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2026, March 1

## UIDAI:

- ➔ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has partnered with Google to display authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps, improving accessibility, transparency, and convenience for residents across India.
- ➔ UIDAI is a statutory authority established by the Government of India to issue Aadhaar, a 12-digit unique identification number to residents of India. It functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Headquarters – New Delhi.



## Rail Tech Policy:

- ➔ Ashwini Vaishnaw launched the Rail Tech Policy and announced the complete digitisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) under Indian Railways' "52 Reforms in 52 Weeks" initiative, promoting technology-driven governance and administrative reforms.
- ➔ The Rail Tech Policy aims to engage startups, innovators, industries, and institutions through a simplified selection process and a dedicated Rail Tech Portal, enabling single-stage proposal submissions to accelerate innovation in railways.

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### **Pakyong Airport:**

- ➔ Sikkim's Pakyong Airport will be renamed after freedom fighter Trilochan Pokhrel, the state's first independence activist, as announced by Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.
- ➔ Trilochan Pokhrel, also known as "Gandhi Pokhrel", actively participated in the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience, and Quit India movements led by Mahatma Gandhi.

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## EV:

- ➔ A new report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis(IEEFA) and Ember highlighted that Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan are leading in electric vehicle (EV) adoption and green hydrogen promotion.
- ➔ The report reviewed 21 States that account for 95% of India's electricity demand. Uttar Pradesh achieved 10% EV adoption in FY25 and set a target of 22 GW solar capacity by FY27 and 1 million tonnes of green hydrogen by 2028.
- ➔ Andhra Pradesh recorded 6.2% EV adoption, introduced an integrated renewable energy policy in 2024, and has 1,440 MW pumped hydro storage capacity. Rajasthan recorded 6.6% EV adoption and has the lowest green tariff premium among the three States.

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### **Global Mind Health 2025:**

- ➔ Sapien Labs released the Global Mind Health 2025 Report under the Global Mind Project. The report is based on MHQ (Mind Health Quotient), which measures emotional, cognitive and social well-being. India ranked 60th globally among the 18–34 age group with an MHQ score of 33(global average: 66).
- ➔ Indians aged 55 and above scored 96 and ranked 49th globally. The report noted 44% ultra-processed food consumption among Indian youth aged 18–34.



### **Rah-Veer (Good Samaritan):**

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- ➔ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways highlighted the Rah-Veer (Good Samaritan) Scheme to encourage people to help road accident victims during the Golden Hour. The Good Samaritan Rules were notified in 2020 under Section 134A of the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- ➔ A person who helps an accident victim cannot be forced to reveal personal details, pay hospital charges, or face legal trouble. The Golden Hour is the first one hour after a serious injury, when quick medical help can save lives.
- ➔ Under the Rah-Veer Scheme, a person who helps a victim within the Golden Hour can receive ₹25,000 and a Certificate of Appreciation, up to five times in a year.



## Atul Mishra v. Union of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court delivered a judgment in Atul Mishra v. Union of India (2026) on balancing fraternity and freedom of speech. The Supreme Court of India heard a writ petition challenging the title of a proposed film for allegedly stereotyping a community. The Court said vilifying any community based on caste, religion, language, or region is constitutionally impermissible.
- ➔ It stated that fraternity is part of the Preamble and is important to protect the dignity, unity, and integrity of the nation. The Court upheld freedom of speech and expression under Article 19(1)(a), but said it is subject to reasonable restrictions under Article 19(2). It emphasised that restrictions must be based on necessity, not on public sentiment alone.

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### **Hindu Succession Act:**

- ➔ The Supreme Court reaffirmed that the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, does not apply to Scheduled Tribes. The Supreme Court of India gave this ruling in the Nawang Vs. Bahadur case (October 2025). The Court set aside a Himachal Pradesh High Court order that had extended inheritance rights to “Hinduised” tribal women.
- ➔ It stated that Scheduled Tribes are excluded from the Hindu Succession Act, 1956, unless Parliament makes a law to include them. Scheduled Tribes are recognised under Article 342 of the Constitution of India. The Court said any change in inheritance rights for tribal women must be made by Parliament, not by the judiciary.

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## Supreme Court:

- ➔ The Supreme Court ruled that Aadhaar cannot be used as proof of citizenship during hearings on electoral roll revision in West Bengal.
- ➔ The Supreme Court of India stated that Aadhaar is only a proof of identity and not proof of citizenship. The case relates to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, where nearly 50 lakh voters are being verified.
- ➔ The Court directed the deployment of judicial officers to examine voter documents before publication of the revised list. It invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to treat supplementary voter lists as part of the final electoral roll. Aadhaar is governed by the Aadhaar Act, 2016, and the Election Commission of India conducts periodic revision of voter lists.

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## Employees' State Insurance Corporation:

- ➔ The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has started its 75th Foundation Year celebrations in 2026. Employees' State Insurance Corporation is a statutory body under the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- ➔ It was created under the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, and the scheme was launched on February 24, 1952. The ESI Scheme provides medical care and cash benefits during sickness, maternity, disability, and death due to employment injury.



