



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 03-03-2026

Mapping Perspective

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Prelims Perspective

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Sweden

Syllabus: Prelims Bits - Mapping

Context:

- India and Sweden have recently strengthened cooperation in Artificial Intelligence.
- This collaboration is institutionalized under the **Sweden-India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC) Framework**, aimed at enhancing innovation, research partnerships, and digital transformation.

About Sweden

Location

- A country in **Northern Europe** situated on the **Scandinavian Peninsula**.



Borders

- **Land Boundaries:**
 - Finland (East)
 - Norway (North and West)
- **Maritime Boundaries:**
 - Gulf of Bothnia (East)
 - Baltic Sea (East and South)

- Skagerrak and Kattegat straits (Southwest)

Capital: Stockholm

Membership in International Organizations

- European Union (EU)
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

Geographical Features of Sweden

Terrain is characterized by: Snow-clad mountains; Extensive forest cover; Rocky and uneven landscape in several regions

Climate: Generally, experiences a **temperate climate**, though conditions vary from south to north.

Major Rivers: Ångerman River; Emån River; Indal River; Lagan River

Natural Resources: Rich in – Uranium; Copper; Lead; Zinc

INS Anjadip

Syllabus: Prelims Bits – Defence Technology.

Context:

- The Indian Navy is set to commission **INS Anjadip**, the **third vessel** under the **eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) Project**.
- It will join the **Eastern Naval Command**.

About INS Anjadip

KEY FEATURES OF INS ANJADIP

- Over **80%** indigenous content, reflecting India's push for Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing
- **Nickname** | "Dolphin Hunter"
- **Length** | **77 metres**
- **Displacement** | **1,400 tonnes**
- **Role** | Rapid response and sustained coastal operations
- Built for anti-submarine warfare in shallow waters
- **Systems** | Modern ASW suite, advanced combat management system

The infographic includes a photograph of the INS Anjadip, a grey anti-submarine warfare shallow water craft, with crew members visible on the deck. The ship is docked at a pier.

What is INS Anjadip?

- A **state-of-the-art Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)**.
- Designed specifically for **littoral (coastal and shallow water) operations**.
- Named after **Anjadip Island (Karnataka coast)**.
- It is the **reincarnation of the erstwhile Petya-class Corvette INS Anjadip**, decommissioned in 2003.

Built By

- **Designed & Built by:** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- Constructed under a **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model** between:
 - GRSE
 - L&T Shipyard (Kattupalli)

Significance:

- Boosts **Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence Manufacturing**.
- Strengthens **indigenous warship building capability**.

ASW-SWC Project

- Total vessels planned: **8**
- INS Anjadip is the **3rd vessel**.
- Other ships in the class include:
 - INS Mahe
 - INS Malvan

Objective:

- Counter growing **submarine threats in coastal waters**.
- Strengthen India's **anti-submarine warfare (ASW) grid**.

Primary Role

Nicknamed: "Dolphin Hunter"

- Detection, tracking and neutralization of **enemy submarines**.
- Protects:
 - Coastal approaches
 - Ports and harbours
 - Sea lanes of communication (SLOCs)

Key Features

Dimensions

- Length: ~77 metres
- Compact yet highly maneuverable for shallow waters

Propulsion

- **High-speed Water-Jet Propulsion system**
- Largest class of Indian naval warships to use this system
- Advantage:
 - Better manoeuvrability
 - Suitable for shallow draft operations
 - Reduced acoustic signature

Speed

- Maximum speed: **25 knots**

Weapons Suite

- Lightweight Torpedoes
- Indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Rockets
- Mine-laying capability

Sensors

- Equipped with **Hull Mounted Sonar 'Abhay'**
- Optimized for **shallow-water submarine detection**

Multirole Capabilities

Beyond ASW, it can perform:

- Coastal Surveillance
- Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)
- Search and Rescue (SAR)

Strategic Significance

Maritime Security

- Enhances India's ability to counter **submarine incursions**, especially in:
 - Bay of Bengal

- Eastern seaboard
- Andaman Sea region

Indo-Pacific Context

- Growing submarine presence of extra-regional powers in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Strengthens **sea denial capabilities** in littoral zones.

