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Current Affairs Today - March 6, 2026

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SUBJECTS COVERED**ECONOMY****IR****SCIENCE & TECH****SOCIAL ISSUES****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

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WHY IN NEWS

March 6, 2026 highlighted four recurring exam themes: how India measures jobs, why the Chagos Archipelago matters to geopolitics, what the IndiaAI Mission is trying to build, and why hearing care deserves a public-health lens.

THE PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY REMAINS CENTRAL TO LABOUR-MARKET MEASUREMENT

Debate around the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** continued because labour-market data shapes economic diagnosis. Launched by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** in **April 2017** and now conducted by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)** under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**, the PLFS has become the principal source for indicators such as **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)**, **Worker Population Ratio (WPR)**, and **Unemployment Rate (UR)**. From **January 2025**, the PLFS methodology was revamped to provide monthly and quarterly estimates for **both rural and urban India** (earlier, quarterly bulletins covered only urban areas), with the sample size increased to approximately **2,72,304 households** per year — a **2.65-times increase** over the previous design.

The policy importance of PLFS lies in its ability to show not just how many jobs exist, but what type of jobs they are. A fall in unemployment may look positive, but if it is driven by unpaid family work or distressed self-employment, the interpretation changes. That is why labour statistics must be read together with sectoral shifts, wage trends, and quality of employment.

For UPSC, PLFS is important because it connects statistics with real economy questions such as demographic dividend, female labour-force participation, rural distress, and structural transformation.

THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO DISPUTE IS ABOUT DECOLONISATION, BASES, AND MARITIME STRATEGY

The **Chagos Archipelago** remains one of the most important island disputes in the Indian Ocean. The legal and diplomatic core of the issue is the claim of **Mauritius** that the islands were unlawfully separated from it before independence by the **United Kingdom**, while the strategic core lies in the presence of the **Diego Garcia** US-UK military facility.

The issue acquired global significance after the **ICJ advisory opinion of 25 February 2019**, which held — by **thirteen votes to one** — that the decolonisation of Mauritius had not been lawfully completed when it acceded to independence in **1968**, and that the UK was under an obligation to end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago **as rapidly as possible**. The **UN General Assembly** subsequently adopted a resolution (116 in favour, 6 against, 56 abstentions) demanding that the UK withdraw its colonial administration within six months. For the wider Indian Ocean region, Chagos is not just a sovereignty question; it is also about sea-lane security, extra-regional military presence, and the continuing legacy of colonial cartography.

This topic is especially useful in UPSC because it combines **international law**, **strategic geography**, and the politics of decolonisation.

INDIAAI MISSION SHOWS THAT AI POLICY IS NOW INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY

The **IndiaAI Mission**, approved by the Union Cabinet on **7 March 2024** with a five-year outlay of **Rs 10,372 crore**, remained central to discussion because it tries to build AI capacity as a national ecosystem rather than a narrow startup scheme. It is structured around **seven pillars: (1) IndiaAI Compute Capacity** (Rs 4,563 crore — 10,000+ GPUs), **(2) IndiaAI Innovation Centre** (indigenous Large Multimodal Models), **(3) IndiaAI Datasets Platform** (non-personal data access), **(4) IndiaAI Application Development** (Rs 689 crore), **(5) IndiaAI FutureSkills** (Rs 883 crore — AI courses, Data and AI Labs in Tier 2/3 cities), **(6) IndiaAI Startup Financing** (Rs 1,943 crore), and **(7) Safe and Trusted AI** (Rs 20 crore — responsible AI frameworks).

This is important because AI leadership depends on three things that are expensive and unequally distributed: computing power, quality data, and skilled people. If India wants AI to serve agriculture, language technologies, public services, education, and health, it cannot rely only on imported platforms. It needs domestic infrastructure, governance standards, and clear public-interest use cases.

The wider policy question is whether India can build an AI ecosystem that is both competitive and inclusive, especially for Indian languages, smaller firms, and public-sector applications.

WORLD HEARING DAY 2026 PUT CHILD HEARING CARE ON THE AGENDA

World Hearing Day, observed every year on **3 March** and led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, remained relevant in the March 6 news cycle because the **2026 theme** was “**From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children**”. The theme recognises that schools are natural entry points to reach children, parents, caregivers, and teachers. This is a critical public-health issue because hearing loss affects speech development, school performance, mental health, and long-term productivity.

In India, the topic connects with newborn screening, school health, assistive devices, inclusive education, and primary healthcare referral systems. The broader lesson is that disability-related issues are often governance issues of late detection and uneven service access rather than only medical issues.

UPSC RELEVANCE

PLFS (launched April 2017), LFPR, WPR, UR, NSO, MoSPI; Chagos Archipelago, Mauritius, Diego Garcia, ICJ advisory opinion (25 February 2019), UNGA resolution; IndiaAI Mission (7 March 2024), 7 pillars, Rs 10,372 crore; World Hearing Day (3 March), WHO.

MAINS GS-2:

Disability inclusion, public-health governance, decolonisation and international law, data-driven policy.

MAINS GS-3:

Labour statistics, AI ecosystem building, Indian Ocean geopolitics.

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PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY (PLFS):

Launched in **April 2017** by **NSSO**; now conducted by **NSO** under **MoSPI**

Core indicators: **LFPR**, **WPR**, and **Unemployment Rate (UR)**

From **January 2025**: revamped methodology covers both rural and urban India (quarterly + monthly)

Sample size increased to **~2,72,304 households/year** (2.65x previous design)

Useful for analysing both job quantity and job quality

CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO:

Claimed by **Mauritius**; administered by **United Kingdom**

Strategic location: central **Indian Ocean**

Key facility: **Diego Garcia** (US-UK military base)

ICJ advisory opinion, 25 February 2019: decolonisation of Mauritius not lawfully completed (13-1 vote)

UN General Assembly resolution: 116 in favour, 6 against, 56 abstentions — demanded UK withdrawal within 6 months

Mauritius acceded to independence in **1968** with Chagos unlawfully separated before that

INDIAAI MISSION:

Approved by Union Cabinet on **7 March 2024**; five-year outlay: **Rs 10,372 crore**

7 pillars: (1) Compute Capacity (Rs 4,563 cr, 10,000+ GPUs), (2) Innovation Centre (indigenous LMMs), (3) Datasets Platform, (4) Application Development (Rs 689 cr), (5) FutureSkills (Rs 883 cr), (6) Startup Financing (Rs 1,943 cr), (7) Safe and Trusted AI (Rs 20 cr)

Data and AI Labs to be established in **Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities**

WORLD HEARING DAY:

Observed every year on **3 March**, led by **WHO**

2026 theme: **“From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children”**

Schools serve as natural entry points for hearing screening and early intervention

Hearing loss affects learning, speech, communication, and social inclusion

Sources: [Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation](#), [International Court of Justice](#), [IndiaAI](#), [World Health Organization](#)

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