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## Chief Minister M.K. Stalin:

- Chief Minister M.K. Stalin laid the foundation stone for a small dam across the Koilmalaiyar River in Melarasanpattu village, Vellore. Koilmalaiyar River is a tributary of the Palar River, and the dam will be built between Melarasanpattu and Karuthamalai Reserve Forests near Amirthi Zoological Park on the foothills of Jawadhu Hills.
- It is the first project undertaken by the Water Resources Department (WRD) after the opening of Mordhana Dam across the Koundinya River in Gudiyatham in 2001. As per norms, small dams are built below five metres in height, moderate dams are between five and 15 metres, and large dams are above 15 metres; the height also decides the storage capacity.
- Bheeman Falls in Veerapanur Reserve Forest atop Jawadhu Hills in Tiruvannamalai is a key water source for the Koilmalaiyar River. The river flows through forests and plains and joins the Palar River around 30 kilometres from the new dam site.



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2026, March 2

## Mangaluru International Airport:

- ➔ The Mangaluru International Airport has once again earned global recognition by winning the 2025 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Award for Best Airport at Arrivals in Globally.
- ➔ The prestigious award was presented by Airports Council International (ACI) World which marks the second consecutive year the airport has secured this honour.
- ➔ This award is based entirely on real time passenger feedback and highlights excellence in arrivals experience which is including immigration, baggage handling, cleanliness and overall comfort.



## GAIL (India):

- ➔ Deepak Gupta has officially assumed the charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited. He succeeding Sandeep Kumar Gupta who superannuated on February 28. With a tenure extending until February 28, 2029, Gupta steps into leadership at a crucial time for India's energy sector.
- ➔ GAIL (India) Limited which is established in 1984, is a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It operates one of the largest natural gas pipeline networks in India. GAIL plays a central role in India's vision of increasing the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% by 2030.

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## Semiconductor ecosystem:

- ➔ Gujarat's semiconductor ecosystem has received a fresh investment push of over ₹1,600 crore. This comes from with proposals from Japan, South Korea and Malaysia aimed at strengthening the state's chip manufacturing value chain.
- ➔ Announced during the Gujarat Semiconnect conference in Gandhinagar, the investments span manufacturing units, semiconductor chemicals, advanced instrumentation, R&D centres and high tech startups. The move reinforces Gujarat's growing status as a semiconductor hub following major projects in Sanand and Dholera.



## Maharashtra State government:

- ➔ Maharashtra State government has launched the Divyang Sahayak Portal. Which is described as India's first fully integrated online platform for disability welfare schemes.

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Announced in February 2026 the portal removes paperwork and physical visits for persons with disabilities.

- ➔ It enables online applications, real-time tracking, automatic approvals, and AI-based grievance redressal. The initiative aims to strengthen implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and ensure faster, transparent delivery of benefits.



## Government of West Bengal:

- ➔ The Government of West Bengal has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with German development agency GIZ and the State Mission for Clean Ganga (SMCG) to prepare basin-based masterplans for the Ichhamati and Jalangi rivers. The agreement, signed on February 23, 2026 which marks the first structured basin level river planning initiative in the state.
- ➔ While experts have welcomed the move and activists stress that implementation and community consultation will determine its success. The project falls under the State's 'Nodi Bandhan' initiative which is announced in the 2025-26 budget with an allocation of ₹200 crore. The objective is to develop comprehensive, basin-based masterplans for river sub basins across West Bengal.

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## Botswana cheetahs:

- ➔ Just days before the arrival of eight Botswana cheetahs, a major wildlife surprise emerged from Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. The park has recorded its first ever sighting of the endangered Forest Owlet.
- ➔ This rare bird which is listed as “Endangered” by the IUCN. It was never documented in Kuno earlier. The discovery significantly expands the known range of the Forest Owlet and signals positive ecological changes in the region under Project Cheetah.



## Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi:

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- ➔ Honorable President Droupadi Murmu on March 2 2026, launched four women-centric welfare schemes of the Delhi Government at the “Sashakt Nari, Samriddh Delhi” programme in New Delhi.
- ➔ The initiatives focus on improving mobility, safety and financial support for women. Among the key highlights was the launch of the Pink National Common Mobility Card and a scheme providing two free LPG cylinders annually to ration card-holding families during Holi and Diwali.



## Amondawa tribe:

- ➔ The Amondawa tribe, a small Indigenous community in the Amazon rainforest which appears to experience life differently from most modern societies. Their language reportedly has no word for “time”, no months, no years and no numerical ages.
- ➔ Instead of marking life by birthdays or calendars, people move through socially defined life stages and roles. Daily life centres on immediate needs, relationships, and the surrounding natural world rather than abstract schedules or future timelines. The Amondawa tribe first came to wider attention in 1986.