Defence Indigenization

- Aligns with:
 - Aatmanirbhar Bharat
 - Make in India in Defence
- Demonstrates maturity of Indian shipbuilding ecosystem.

Coastal Defence Architecture

- Complements:
 - P-8I aircraft
 - MH-60R helicopters
 - Submarine fleet
 - Surface combatants

Conclusion

INS Anjadip significantly enhances India's **shallow water anti-submarine warfare capability**, strengthens **coastal defence**, and represents a major step in **indigenous naval modernization**. It reflects India's evolving maritime strategy amid intensifying strategic competition in the Indian Ocean Region.

Moist Heatwave

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment - Climate Change

Context:

- Recent climatological studies show that **moist heatwaves in India are closely linked to the Active and Break phases of the Southwest Monsoon (SWM)**.
- During:

- **Break Monsoon periods** → Reduced rainfall + Clear skies → High solar heating.
- **Active Monsoon phases** → Increased moisture incursion → Elevated humidity.
- The **interaction of high temperature + high atmospheric moisture** creates extreme **wet-bulb temperature conditions**.
- Researchers indicate that these events **can be predicted weeks in advance** using:
 - Monsoon intraseasonal oscillation patterns
 - Sea surface temperature anomalies
 - Atmospheric circulation models

This has major implications for **early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and urban heat action plans**.

What is a Moist Heatwave?

A **Moist Heatwave** occurs when:

- **Air temperature is extremely high**
- **Relative humidity is also high**
- Resulting in dangerous **Wet Bulb Temperature (WBT)** levels

Unlike dry heatwaves (common in Northwest India), moist heatwaves are **more physiologically dangerous**.

Wet Bulb Temperature (WBT)

Concept

- **Wet Bulb Temperature** = The lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by evaporation of water at constant pressure.
- It simulates the **cooling effect of sweating on human skin**.

Critical Threshold

- **35°C Wet Bulb Temperature** → Globally accepted **human survivability limit**.
- At this level:
 - Sweat does **not evaporate effectively**
 - Body cannot cool itself
 - Even healthy individuals can die within hours

Impact of Moist Heatwaves on Humans

Thermoregulation Failure

- Human body maintains ~37°C core temperature.
- Cooling mechanism = **Evaporation of sweat**.
- High humidity → Prevents evaporation → Heat accumulates internally.

Medical Consequences

- Heat exhaustion
- Hyperthermia
- Heat cramps
- Fatal heatstroke
- Increased cardiovascular stress
- Respiratory distress
- Aggravation of chronic diseases

High-Risk Groups

- Outdoor workers
- Elderly population
- Urban slum residents
- People without access to cooling
- Agricultural labourers

Regional Relevance for India

- Coastal regions (e.g., East Coast, Indo-Gangetic Plain during monsoon onset)
- High population density + humidity → Severe risk.
- Climate change projections suggest:
 - Increasing frequency
 - Longer duration
 - Expansion to new regions

Why Moist Heatwaves Are More Dangerous than Dry Heatwaves

Parameter	Dry Heatwave	Moist Heatwave
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Parameter	Dry Heatwave	Moist Heatwave
Temperature	Very High	High
Humidity	Low	High
Sweat Evaporation	Efficient	Impaired
Physiological Risk	Moderate	Extreme
Fatality Potential	Lower	Higher

Policy Implications

- Need for **Wet Bulb Temperature-based warning systems**
- Integration with **IMD Heat Action Plans**
- Urban planning:
 - Green cover expansion
 - Heat-resilient infrastructure
 - Public cooling shelters
- Worker protection laws (timing shifts, hydration protocols)

Conclusion

Moist heatwaves represent a **compound climate hazard**, where temperature and humidity act synergistically to create life-threatening conditions. Their link with the **Southwest Monsoon's active-break cycles** makes them scientifically predictable, offering a crucial window for preventive action.

Given India's demographic density and tropical climate, moist heatwaves are emerging as a **major public health and climate governance challenge**.

India-Israel Relations

Syllabus: GS-2: International Relations.

