

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

03.03.2026

1. India, Canada ink uranium deal as Carney meets Modi

- India and Canada on Monday **agreed to a \$1.9 billion, 10-year uranium supply deal** for Indian nuclear power reactors, and agreed to conclude the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) this year. a Strategic Energy Partnership in the fields of
 - renewable energy,
 - LPG and uranium supplies,
 - cooperation in critical Minerals and emerging technologies,
 - MoUs on education and culture.
- They also issued the “**Terms of Reference**” for the CEPA or free trade negotiations, aiming to **double** bilateral trade by **2030**.
- Canada also decided to join the India-led multilateral International Solar Alliance (**ISA**) and **Global Bio fuel Alliance** as a member.

INDIA- CANADA HISTORY

- **Background**
 - Diplomatic relations since 1947.
 - Both are democracies and Commonwealth members.
 - Strong Indian diaspora (approximately 1.5–1.8 million).
 - Cooperation in education, energy, agriculture, and nuclear sector (2010 Civil Nuclear Agreement).
- **Recent Developments (2023–today)**
 - Canadian PM Justin Trudeau alleged possible Indian involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
 - India under PM Narendra Modi rejected the allegation as baseless.
 - Diplomatic expulsions and temporary visa suspension followed.
 - Trade negotiations (EPTA) were paused.
- **Core Issue**
 - Khalistan movement activities in Canada.
 - India views certain groups as extremist and a threat to sovereignty.
 - Canada maintains that peaceful protests fall under freedom of expression.
- **Impact**
 - Strained diplomatic engagement.
 - Temporary disruption in student visa processing.
 - Strategic and intelligence cooperation affected.
 - Economic uncertainty despite ongoing trade (approx. \$8–10 billion).
- **Strategic Importance**
 - Canada: G7 member and part of Five Eyes intelligence alliance.
 - India: Major Indo-Pacific power and growing economy.

2. IIP growth in January slows down to 4.8%

- India’s industrial activity slowed to a three-month low of 4.8% in January 2026, dragged down by a broad-based slowdown across manufacturing, mining, electricity, and consumer-facing sectors, official data showed
- **IIP (Index of Industrial Production)**
 - **Definition:** IIP measures the **short-term change** in volume of production of industrial products in India.

- It is a **composite index** reflecting industrial growth.
- **Released By: National Statistical Office (NSO)**
- Under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- Released **monthly**
- **Base Year:** Current Base Year: **2011-12**
- **Sectoral Classification (Weight-wise)**
 - **Manufacturing** – ~77.6% (Highest weight)
 - **Mining** – ~14.4%
 - **Electricity** – ~7.9%
- **Use-Based Classification**
 - Primary Goods
 - Capital Goods
 - Intermediate Goods
 - Infrastructure/Construction Goods
 - Consumer Durables
 - Consumer non-durables

3. **Manjuvirattu (bull chase) event at Araliparai in Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu**

- The event was conducted as part of **Bala Dhanday uthapani Swamy Temple's** Masi Magam festival celebrations.
- For over 200 years, the manjuvirattu is being Organised on the **10th day** of the festival.
- **Manjuvirattu (Bull Chase)**
 - **Traditional bull-related sport** practiced in Tamil Nadu.
 - Closely associated with rural festivals, especially **Pongal**.
 - Considered a variant of **Jallikattu**.
- **Nature of the Sport:** Participants chase a bull and attempt to control or grab it during its run, showcasing bravery and skill rather than directly taming it.

4. **Indian warships on standby for humanitarian operations**

- **Operation Sankalp-** Continues as a maritime security deployment amid recurring tensions in West Asia.

5. **Post-SIR, Centre forms two more panels to fast-track CAA applications in West Bengal**

- **Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), 2019**
 - An amendment to the Citizenship Act, 1955.
 - Passed in 2019 to give Indian citizenship to certain migrants.
- Who can get Citizenship under CAA?
- People belonging to:
 - Hindus
 - Sikhs
 - Buddhists
 - Jains
 - Parsis
 - Christians
- From:
 - Pakistan
 - Afghanistan
 - Bangladesh
- Condition:
 - Must have entered India on or before 31 December 2014.