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## World Health Organisation:

- ➔ Denmark became the first European Union country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission (EMTCT) of HIV and syphilis, as certified by the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- ➔ The validation by WHO's Regional and Global committees confirmed Denmark met all targets from 2021–2024, including low transmission rates and high prenatal testing and treatment coverage. Denmark's success is attributed to low HIV and syphilis rates among pregnant women, routine testing, and effective treatment, reducing mother-to-child transmission to zero.



## World Civil Defence Day:

- ➔ World Civil Defence Day is observed every year on 1 March to recognise and honour civil defence organisations and volunteers who help protect people from disasters, emergencies, and risks through preparedness and response efforts.
- ➔ Theme 2026 – Managing Environmental Risk for a Resilient Future: A Civil Defense Perspective. The day highlights the importance of disaster prevention, risk reduction,

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public safety education, and emergency response training, encouraging communities to be more resilient and prepared.



## Zero Discrimination Day:

- ➔ Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on 1 March to promote equality and stand against all forms of discrimination worldwide.
- ➔ The day was launched by UNAIDS to highlight the importance of inclusion, compassion, peace, and the right of every individual to live with dignity.

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### **Tamil Nadu:**

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has launched its first 'Dark Sky Park' in Kolli Hills to promote astro tourism and protect night sky visibility.
- ➔ The Park is located in the Kolli Hills region of Tamil Nadu. It aims to reduce light pollution and promote scientific awareness about astronomy. Dark Sky Parks are designated areas that preserve natural darkness for stargazing and research.

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## World Bank:

- ➔ The World Bank released the Women, Business and the Law (WBL) 2026 report, highlighting gaps in the implementation of women's economic rights. The report studies laws affecting women's economic opportunities in 190 economies using the WBL 2.0 framework.
- ➔ The global average score is 67.9 for legal frameworks, but lower for supportive frameworks (47.3) and enforcement (53.4). Only 4% of women live in economies with near full legal equality across all three pillars.
- ➔ The report states that closing the gender gap in labour force participation could increase global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by over 20% in the next decade.

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## Rajasthan Cabinet:

- The Rajasthan Cabinet has removed the rule that barred candidates with more than two children from contesting Panchayati Raj and urban local body elections.
- The two-child norm was introduced in 1995 for population control but is now considered outdated, as the fertility rate has dropped to 2 from 3.6 in 1991–94.
- Two Amendment Bills will be introduced in the ongoing Assembly session to change the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, and the Rajasthan Municipalities Act, 2009.



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2026, March 3

## Bharat Steel:

- India will host the Bharat Steel 2026 summit in New Delhi from 16 April 2026. The two day global event will bring together leaders from steel, technology, mining and trading companies.
- They will come together to discuss the future of the next generation steel ecosystem. India is among the world's largest steel producers. With growing infrastructure demand, urbanisation and manufacturing expansion, the steel industry plays a critical role in economic development.



## World Wildlife Day:

- The world will celebrate the World Wildlife Day 2026 on 3rd of March. The United Nations observance dedicated to protecting wild animals, plants and biodiversity. World Wildlife Day is a United Nations international observance that celebrates wild animals and plants while promotes global conservation efforts.
- This day marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) on 3 March 1973. CITES is the

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global agreement that regulates international trade in endangered species to ensure their survival in the wild.



**WORLD  
WILDLIFE DAY  
3 MARCH**

## Shri B.P. Singh:

- Shri B.P. Singh has officially taken charge as the new Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi. The Indian Naval Armament Service (INAS) is a specialized civilian service under the Ministry of Defense.. Which is responsible for the management of naval armaments and ammunition.
- Officers of INAS handle procurement, storage, inspection, maintenance and logistics of weapon systems used by the Indian Navy.
- The service ensures safety standards, operational efficiency and long term sustainability of naval ammunition depots. The Director General of Naval Armament heads this organization. And plays a crucial role in supporting India's maritime defense preparedness.



## HANUMAN:

- A step toward wildlife conservation and public safety. The Deputy CM of Andhra Pradesh Pawan Kalyan has launched Project HANUMAN. This Project to tackle the growing issue of human-wildlife conflict in Andhra Pradesh.
- The initiative aims to reduce incidents of man animal clashes, protect rural communities and ensure the safety of wildlife. The launch comes amid increasing reports of wildlife

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entering human settlements. And also leading to crop damage, property loss and threats to human life.



## Supreme Court:

- ➔ The Supreme Court gave the responsibility of monitoring river pollution to the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Supreme Court of India closed its 2021 Suo motu case on polluted rivers. The Court said that the right to live in clean and hygienic conditions is part of Article 21 (Right to Life) of the Constitution of India.
- ➔ The monitoring work will now be done by the NGT. As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) 2025 report, 296 river stretches are polluted in India. A river stretch is called polluted when the Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) is more than 3 milligrams per litre.

