1. **Delimitation:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has recently called for an all-party meeting on March 5 to discuss the delimitation exercise, sparking a national debate.
   - **About Delimitation:** The process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies.
     - It includes determining seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
     - **Constitutional Provisions: Articles 82 and 170** provide for readjustment of seats after each Census.
     - Delimitation is conducted by the **Delimitation Commission,** set up under an Act of Parliament.
     - **Previous Exercises:** Conducted after the 1951, 1961, 1971 and 2002 Census.
   - **Concern:**
     - The 42nd Amendment Act (1976) froze the number of seats to encourage population control, extended by the 84th Amendment (2001) till 2026. After 2026, seats will be re-adjusted based on the first Census after 2026.
     - Territorial constituencies were redrawn based on the 2001 Census, with another revision due after 2026.
2. **Lokpal:** Recently, the Supreme Court stayed a Lokpal order that took cognizance of a corruption complaint against a High Court judge under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.
   - **About:** Lokpal is an independent statutory body under the executive to investigate corruption allegations against public officials.
     - The Lokpal Act applies to public servants in and outside India.
     - **Section 14** of the Act defines public servants, but does not explicitly include judges.
     - **Section 14(f)** states that it includes "any person who is or has been a chairperson or member or officer or employee in any autonomous body established by an Act of Parliament or controlled by the Central Government."
   - **SC's Rationale for Staying Lokpal's Order:** Section 77 of IPC, 1860 (now Section 15 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) states that a judge cannot be charged for acts done in her official capacity.
   - **K Veeraswami v. Union of India (1991):** SC ruled that judges are public servants and can be investigated under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1947 (now PCA, 1988), but only with the President's sanction after consulting the Chief Justice of India (CJI).

3. **Champakam Dorairajan:** The Supreme Court ruling in **State of Madras v. Champakam Dorairajan (1951)** led to the **First Constitutional Amendment**, allowing caste-based reservations in higher education.
   - **About Champakam Dorairajan contribution:** In 1948, the Madras government introduced the Communal General Order (Communal G.O.), allotting admissions to educational institutions based on caste.
     - The case Srimathi Champakam Dorairajan & Anr. v. The State of Madras became the first to test caste-based reservations under the Constitution.
   - **Court Verdicts and Impact:** The Supreme Court bench declared the law unconstitutional, ruling that classification based on religion, race, and caste violated fundamental rights.
     - The government responded with the First Constitutional Amendment, introducing **Article 15(4),** which expressly allowed reservations in higher education.
   - **Legal and Historical Significance:** The ruling reinforced the primacy of Fundamental Rights over Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP).
     - The government had argued that **Article 46 (DPSP)** mandated the promotion of SCs, STs, and weaker sections, but the court ruled that unenforceable DPSPs cannot override Fundamental Rights.
4. **Hague Service Convention:** The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has sought India's assistance under the Hague Service Convention, 1965, to serve summons on Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani in a securities and wire fraud case.
   - The SEC invoked **Article 5(a)** of the Convention, requesting India's **Ministry of Law and Justice** to facilitate service of summons.
   - **About Hague Service Convention:** Adopted at the Hague Conference on Private International Law (1965) to ensure effective and reliable service of legal documents in cross-border litigation.
     - 84 states are signatories, including India and the U.S.
     - Applies when both the sending and receiving states are signatories.
     - Each state designates a central authority for processing requests.
   - **Service of Summons in India:** India acceded on November 23, 2006, with reservations under Article 10, prohibiting:

- Service via diplomatic or consular channels (except for nationals of the requesting country).
- Service via postal or judicial officers from other states.

- **Only valid service method:** Ministry of Law and Justice, which may reject requests citing sovereignty/security concerns (Article 13).

5. **Lake Michigan:** Dozens of dead and sick birds are washing ashore on Lake Michigan beaches in Illinois and Wisconsin, suspected of having the bird flu, according to US state officials.
   - **About:** Lake Michigan is the **third-largest of the five Great Lakes** and the only one entirely within the U.S.
     - It is the **fourth-largest freshwater lake and the fifth-largest lake** in the world by surface area.
     - It connects to Lake Huron through the Straits of Mackinac, ensuring water level equilibrium between both lakes.
     - **Major rivers draining into it**: Fox-Wolf, Grand, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, and others.



