the Katerniaghat WL Sanctuary, and the **Suheli and Mohana** streams flow in the Dudhwa National Park, all of which are **tributaries of the mighty Ghagra River**.
- **Vegetation:** The vegetation is of the **North Indian Moist Deciduous type**, containing some of the finest examples of Sal forests in India.
- **Flora:** It mainly **consists of Sal Forest** along with its associate tree species like *Terminalia alata* (Asna), *Lagerstroemia parviflora* (Asidha), *Adina cordifolia* (Haldu), etc.
- **Fauna:** Tiger, leopard, Swamp deer, Rhinoceros, chital, hog deer, barking deer, Sambhar, wild boar, and Ratel.
- There are many species of birds in the park, such as the **Florican and black-necked storks**.

### SWAYATT INITIATIVE



- It was **launched in 2019**.
- It was conceptualised with a clear objective of **invigorating participation of women-led enterprises and youth in public procurement**.



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## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026

- **Objective:** It democratizes government procurement by enabling startups, **women entrepreneurs, youth, Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs), Self Help Groups (SHGs)** and last-mile sellers to directly **participate in the public procurement ecosystem** through Government e-Marketplace.
- It is rooted in GeM's **foundational pillar of social inclusion**.
- SWAYATT focuses on addressing three critical challenges often faced by emerging enterprises—**access to markets, access to finance and access to value addition**.

### Key Facts about Government e Marketplace

- It is an **Online Market platform** that was set up in 2016.
- It facilitates the **procurement of goods and services** by government ministries, departments, public sector undertakings (PSU) etc.
- It has been envisaged as the **National Procurement Portal of India**.
- It was developed by the **Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals** (Ministry of Commerce and Industry) with technical support from the **National e-governance Division** (Ministry of Electronic and Information Technology).
- GeM is a **completely paperless, cashless and system-driven e-marketplace** that enables procurement of common-use goods and services with minimal human interface.

### LOW TEMPERATURE THERMAL DESALINATION TECHNOLOGY



- It is a process under which the **warm surface sea water is flash evaporated** at low pressure and the vapour is condensed with cold deep sea water.
- The LTTD technology **does not require any chemical pre and post-treatment of seawater** and thus the pollution problems are minimal and suitable for island territories.
- **Significance:** Since no effluent treatment is required, it gives **less operational maintenance** problems compared to other desalination processes.
- The first LTTD plant in Lakshadweep was commissioned in Kavaratti in 2005.



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## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026



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### G- SPIDER ROBOT



- It is an **automated canal cleaning robot**, created by Genrobotic Innovations.
- It is engineered to operate in complex, high-risk canal environments without any human entry.
- **Features of G- SPIDER Robot:**
  - **Efficient Operation:** It is designed to function efficiently even during high water levels and continuous flow conditions.
  - **Advanced Technology:**
    - It is built on **Cable-Driven Parallel Robotics (CDPR) architecture** and **powered by AI-enabled vision and sensor intelligence.**
    - It has **five-degrees-of-freedom robotic mechanism**, equipped with a **biomimetic claw-type grabber**, ensures accurate positioning and secure handling of mixed and irregular debris.
    - It enables precise detection, assessment, and removal of accumulated waste.
    - By using advanced machine vision, the system autonomously identifies and **adapts to different waste types, flow conditions**, and structural challenges in real time.
  - The extracted waste is directly transferred into designated collection vehicles, enabling a **fully hands-free and end-to-end canal cleaning process**— from detection to safe disposal.
  - **Uninterrupted Maintenance:** It ensures uninterrupted and consistent maintenance of urban waterways.
  - **Safe Waste Extraction:** It is **capable of safely extracting mixed and hazardous waste**—including plastics, sharp debris, and other harmful materials.

### INDIA'S \$5 TRILLION AMBITION HIT BY GDP REVISION

- The National Statistics Office (NSO) has released a new GDP series to improve the accuracy of India's economic data.
- The revision incorporates richer data sources from both formal and informal sectors, updates estimation methods, and addresses criticisms of earlier GDP calculations.
- This new series is designed to better reflect the changing structure of the Indian economy.
- The new series uses GST data to improve quarterly GDP estimates. It also captures the informal sector more accurately through annual surveys of unincorporated enterprises.
- Additionally, the issue of double deflation in agriculture and manufacturing has been addressed, and several key economic ratios have been updated using recent studies.

#### Key Takeaways from the New GDP Series

- **Revision in the Size of the Economy**
  - The new GDP series released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) shows that the size of India's economy is smaller than previously estimated.
    - 2022–23 GDP is now estimated at ₹261 lakh crore, instead of the earlier estimate of ₹269 lakh crore.
    - For the current financial year, GDP is estimated at ₹345 lakh crore, compared to ₹357 lakh crore earlier.
- **Lower Per Capita Income**
  - Per capita income represents the average income of a person in a country, calculated by dividing GDP by the population.
  - Under the old estimates, the average annual income of an Indian in 2025–26 was about ₹2,51,393.
  - Under the new estimates, it is ₹2,43,180, or roughly ₹20,265 per month.
  - This shows that the average income level in India is lower than previously believed.

## Current Affairs - 07 March 2026

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- **India Further from the \$5 Trillion Target**
    - The \$5 trillion economy target is based on nominal GDP, which measures the value of goods and services at current market prices without adjusting for inflation.
    - For international comparison, nominal GDP in rupees is converted into US dollars using the exchange rate.
  - **Effect of the New GDP Series**
    - Earlier estimates suggested that India's GDP in 2025–26 had crossed \$4 trillion.
    - However, two factors have changed this:
      - Downward revision of nominal GDP, and
      - Depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar.
    - Assuming an exchange rate of ₹88 per dollar, India's GDP is now estimated at around \$3.9 trillion.
    - As a result, India is now further away from the \$5 trillion economy milestone than previously thought.
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### STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES REPORT

- The State of the World's Migratory Species Report is a global assessment that evaluates the conservation status of migratory animals across the world.
- It is prepared under the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)**, a legally binding international treaty established in **1979 under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- The report provides comprehensive scientific information on migratory species, their population trends, conservation status, and the threats they face across their migratory routes.
- The report uses scientific data from sources such as the **IUCN Red List**, population monitoring studies, and scientific literature to evaluate extinction risks and population changes.

### Importance of Migratory Species

- Migratory species play a crucial role in maintaining ecological balance and supporting human livelihoods. For example:
  - Migratory birds help in **pollination and pest control**.
  - Marine animals such as whales and fish help maintain **ocean food chains**.
- Migratory herds on land distribute nutrients and shape ecosystems across landscapes.
- These species are also important for cultural traditions, tourism, and food systems in many parts of the world.
- However, migration itself creates vulnerability. If a single habitat along their migration route is destroyed, the entire migration chain may collapse. Protecting migratory species, therefore, requires coordinated conservation efforts across multiple countries.

### Major Findings of the Latest Report

- **Declining Populations of Migratory Species**
- **Rising Extinction Risks**
- **Habitat Loss and Overexploitation as Major Threats**
- **Emerging Threat from Avian Influenza**
- **Progress in Conservation Efforts**
- **Importance of Key Biodiversity Areas**
  - The report identified 9,372 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) that are important habitats for migratory species.
  - However, 47% of these areas currently lack protection, leaving many critical migratory habitats vulnerable to human pressures.
  - Strengthening protection of these areas is essential for ensuring the survival of migratory species.