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2026, March 4-5

## Holi:

- Holi 2026 will be celebrated on March 4, 2026 which is marking the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil. Popularly known as the Festival of Colours and Holi is one of India's most vibrant and widely celebrated festivals.
- People gather to apply colours, enjoy sweets like gujiya, sing festive songs and celebrate togetherness. Beyond the playful atmosphere, Holi carries deep spiritual, cultural, and seasonal significance rooted in ancient Indian traditions.
- Holi is one of the oldest festivals in India, with references found in ancient Sanskrit texts such as the Jaimini's Purva Mimamsa Sutras and Kathaka Grhya Sutras.



## World Obesity Day:

- World Obesity Day 2026 will be observed on March 4. This year drawing global attention to one of the most urgent public health challenges of our time with the rising obesity crisis.
- World Obesity Federation established World Obesity Day in 2015. Initially observed on October 11, it was shifted to March 4 in 2020 to align with other global health initiatives.

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World  
Obesity  
Day March 4

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## National Safety Day:

- India is observing National Safety Day 2026 on March 4. The day reaffirming its commitment to workplace safety, occupational health and accident prevention. This year marks the 55th National Safety Week and celebrated under the theme “Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety.”
- The National Safety Council (NSC) spearheads the National Safety Day campaign in India. The NSC was established on March 4, 1966. National Safety Day was first celebrated in 1972 seven years after the council’s formation.



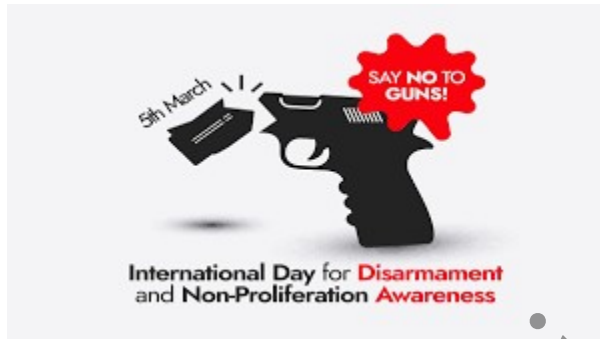
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## International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness:

- The International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness is observed every year on March 5. The day observes to promote global understanding of disarmament issues, particularly among young people.
- Established by the United Nations and the day highlights how arms control and non-proliferation contribute to international peace and security.
- Since the day its founding in 1945 the United Nations has placed multilateral disarmament and arms limitation at the core of its mission. Because to prevent war and reduce global conflict.



## Indian Army and the Ladakh Forest Department:

- On World Wildlife Day (3 March 2026), the Indian Army and the Ladakh Forest Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen wildlife conservation efforts in Ladakh's fragile high altitude ecosystems.
- This agreement aims to protect iconic species such as the Snow Leopard and other Himalayan wildlife, reinforcing India's commitment to sustainable development in border regions.

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## Bihar government:

- ➔ Bihar government has shortlisted 54 colleges and institutions to be developed as Centres of Excellence under the 'Saat Nischay-3' programme. This programme is launched by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The plan aims to improve academic standards and create subject-specific expert centres across the state.
- ➔ According to the Bihar Higher Education Department this initiative will help students access quality education within the state and reduce the migration of students to other states. Under the Saat Nischay-3 education initiative, selected institutions will be upgraded with better academic infrastructure and specialized departments.

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### **Hatti Risala festival:**

- ➔ The historic Hatti Risala festival in Jalna has completed 138 years. Which is continuing a cherished cultural tradition of Maharashtra. Celebrated annually on Dhulivandan the day after Holi. The event draws large crowds and reflects the city's rich heritage and communal harmony.
- ➔ The grand procession moves through the main streets of Jalna, bringing together residents from all communities to celebrate one of the region's most distinctive cultural events. The Hatti Risala procession is the highlight of the festival and is known for its colourful and symbolic display.

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## Maharashtra state government:

- ➔ The Maharashtra state government has introduced a new offline photo upload feature for e-crop registration. This thing is making the process easier for farmers in areas with poor internet connectivity. Announcing the initiative in the state assembly by Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule.
- ➔ And said farmers can now take photos of their standing crops offline using mobile phones. These images will automatically upload once the network becomes available. The move aims to improve the Digital Crop Survey system and ensure farmers in remote regions.

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## Karbi Anglong Ginger:

- ➔ Assam achieved a major milestone in agricultural exports as GI-tagged Karbi Anglong Ginger was exported to London for the first time on 2 March 2026. The export was flagged off by Assam Agriculture Minister Atul Bora at Krishi Bhawan in Khanapara in Guwahati.
- ➔ The shipment consisted of a trial consignment of 1.2 metric tonnes which marking the international debut of Karbi Anglong Ginger from Assam. The export highlights the growing global demand for GI tagged agricultural products from India. And it will be expected to boost income opportunities for farmers in the Karbi Anglong district.