6. **IM-2 Mission:** The mission launched by Intuitive Machines from NASA's Kennedy Space Center recently.
   - The mission aims to mine for precious resources on the far side of the moon and deploy the first lunar surface cellular network.
   - **About IM-2 Mission:** IM-2 is part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services Programme to support private-sector-led moon landings.
     - The mission will land on Mons Mouton, a mountain at the moon's South Pole.
     - The moon's South Pole is of interest for its potential ice and rare minerals, seen as crucial for future space exploration.
     - IM-2 will deploy NASA instruments to drill three feet into the lunar surface to search for water and carbon dioxide.

- **Lunar Cellular Connectivity:**
  - Communication from the moon has traditionally relied on radio waves, requiring a clear line of sight between transmitting and receiving antennas.
  - NASA and Nokia partnered to develop a lunar cellular network to support NASA's Artemis programme, which aims to return astronauts to the moon before 2030.
  - In January 2025, Nokia announced the full integration of its Lunar Surface Communication System (LSCS) into Athena.
  - LSCS will use 4G/LTE technology, chosen for its reliability, performance, scalability, and future compatibility with 5G.

7. **One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP):** Union Minister has recently launched the initiative under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways (MoPSW).
   - **About One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP):** Aims to eliminate inefficiencies, reduce costs, and remove operational delays caused by inconsistent documentation and processes.
     - Reduces container operation documents by 33% (from 143 to 96) and bulk cargo documents by 29% (from 150 to 106).
   - **About Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI):**
     - Launched for FY 2023-24 to enhance efficiency and global competitiveness of India's ports.
     - Benchmarks port performance under Bulk (Dry & Liquid) and Container categories.
     - Evaluates ports based on cargo handling, turnaround time, berth idle time, container dwell time, and ship berth-day output.
     - Supports PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and National Logistics Policy to drive operational excellence and trade connectivity.
   - **Bharat Global Ports Consortium:** Aims to expand India's maritime reach, strengthen global supply chains, and boost Make in India, includes IPGL (operations), SDCL (finance), and IPRCL (infrastructure development).
   - **MAITRI App & Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC):** MAITRI (Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface) launched to streamline trade processes, reduce bureaucratic delays, and expedite clearances.
     - Operationalizes VTC between India and UAE, aligning with IMEEC.

8. **Places of Worship Act:** MP from Kairana, UP, has approached the Supreme Court for the effective implementation of the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.
   - **About Key Provisions under the Act:**
     - **Section 3:** Prohibits conversion of a place of worship or any part of it into one belonging to a different religious denomination or class.
     - **Section 4(2):** All pending cases related to the change of religious nature of places of worship on August 15, 1947, shall abate after the Act's enforcement, and no fresh action can be taken.
   - **Government Obligation:** Ensures the religious character of places of worship remains unchanged as per independence-era status.
   - **Exceptions:** Ayodhya dispute (Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid) was exempted.
     - Other exemptions include: Ancient and historical monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
   - **Supreme Court's View:** In the 2019 Ayodhya verdict, the Constitutional Bench stated that the Act upholds secular values and strictly prohibits retrogression.
9. **Fecal Coliform Bacteria:** The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has recently reported that faecal coliform bacteria levels in Ganga and Yamuna at Prayagraj Sangam are much higher than the safe limit of 2,500 units per 100 ml of water.
   - **Key highlights of the report:** The Ganga and Yamuna at Prayagraj Sangam are unfit for drinking and bathing, posing health risks.
     - The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is hearing the matter and has sought a report from authorities.
   - **Maha Kumbh Mela:** NGT has instructed the UP government to ensure proper sewage management during the event.
   - **About Fecal Coliform Bacteria:** Microorganisms primarily found in feces of warm-blooded animals and humans, causes gastrointestinal infections, skin and eye infections, typhoid, hepatitis A, and respiratory issues.
     - **Types:** Includes Escherichia, Klebsiella, and E. coli.
   - **About Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):** Set up in September 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
   - **Powers & Functions:**
     - **Air Pollution Control:** Empowered under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
     - **Environmental Protection:** Provides technical services under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.