



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-03-2026

Mapping Perspective

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Solomon Islands

Syllabus: GS-1: Physical Geography – Earthquakes and mapping.

Context:

- **Recent Event:** A 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Kirakira (Makira Island).
- Highlights seismic vulnerability of Pacific island nations along the **Pacific Ring of Fire**.

Solomon Islands – Location

- Located in the **South-Western Pacific Ocean** in the **Melanesia region**.
- Lies **southeast of Papua New Guinea** and **northwest of Vanuatu**.
- Part of the **Pacific Ring of Fire**, hence prone to **earthquakes and volcanic activity**.



Political Background

- Former **British Protectorate (1893–1978)**.
- Became an **independent republic in 1978**.
- Member of the **Commonwealth of Nations**.

Capital and Major Island

- **Capital:** Honiara.
- Located on **Guadalcanal Island**, the largest island.
- Guadalcanal was a major battleground during **World War II (Guadalcanal Campaign)**.

Government System

- **Parliamentary democracy** within the Commonwealth.
- **Unicameral Parliament** with a **Prime Minister-led ministerial system**.

Geographical Features

- Comprises **~1000 islands**:
 - 6 large main islands
 - 900+ smaller islands and coral atolls
- **147 islands are inhabited**.
- Islands form **two parallel chains of volcanic islands and coral atolls**.

Physical Geography

- Terrain mostly **mountainous and forest-covered**.
- Some **fertile coastal plains** suitable for agriculture.
- Rich **marine biodiversity and coral reefs**.

Demographic Composition

- Melanesian – ~93%
- Polynesian – ~4%
- Micronesian – ~1.5%
- Others – ~1.5%

Khelo India Tribal Games

Syllabus: Prelims Bits – Sports

Context:

- **Context:** Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports announced the **inaugural edition of the Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG)** to be held **25 March – 6 April**.
- **Host State: Chhattisgarh** will host the first edition, making it the **first national sporting event exclusively for tribal athletes**.

Key Features of the Games

- **Part of: Khelo India Scheme.**
- **Objective:** Promote **sports participation among tribal youth** and identify talent from tribal regions.
- **Participation:** Athletes from **most States and Union Territories** across India.



Sports in the Games

- **Medal Sports (7):** Athletics; Football; Hockey; Weightlifting; Archery; Swimming; Wrestling
- **Demonstration Sports (2):** Mallakhamb; Kabaddi

Organisation

- Jointly organised by:
 - Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

- Sports Authority of India (SAI)
- Indian Olympic Association
- National Sports Federations
- Chhattisgarh State Organising Committee

Mascot

- **'Morveer'**
 - **Mor:** "Mine/Our own" in Chhattisgarhi
 - **Veer:** Symbolises **courage and bravery**

Key Facts about Khelo India Scheme

- **Flagship Central Sector Scheme** of the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**.
- **Objective:**
 - Promote **mass participation in sports**
 - Develop **sporting excellence and talent identification**.
- **National Importance:** Khelo India Games were declared an **'Event of National Importance'** in **2020** under the **Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007**.

India's DPI – Global Benchmark

Syllabus: GS-2: e-Governance

Context:

- The **United Nations** defines **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** as foundational digital systems that enable **secure and efficient interactions among citizens, businesses, and governments**.
- It acts as the **digital backbone of governance and economic activity**, similar to physical infrastructure like roads or electricity.

Core Principles of Effective DPI

- **Inclusive:** Accessible to all citizens regardless of geography, income, gender, or digital literacy.
- **Interoperable:** Systems communicate seamlessly through **open APIs and standards**, allowing innovation by multiple stakeholders.
- **Publicly Governed:** Designed to deliver **public value**, ensure data protection, and prevent monopolistic control.

Significance of India's DPI

Population-Scale Efficiency

- India operates one of the **largest DPI ecosystems globally**.
- Platforms process **billions of digital transactions every month** at minimal cost.
- **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)** and **Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT)** have **saved over ₹4.31 lakh crore** by reducing leakages and corruption.

Transformation of Digital Payments

- The **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** revolutionized instant payments.
- India now accounts for **~49% of global real-time payment transactions**, making it the world leader in digital payments.

Expansion Across Sectors (India Stack)

- **Health:** CoWIN (vaccination management), eSanjeevani (telemedicine).
- **Education:** DIKSHA platform for digital learning content.
- **E-commerce:** Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- **Judiciary:** e-Courts digitization for case management and transparency.

Global Digital Diplomacy

- India is exporting the **DPI model as a global public good**.
- **MoUs signed with 24+ countries** to share DPI architecture and expertise.
- Platforms like **CoWIN** offered as **open-source digital public goods**.

Cross-Border Digital Integration

- **UPI internationalization:** Operational in **UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius, and Qatar**.
- Facilitates **low-cost remittances and tourism payments**.

Digital Identity Leadership

- **Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP)** developed in India.
- Being **adopted or explored by 25+ countries** for sovereign digital identity systems.

Conclusion

- India's **public-good approach to digital infrastructure** has shifted the country from a **technology consumer to a global DPI architect**.
- By combining **open standards, population-scale platforms, and state stewardship**, India is shaping a **replicable model for inclusive digital governance worldwide**.

One Nation One Election

Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Elections

Context:

- The proposal for One Nation, One Election (ONOE) aims to synchronise elections to the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies so they occur simultaneously.