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## Maharashtra Economic Survey:

- ➔ The Maharashtra Economic Survey 2025-26 projects the Maharashtra economy to grow by 7.9% in the financial year 2025-26. This data revealed according to the survey presented in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in Mumbai on 5 March 2026 during the ongoing budget session.
- ➔ The projected growth rate is higher than India's estimated national growth of 7.4%. And which is highlighting the state's strong economic performance.
- ➔ The survey outlines key indicators such as Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), revenue receipts and tax collections. And by doing this they reinforcing Maharashtra's position as one of the largest contributors to India's economy.

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## Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha:

- ➔ The Privileges Committee of the Lok Sabha (the lower house of India's Parliament) has not been constituted for nearly two years in the 18th Lok Sabha. It is a standing committee that protects the special rights and immunities of the House and its members, allowing them to function without outside interference.
- ➔ The committee investigates the breaches of parliamentary privilege and can recommend actions such as reprimand, suspension, or expulsion of members. The Lok Sabha Privileges Committee has 15 members nominated by the Speaker, while the Rajya Sabha committee has 10 members nominated by the Chairman.
- ➔ Its powers are based on Article 105 of the Indian Constitution for Parliament and Article 194 for State Legislatures. The committee can summon members, outsiders, and documents, and ensures Parliament maintains dignity and authority.

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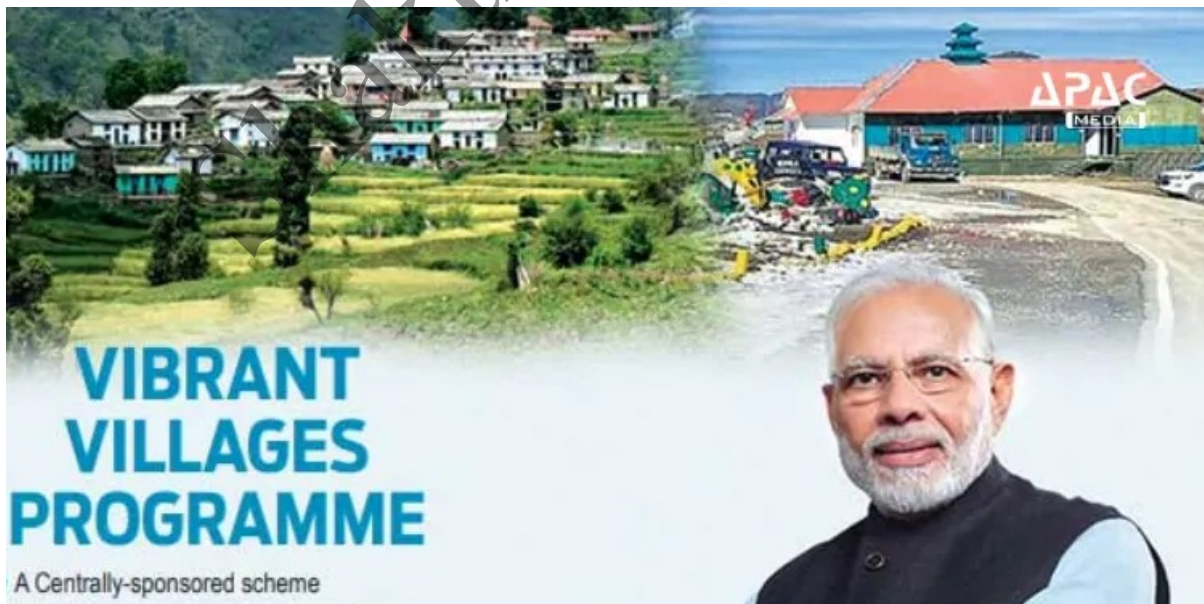
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## VVP-II:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet approved the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) for the years 2024–25 to 2028–29. The scheme will help develop villages near India's International Land Borders (ILBs), except the northern border, which is already covered under VVP-I.
- ➔ The total budget of the scheme is ₹6,839 crore, and it covers 18 states and Union Territories like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.



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## International Energy Agency:

- The International Energy Agency (IEA) welcomed progress on India's request for full membership. India has been an associate member of the IEA since 2017.
- The IEA was established in 1974 by member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) after the 1973 oil crisis. Full IEA membership is currently limited to OECD countries, and India is not a member of the OECD. Member countries must maintain strategic oil reserves equal to at least 90 days of net imports.



## Pax Silica Alliance:

- India has formally joined the Pax Silica Alliance, a US-led strategic coalition, by signing the Pax Silica Declaration. The alliance focuses on critical minerals, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence (AI). It aims to secure global AI and semiconductor supply chains and reduce dependence on non-aligned nations.
- India's very participation leverages its engineering talent and expanding semiconductor manufacturing, including ten plants under development. Member countries include Australia, Greece, Israel, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, Singapore, the UAE, the UK, and the US.

