

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

(04.03.2025)

1. Nagaland House refers Vande Mataram to select committee

- The Nagaland Legislative Assembly decided to refer the singing of the national song Vande Mataram, as directed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to a select committee of the House to examine its applicability in the State.
- **Played for the first time:** Following the **January 28 directive** issued by the **MHA**, the national song was played in the Assembly **for the first time** on the opening day of the 2026-27 Budget Session.
- making **Vande Mataram mandatory in Nagaland** may violate **Articles 25 and 29** and conflict with **Article 371A**, which **protects the State's religious and customary practices**, especially given its **Christian-majority population**.
- **Vande Mataram – History**
 - **Vande Mataram** was written by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**.
 - It first appeared in his novel **Ananda math**.
 - The song became a **major slogan of the Indian freedom movement**, especially during the **Swadeshi Movement (1905)**.
 - In **1950**, the Government of India adopted **Vande Mataram as the National Song**, while **Jana Gana Mana** was adopted as the **National Anthem**.
 - Only the **first two stanzas** of Vande Mataram are officially recognized for national use.
- **MHA Notification on Vande Mataram (February 2026)**
 - The **MHA notification mandates singing all six stanzas** of “Vande Mataram” at official events and in educational institutions, instead of only the first two.
 - It also states that Vande Mataram should be **played before the National Anthem** and people must stand while it is sung.

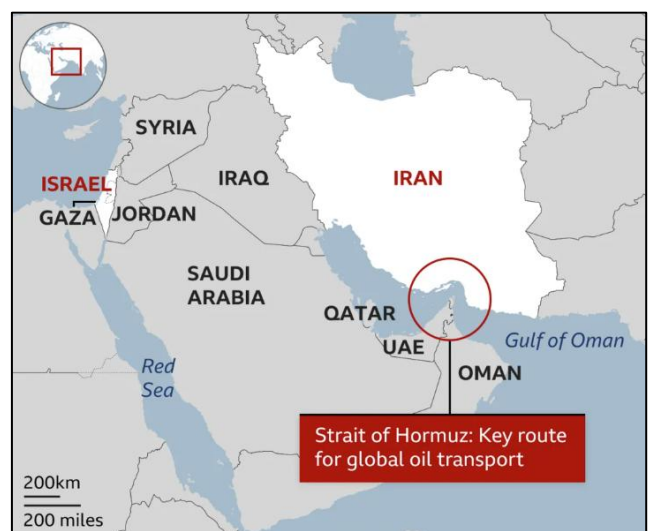
2. What are the AI Impact Casebooks released in the AI Summit 2026

- Released at the **AI India Impact Summit 2026**, the **AI Impact Casebooks** document how **indigenous AI tools in India** are addressing real-world challenges across sectors.
- **How does AI aid the physically challenged?**
 - **The Path Pal edge-AI system** allows users to point their smartphone at handwritten notices, printed text, or even Indian currency notes and receive instant spoken feedback in their preferred language.
 - **SMARTON** uses advanced computer vision to understand document structure, reading tables row-by-row and converting visual layouts like diagrams and charts into structured audio explanations.
 - **Shruti AI** bridges the communication gap for the deaf by providing real-time voice-to-Indian Sign Language translation.
 - **Vaani AI** helps people with autism or speech impairments communicate their daily needs using AI-based prompts and intent prediction.
 - **Pheezee** is an **AI-powered wearable** that tracks joint movement and muscle activity to measure recovery in patients, especially those recovering from stroke or amputation.
- **How is AI helping to boost earnings of small farmers?**
 - **MapMyCrop** uses AI and satellite imagery to predict the 15-day peak sucrose window in sugarcane, helping optimize harvest timing and increase yields by about 57%.

- **The Chemistry-Aware Crop Yield Prediction** system uses physics-guided AI and satellite data to detect hidden soil nutrient imbalances and toxicities, enabling farmers to reduce nitrogen use by 28% while improving yields.
- **Maha VISTAAR (Maharashtra)** and **Farm Advice (Africa)** use AI-based voice interfaces and natural language processing to overcome literacy barriers for farmers.
- **How can AI intervention promote women empowerment?**
 - **Nyaya Sakhi-SWATI** is an AI-supported legal assistant deployed in Maharashtra to guide survivors of domestic violence.
 - **YASHODA AI** trains women in rural and semi-urban areas to identify AI-related risks such as deepfakes and financial scams.
 - A “**phygital**” model combines physical books with cloud-based conversational AI to mentor young girls and counter bias by highlighting women’s leadership in science and engineering.
 - **MetsaQ** uses small language models to deliver voice-based agricultural advisories, and through SHG partnerships and offline access, 42% of its users in Odisha are women.
- **Can AI provide healthcare solutions?**
 - **Nayanamritham 2.0**, a Kerala government initiative, uses AI in chronic eye disease screening to expand access to diabetic retinopathy detection.
 - **Cough Against TB (CATB)** is an AI tool that analyzes cough sounds to identify potential tuberculosis cases and support TB elimination efforts.
 - **Ayur VAID D-RISK** uses machine learning for non-invasive diabetes detection, while Predictive Virtual Cardiac Twin enables 3D visualization of a patient’s heart for pre-surgical planning.
- **Can AI be an education partner?**
 - **BharatGen Yojaka** is a human-in-the-loop AI assessment platform that evaluates spoken language to enable scalable school assessments while keeping teachers in oversight.
 - **Chimple** provides a Generative AI studio that enables educators to create curriculum-aligned learning games in local languages, addressing the shortage of vernacular educational resources.
 - **QwiXGenie** is an AI tutoring platform that teaches coding and technical skills to students in Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities in India.
 - **PadhAI** uses **speech recognition to assess oral reading fluency and provide instant feedback to learners.**

3. Strait of Hormuz is in News

- The **Strait of Hormuz** is a narrow maritime passage connecting the **Persian Gulf** with the **Gulf of Oman** and the **Arabian Sea**.
- **Why it is in the news**
 - Rising **tensions between Iran and Western countries** and attacks on commercial vessels have raised concerns about disruptions in this strategic waterway.
- **Key facts**
 - The **Strait of Hormuz**, located between Iran (north) and Oman–UAE (south), is a



~33 km-wide strategic maritime chokepoint through which a major share of global oil trade passes.

- **Strategic importance**

- Around **20–30% of global petroleum trade** passes through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Major oil exporters using this route include Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates and Qatar.
- Any disruption can **affect global energy prices and supply chains**.

4. Centre inks 5,000-cr. deal to strengthen maritime security

- The **Defence Ministry** signed **₹5,083 crore contracts** to procure **six** Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) **Mk-III for the Indian Coast Guard and Shtil surface-to-air vertical launch missiles for the Indian Navy**.
- The procurement falls under the **Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)** category.
- The **twin-engine ALH Mk-III helicopters** feature advanced technology superior to current airborne platforms.
 - They can perform multiple maritime security missions from shore bases as well as ships at sea.

5. Ravi Shankar Prasad to chair Lok Sabha's new Privileges Committee

- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday reconstituted the Committee of Privileges.
- **Committee of Privileges (Parliament of India)**
 - It examines cases of breach of privilege or contempt of the House by members or outsiders.
 - The committee investigates complaints referred to it by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha).
 - It recommends actions or penalties to the House after examining the matter.
 - The committee is constituted separately in both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
 - In the **Lok Sabha**, the Committee of Privileges consists of 15 members nominated by the Speaker, who also appoints the Chairperson from among them.
 - In the **Rajya Sabha**, the Committee of Privileges consists of 10 members nominated by the Chairman (Vice-President), who also appoints the Chairperson from among them.