One Nation, One Election (ONOE) – Key Concerns

Concept

- **One Nation, One Election (ONOE)** proposes synchronised elections for **Lok Sabha and State Assemblies**.
- Aims to reduce **election expenditure, frequent campaigning, MCC disruptions, and security deployment**.

Lessons from Global Experience

- **Indonesia (2019 simultaneous elections):**
 - Severe administrative burden; **~900 poll workers died** due to workload.
 - Constitutional Court ordered **separate elections from 2029**.
- **Canada & Australia:** Federal and provincial/state elections occur **independently**.

- **Germany:** Uses **Constructive Vote of No Confidence** to ensure stability rather than synchronised elections.

Impact on India's Electoral System

- India follows **First-Past-The-Post (FPTP)**.
- Simultaneous elections may create a **national electoral wave**, weakening **regional parties and political diversity**.

Constitutional Design Issues

- **Articles 75 & 164:** Executive accountable to legislature (collective responsibility).
- **Articles 83 & 172:** Only **maximum tenure of five years**, allowing early dissolution.
- Early dissolution ensures **democratic accountability**.

Issues with "Unexpired-Term Elections"

- Proposed in **129th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2024**.
- New government may serve only **remaining term**, leading to:
 - **Truncated mandates**
 - **Short-term populist policies**
 - Possible **governance vacuum**.

Federalism & Institutional Concerns

- Proposed **Article 82A** allows the Election Commission to defer state elections.
- Risks:
 - **Extended President's Rule (Article 356)**
 - Potential **constitutional misuse**.

Cost Argument

- Estimated election expenditure: **~₹4,500 crore (~0.03% of GDP)**.
- Current **phased elections** allow efficient reuse of **EVMs, VVPATs, and security forces**.

Conclusion

- ONOE may **centralise politics, weaken federalism, and reduce legislative accountability.**
- **Staggered elections ensure continuous democratic oversight and state autonomy.**

State of India Environment Report 2026

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment and associated issues.

Context:

State of India Environment Report 2026 highlights rising extreme weather events, increasing flood risks, tiger behaviour changes and gaps in air pollution monitoring across India.

State of India's Environment Report 2026 (CSE)

About the Report

- Released by **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE).**
- Published **annually since 1982.**
- Provides assessment of **India's environmental status and climate trends.**
- Covers issues such as **extreme weather events, floods, wildlife behaviour, air pollution and climate change impacts.**
- Warns that **global temperature rise may exceed the 1.5°C threshold**, indicating proximity to a **climate tipping point.**

Rising Extreme Weather Events in India

- **2025 recorded the highest frequency of extreme weather events in four years.**
- Events occurred on **99% of days (Jan–Nov 2025).**
- Types of events: Heatwaves; Cold waves; Heavy rainfall; Floods

Impact (2025):

- 4,419 deaths
- 17.41 million hectares of crops affected

Comparison with Previous Years

Year	% of Days with Extreme Events	Deaths	Crop Area Affected
2025	99%	4,419	17.41 million ha
2024	88%	3,393	3.61 million ha
2023	89%	3,208	2.09 million ha

Trend: Increasing **frequency, intensity and economic impact** of climate-related disasters.

States Most Affected by Extreme Weather

- Himachal Pradesh – 267 days
- Kerala – 173 days
- Madhya Pradesh – 162 days

These states experienced **highest number of extreme weather days**.

Increasing Flood Risks

- **Climate change increasing intensity and frequency of floods** in India.
- Warming climate influencing: River systems; Urban infrastructure; Human settlements

Key Recommendation:

- Shift from **post-disaster relief** → **pre-disaster resilience**.
- Integrate **climate science into infrastructure planning**.

Examples: Culvert design; Floodplain zoning; Land-use planning near rivers.

Nature-Based Solutions for Flood Management

The report recommends **ecosystem-based flood management**:

- Restoration of wetlands; Reconnecting rivers with floodplains; Groundwater recharge; Rainwater harvesting; Restoration and construction of lakes

Benefits:

- Improves **natural water storage**; Enhances **climate resilience**; Reduces **flood risks**

Changing Behaviour of Tigers

- **Increase in tiger attacks on humans.**
- **Jan–June 2025:** 43 deaths near tiger reserves.
- **Jan–June 2024:** 44 deaths.

Reasons:

- Old or injured tigers unable to hunt natural prey.
- Decline in prey availability.
- Habitat disturbance.

Human–Tiger Conflict

- **Tiger population increasing** while many reserves are **saturated**.
- **40% of tiger habitat overlaps with areas inhabited by ~60 million people** across **20 states**.

Consequences:

- Tigers moving **outside protected areas**.
- Increased **human–wildlife conflict**.

Air Pollution Monitoring Gap

- Only **15% of India’s population (~200 million)** lives within **10 km of an air quality monitoring station**.
- **85% (~1.2 billion people)** live **outside monitoring coverage**.

Concentration of Monitoring Stations

- Monitoring stations are mainly located in: Metro cities; State capitals; Major urban centres
- Neglected areas: Small towns; Industrial belts; Peri-urban regions

Environmental Governance Concerns

- Monitoring gaps reflect **structural inequality in environmental governance**.
- Many polluted regions **lack real-time air quality data**.
- Leads to **poor policy response and inadequate pollution control**.