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## Board of Peace:

- ➔ India attended the first meeting of Trump's Board of Peace in Washington as an observer. The board aims to support Gaza's reconstruction and address global conflicts. India supports the Gaza Peace Plan and UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2803, but chose not to become a full member.
- ➔ The board has 27 members, including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Turkey, and Pakistan. 22 countries, including the UK, Germany, and Japan, joined as observers. India's observer status allows it to engage diplomatically, monitor discussions, protect regional interests, and maintain flexibility in India-US relations.

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## Vision 2031:

- ➔ Vision 2031 is Kerala's long-term policy framework to transform the state by its 75th year of statehood into a knowledge-driven, socially just, and democratically vibrant society. It was presented at the 'Vision 2031: International Conference on Development and Democracy' held in Thiruvananthapuram.
- ➔ The vision emphasizes participatory governance, evidence-based policy, and public consultation in decision-making. The state government plans follow-up actions, including legislative reforms and translating conference recommendations into projects through government and semi-government agencies.

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# Vision 2031

## LDF's Roadmap to a Knowledge-Driven, Equitable New Kerala

CM Com. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates  
Vision 2031 global conference



### Naxal-free:

- ➔ Bihar has been declared Naxal-free after the surrender of the last armed Maoist. The Union government has set March 31, 2026, as the deadline for eradicating Left Wing Extremism (LWE) from India. LWE, also called Naxalism or Maoism, began with the Naxalbari movement of 1967 in West Bengal.
- ➔ It spread across the Red Corridor, affecting states like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Maharashtra, Kerala, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

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## Delhi government:

- ➔ The Delhi government has introduced Bhū-Aadhaar, giving every land parcel a unique 14-digit identification number. It is part of the Unique Land Parcel Identification Number (ULPIN) system to modernise land records and ensure transparency. Each land parcel will have a geo-referenced code for accurate mapping and ownership verification.
- ➔ Drone surveys and digital mapping will create precise land maps covering coordinates, size, and ownership details. The system will reduce disputes, prevent multiple registrations, and support an Integrated Land Information Management System (ILIMS).

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## Naagam app:

- ➔ The Naagam app will onboard 100 trained snake rescuers in Tamil Nadu. Naagam is a new mobile platform designed to streamline snake rescue operations and strengthen scientific data collection.
- ➔ It was unveiled in July 2025 by Forest Department to promote technology-driven wildlife rescue efforts in the State. The application is modelled after SARPA, Kerala's snake rescue platform. It is expected to improve response time and help study snake distribution patterns.

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## Division Bench:

- ➔ The Division Bench of the Madras High Court set aside a single judge's August 12, 2024, order. The order had extended the Thalikku Thangam scheme to those earning up to ₹12,000 per month.
- ➔ The case relates to the 2011 Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Memorial Marriage Assistance Scheme. It is popularly known as the Thalikku Thangam scheme and provides gold assistance for young women's marriage to families earning below ₹6,000 per month.
- ➔ It held that the single judge wrongly expanded the scope of the writ petition beyond deciding whether the petitioner earned less than ₹6,000 per month. The Court said extending the benefit up to ₹12,000 income amounts to substituting one executive policy for another. It ruled that such a direction cannot be issued under Article 226 (writ jurisdiction of High Courts) of the Constitution of India.
- ➔ The Bench observed that there is no law mandating the extension of benefits based on the Minimum Wages Act. It also noted that the policy itself was not under challenge before the court. The judges stated that the gold assistance scheme was discontinued from August 2, 2022.
- ➔ It has been restructured as the Moovalur Ramamirtham Ammaiyar Higher Education Assurance Scheme.
- ➔ The petitioner's 2021 application can be considered only if her income was below ₹6,000 per month. The Court also noted that extending the scheme could cause a heavy financial burden on the State due to rising gold prices.

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2026, March 6

## Franchise-Based Road Cycling League:

- ➔ India Launches World's First Franchise-Based Road Cycling League. Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya has unveiled the official logo of the Cycling League of India (CLI).
- ➔ This will be the world's first professional franchise based road cycling league. This initiative aims to promote cycling as a competitive sport in India. Also building a professional ecosystem that nurtures talent, attracts international participation and increases the country's global sporting presence.
- ➔ The minister described the league as a “watershed moment for Indian cycling” in event. The Cycling League of India is designed as a franchise based professional cycling league, similar to other major sports leagues.



## Iran and Israel:

- ➔ The missile rivalry between Iran and Israel is one of the most discussed military topics in global defense analysis. Iran has developed a large arsenal of ballistic missiles—some capable of carrying cluster munition warheads, while Israel possesses the Jericho missile family, which forms an important part of its strategic deterrence system.

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- ➔ Many people search online for comparisons such as “Iran missiles vs Israel Jericho missiles,” “Jericho-3 missile range,” or “which country has stronger missiles Iran or Israel.” Iran's Cluster bomb missiles are ballistic missiles equipped with a cluster munition warhead that releases multiple smaller explosives (submunitions) over a wide area.
- ➔ These weapons are designed to damage large targets such as military bases, airfields, or infrastructure. Iran has developed several ballistic missiles that are believed to be capable of carrying cluster-type warheads, including variants of the Shahab, Qadr, Fateh, and Qiam missile systems.
- ➔ The Jericho missile family is Israel’s long-range ballistic missile system developed to provide strategic deterrence. These missiles are designed to deliver powerful warheads over long distances.