Context:

The Indian Prime Minister made a historic State visit to Israel. During this visit, the bilateral relationship was elevated to a "Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation & Prosperity."

India-Israel Strategic Partnership: Study Notes (2026 Update)

Evolution of the Relationship: A Four-Phase Journey

Phase	Period	Characterization	Key Milestones
Phase I	1948–1992	Ideological Estrangement	India voted against UN Partition Plan (1947); recognized Israel (1950); covert military aid during 1965/1971 wars.
Phase II	1992–2014	Prudent Rapprochement	Full diplomatic ties (1992); "Kargil Catalyst" (1999) where Israel provided UAVs/Laser-guided bombs; Defense-heavy "closet affair."
Phase III	2014–2023	De-hyphenation & Depth	Strategic Partnership (2017); PM Modi's visit; entry into I2U2; focus on "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (co-production).
Phase IV	2024–Present	Special Strategic Partnership	Upgraded to " Special Strategic Partnership for Peace, Innovation, and Prosperity " (2026); focus on Critical Tech (AI, Quantum, Semiconductors).



Strategic Significance of Israel for India

A. Defense & National Security

- **Shift in Paradigm:** From a "Buyer-Seller" model to **Joint Development and Co-production**.
- **Key Statistics:** India absorbs ~34% of Israeli arms exports; 2026 deals valued at **\$8.6 billion**.
- **Crisis Support:** Israel provides "no-strings-attached" tech during multi-front threats.

B. Agriculture & Water Security

- **3-Tier Impact:** Israeli tech (drip irrigation, desalination) is vital for India's food security.
- **Centres of Excellence (CoE):** High-tech hubs adapting Israeli agri-tech to Indian soil.

C. The "Digital-Cyber" Nexus

- **iCET-like Framework:** New 2026 initiative on **Critical and Emerging Technologies** (AI, Semiconductors, Biotechnology).
- **Cyber Security:** Establishment of an **India-Israel Cyber Centre of Excellence**.

D. Geoeconomics & Connectivity

- **I2U2 & IMEC:** Israel is a linchpin in the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, providing a Mediterranean gateway for Indian goods.
- **Labor Mobility:** 2026 agreement to induct **50,000 Indian workers** into Israel's construction and caregiving sectors.

Key Pillars of Friction (The Challenges)

1. **The "Iran Paradox":** India's investment in **Chabahar Port** (10-year lease, 2024) and INSTC conflicts with Israel's goal of isolating Tehran.
2. **The Palestine Question:** Despite de-hyphenation, India remains committed to the **Two-State Solution** (reiterated at 2025 NAM Summit) and continues funding UNRWA.
3. **The China Factor:** India is wary of Chinese investments in Israeli infrastructure (e.g., **Haifa Bay Port**), fearing "backdoor" security risks in shared tech.
4. **Trade Barriers:** The **FTA** remains elusive due to disagreements over agricultural market access and chemical patents.
5. **Pegasus Shadow:** Domestic political sensitivity in India regarding Israeli spyware affects the transparency of "Deep Tech" cooperation.

The Way Forward: Recommendations for a Future-Ready Tie

- **Institutionalize Co-Development:** Move beyond procurement to a **Joint Defense Technology Fund** for Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs) and drone swarms.
- **Semiconductor Corridor:** Link Tel Aviv's "Silicon Wadi" with India's "Semicon City" (Dholera) to secure hardware supply chains.
- **Space Commercialization:** Combine ISRO's cost-effective launches with Israel's satellite miniaturization for the "Global South" market.
- **Academic Diplomacy:** Operationalize the **India-Israel Academic Cooperation Forum** (Nalanda University-Hebrew University) to build long-term intellectual capital.

Conclusion

The relationship has evolved from a "clandestine security need" to a **"foundational pillar of strategic autonomy."** While regional volatility (Israel-Hamas/Hezbollah) poses logistical risks to projects like IMEC, the **de-hyphenation strategy** allows India to pursue national interests in Tel Aviv without abandoning its moral and strategic commitments in the wider Arab world.