- Required stay reduced from 11 years to 5 years.
- What CAA Does NOT Do
 - Does not take away citizenship of any Indian citizen.
 - Does not apply to Muslims.
 - Does not apply to Sixth Schedule areas and Inner Line Permit areas in the North-East.
- Why Government Supports It
 - Says it is a humanitarian step to protect persecuted minorities.
 - Based on Parliament's power under Article 11 of the Constitution.
- Why It Is Controversial
 - Critics say it violates Article 14 (Right to Equality).
 - Religion-based classification questioned.
 - Concerns about connection with NRC.

6. 2,600 evacuated as gas leaks from chemical unit in Palghar

- A major leak of hazardous **oleum gas (fuming sulphuric acid)** at a chemical unit in Maharashtra's Palghar district.
- The incident occurred at a unit of Bhageria Industries Ltd. in the Boisar MIDC area on the outskirts of Mumbai.
- **Fuming Sulphuric Acid (Oleum) – Health Concerns**
 - Highly **corrosive** and toxic chemical.
 - Releases Sulphur trioxide (SO₃) fumes that react with moisture in air.
 - Forms sulphuric acid mist, which is harmful when inhaled.
- **Health: Inhalation:** Causes severe respiratory irritation, breathing difficulty, and may lead to lung damage and pulmonary edema.
 - **Skin Contact:** Leads to severe burns and tissue damage due to its highly corrosive acidic nature.
 - **Eye Exposure:** Causes intense irritation and may result in permanent eye damage or blindness.
 - **Ingestion:** Results in severe internal burns and damage to the digestive tract.
- **Environmental Impact:** Contaminates air and water, causes acidification of soil and water bodies, and is harmful to aquatic life.

7. SC to look into feasibility of NAT for blood transfusion

- The Supreme Court has decided to look into whether blood banks should compulsorily conduct **Nucleic Acid Test (NAT)** for identification of diseases.
- NAT is a **highly sensitive molecular technique** that detects the genetic material for viruses such as **HIV, Hepatitis B** and **Hepatitis C** in the blood.
- **Enzyme Linked Immunosorbent Assay (ELISA) test:** Commonly used for diagnosing infections and immune-related diseases.
 - Based on **antigen-antibody interaction**.
 - Detection of HIV, Hepatitis, Dengue, COVID-19 antibodies.
 - Hormone level testing (e.g., hCG in pregnancy).
 - It is a highly sensitive, specific, cost-effective diagnostic test that is widely used and suitable for large-scale sample testing.

Basis	NAT	ELISA
Detects	Viral DNA/RNA	Antigen or Antibody
Detects Infection	Earlier (short window period)	Later (after antibody formation)
Sensitivity	Very high	High

Cost	Expensive	Cost-effective
Use	Blood screening, early diagnosis	Large-scale disease testing

8. INSV Kaundinya returns

- INSV Kaundinya is a **stitched sailing vessel** of the **Indian Navy**.
- INSV Kaundinya returned to Mumbai on Monday after completing its maiden voyage to Oman, which began on December 29.
- Objective of voyage: To **retrace old maritime routes**.
 - Represents revival of India's traditional shipbuilding and maritime heritage.



9. Russian oil imports at 44-month low in Jan. as West Asian countries' share rises

- An analysis of the latest preliminary data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry shows that India imported \$1.98 billion worth of crude oil from Russia in January 2026.
- This was also the lowest in 44 months. With this, Russia's share in Indian oil imports fell to **19.3%** in January 2026, the lowest since December 2022.
- About **16.6%** of India's oil imports in January 2026 came from **Iraq**, about the same level as a year earlier.
- **The UAE** accounted for another 10.4% of India's oil imports in January 2026.
- **Saudi Arabia** saw its share of Indian oil imports jump to 17.5% in January 2026, the highest it has been since April 2023.
- **Kuwait's** share grew to 6.1%, the highest since February 2023

Country	Value of Imports (Jan 2026)	Share in India's Oil Imports (Jan 2026)	Remarks
Russia	\$1.98 billion	19.3%	Lowest share since Dec 2022; Lowest import value in 44 months
Iraq	—	16.6%	About the same level as January 2025
Saudi Arabia	—	17.5%	Highest share since April 2023
UAE	—	10.4%	—
Kuwait	—	6.1%	Highest share since Feb 2023