## Governor:

- ➔ The West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose resigned on March 5, 2026. This decision come just weeks before the upcoming state Assembly elections. The sudden resignation has sparked political debate across the state. Union Home Minister Amit Shah that Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi may replace Bose.
- ➔ The Governor is the constitutional head of a state executive, with provisions under Articles 153 to167 of the Constitution of India. According to Article 153 of the Constitution of India, every state has a Governor and one person may serve multiple states.

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- The Governor is appointed by the President of India under Article 155 of the Constitution of India. Qualifications (Article 157 of the Constitution of India): citizen of India and at least 35 years old. Holds office for 5 years, but serves at the President's pleasure. Cannot be an MP/MLA or hold an office of profit. Enjoys immunity from criminal proceedings during the term (Article 361 of the Constitution of India).
- Exercises executive, legislative, financial and judicial powers mostly on the advice of the Council of Ministers led by the Chief Minister. Has discretionary powers in certain situations like appointing a Chief Minister when no party has a majority.



## Country's first riverine lighthouses:

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones for the country's first riverine lighthouses on the Brahmaputra River. The project will establish four modern Riverine Lighthouses along National Waterway 2 (NW-2) at Pandu, Bogibeel, Silghat and Biswanath Ghat.
- These solar powered navigation structures aim to improve 24\*7 safe navigation, cargo movement and tourism in Northeast India. This Project will Built with an investment of ₹84 crore. The project marks a new phase in developing India's Brahmaputra navigation infrastructure.

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### **herSTART 5.0:**

- ➔ The Gujarat government launched herSTART 5.0 a major initiative which is aimed at strengthening women led startups and entrepreneurship in the state. This programme was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad.
- ➔ This event also marked the opening of a new research park which is designed to boost innovation and entrepreneurship in the region. The herSTART 5.0 Gujarat programme is run by the Gujarat University Startup and Entrepreneurship Council. This Program will focus on providing incubation, mentorship and market access to women entrepreneurs.

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## Andhra Pradesh government:

- ➔ The Andhra Pradesh government has announced a financial incentive of ₹25,000 for couples who have a second or third child. This idea came up as part of a new population boost policy introduced by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu. This initiative aims to address the state's declining fertility rate and rising ageing population concerns.
- ➔ Speaking in the Legislative Assembly of the State CM Naidu said the scheme is designed to encourage families to have more children and maintain demographic balance. This Andhra Pradesh population policy reflects a shift from earlier family planning measures toward population growth management.

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## Kerala Health Department:

- ➔ The Kerala Health Department launched the MeHEALTH mobile application. This app launched to help citizens easily access information about public healthcare facilities and services nearby locations.
- ➔ Health Minister Veena George announced that the app will provide details about hospitals, specialty departments, laboratory tests and service charges. Through the MeHEALTH app Kerala initiative users can also locate the blood banks, pharmacies and radiology services.

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## IBM:

- Global technology company IBM has launched its first Infrastructure Innovation Centre in Bengaluru. This will strengthen India's role in developing advanced artificial intelligence and enterprise infrastructure systems. This centre has been established within IBM's India Systems Development Lab (ISDL).
- It aims to bring together engineering teams to accelerate the development of secure, scalable and responsible enterprise AI solutions. This initiative highlights India's growing importance in IBM's global technology and infrastructure innovation strategy.

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## Sarvam AI:

- ➔ Indian generative AI startup Sarvam AI has launched the Sarvam Startup Program. This program will support early stage companies building AI-based products in India. The announcement was made on March 5 2026 as part of the company's effort to strengthen the AI startup ecosystem in India.
- ➔ The programme will provide API credits, advanced AI tools and direct engineering support to startups. Sarvam AI said the initiative aims to help developers focus on product innovation while the company provides the underlying AI infrastructure and language models.

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### **Dol Jatra (Dol Utsav):**

- ➔ Dol Jatra (Dol Utsav), a vibrant Vaishnavite festival, was celebrated across Assam with colours, music, and devotional activities.
- ➔ The festival symbolises the eternal love between Lord Krishna and Radha.