Practice Qs:

Q. "The evolution of India-Israel relations from a 'closet affair' to a 'Special Strategic Partnership' reflects a shift from ideological hesitation to pragmatic realism in India's foreign policy. Discuss. Also, examine how the 'de-hyphenation' strategy helps India balance its interests in the volatile West Asian region." (250 words, 15 marks)

India's New GDP Series

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy -National Income - GDP.

Context:

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has released the **New GDP Series** with **2022-23** as the base year, replacing the 2011-12 series. This periodic "rebasings" ensures the GDP accurately reflects structural changes, technological shifts, and current consumption patterns.

Key Highlights of the New Series

The revision has led to an upgrade in real growth estimates but a downward revision in the absolute size of the nominal economy.

Indicator	Old Series (2011-12)	New Series (2022-23)
Real GDP Growth (FY26)	7.4%	7.6% (Second Advance Estimate)
Q3 FY26 Growth	-	7.8%
Nominal GDP (FY26)	~₹357 lakh crore	₹345.47 lakh crore (3.3% lower)
FY24 Growth	9.2%	7.2% (Revised Downward)
FY25 Growth	6.5%	7.1% (Revised Upward)

Methodological Improvements

The shift is not just about the year but also about **how** the value is calculated.

- **Double Deflation Method:** The most significant change. Previously, India used a "single-deflator" (adjusting output by one price index). Now, both **inputs and outputs** are adjusted separately using their respective inflation rates (e.g., WPI for raw materials and CPI for final goods). This prevents overestimation of growth when input costs fall faster than final prices.
- **Integration of SUT: Supply and Use Tables (SUT)** have been integrated to reduce "statistical discrepancies" between production-side and expenditure-side estimates.
- **Diversified Corporations:** Using **MGT-7/7A filings**, value-added by multi-activity corporations is now distributed across actual sectors (e.g., a company doing both manufacturing and IT) rather than being dumped into its "principal activity."

New Data Sources Incorporated

The new series reduces reliance on proxy indicators by using high-frequency administrative data:

- **GST Data:** Provides real-time insights into the formal sector and consumption.
- **e-Vahan Portal:** Used for estimating road transport services and private consumption.
- **ASUSE & PLFS:** Incorporates the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises and the Periodic Labour Force Survey for better informal sector coverage.
- **PFMS:** Public Financial Management System data for more accurate government expenditure tracking.

Sectoral Trends (FY26)

- **Secondary Sector (9.5%):** Led by **Manufacturing (12.5%)**, which has emerged as the primary growth engine under the new series.

- **Tertiary Sector (8.9%):** Services remain resilient, with "Trade, Hotels, & Transport" growing at **10.3%**.
- **Primary Sector (2.8%):** Agriculture saw a moderation (2.5%) compared to previous years, largely due to base effects and climate factors.

Implications for Fiscal Policy

Because nominal GDP is the "denominator" in most fiscal ratios, a smaller nominal GDP base makes debt and deficit figures look higher.

- **Fiscal Deficit:** The FY26 target of 4.4% is now effectively **4.51%** of GDP due to the smaller denominator.
- **Debt-to-GDP Ratio:** The target for FY27 moves from 55.6% to **57.5%**.
- **Steeper Glide Path:** The government's goal to reach a **50% debt-to-GDP ratio by FY2031** is now more challenging, requiring tighter fiscal discipline or faster nominal growth.

Critical Perspectives for Mains

- **Back-Series Issues:** MoSPI will release the full historical back-series by December 2026. Until then, long-term trend analysis remains difficult.
- **Statistical Credibility:** This move aligns India with the **UN System of National Accounts (SNA) 2008** and the IMF's 2017 manual, enhancing global investor confidence.
- **The \$4 Trillion Goal:** The downward revision in nominal GDP means India's march to becoming a \$4 trillion economy may be delayed by approximately one year (likely 2027-28).

Practice Qs:

Q. "The recent rebasing of India's GDP to the 2022-23 series, while improving methodological accuracy through 'double deflation,' presents a dual challenge of revised growth trajectories and tighter fiscal constraints. Analyze." (15 Marks, 250 Words)