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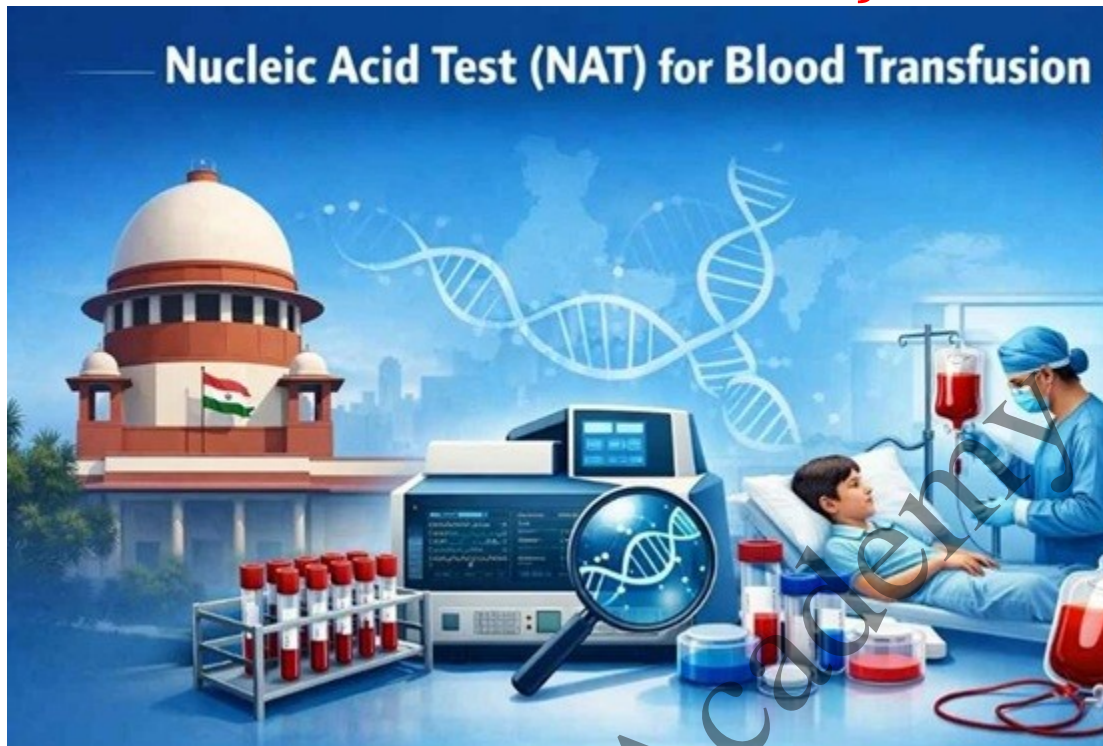
### **Supreme Court of India:**

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India is examining whether nucleic acid testing (NAT) should be made mandatory in all blood banks to ensure safe blood transfusion under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- ➔ NAT is a molecular test that detects the genetic material (DNA or RNA) of viruses in donated blood. It can identify infections like human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), hepatitis B and hepatitis C at an early stage. NAT reduces the “window period” compared to the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) tests commonly used in India.
- ➔ The petition argues that safe blood transfusion is part of the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. The court has sought data on cost, state-level implementation and feasibility before taking a final decision.

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## Karnataka Budget:

- ➔ In the Karnataka Budget 2026 The State government proposed a social media ban. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the government plans to ban social media use for children under the age of 16. This proposed to protect them from harmful online content and digital addiction.
- ➔ The move makes Karnataka the first Indian state to propose such a restriction. The proposal comes amid growing global concerns about the mental health impact of excessive social media use in children.



## Tamil Nadu Private Schools(Regulation) Rules:

- ➔ The Government of Tamil Nadu has amended the Tamil Nadu Private Schools(Regulation) Rules, 2023, to restrict certain activities in private schools. Private schools are not allowed to conduct programmes that are political, ideological, communal, or divisive in nature.
- ➔ No external person, association, or organisation can use school premises to organise meetings, campaigns, or activities unrelated to education.
- ➔ Activities that promote disharmony or hatred based on religion, caste, race, community, language, or ideology are banned. Cultural events, social service programmes, blood

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donation camps, and commemorative functions are allowed only if they are non-political and non -sectarian with prior government permission.



## 234:

- ➔ The strength of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was fixed at 234 seats. This number was calculated by the Delimitation Commission, which redistributed the Lok Sabha and Assembly seats after the 1961 Census.
- ➔ Under Article 170 of the Constitution and Section 8(b) of the Delimitation Commission Act, 1962, the number of seats in a State Legislative Assembly shall be an integral multiple of the number of Lok Sabha seats allotted to that State.
- ➔ At that time, the 14 States together had 481 parliamentary seats. Madras (then called Tamil Nadu) had 41 seats. This took the total strength in the Lok Sabha to 507. The Delimitation Commission was headed by Justice J.L. Kapoor and had C.P. Sinha and K.V.K. Sundaram as members.
- ➔ It noted that Article 81(1) fixed the maximum number of directly elected members of the Lok Sabha at 500. This meant that the maximum number of seats available for allocation among the 14 States was 493.
- ➔ The total population of these States had increased very considerably in the last ten years. The average population per parliamentary constituency had increased from 732,654 in 1951 to 889,257 in 1961.

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- ➔ After reviewing the population changes revealed by the 1961 Census, the Commission concluded that retaining the existing 481 seats would disproportionately penalise some of the larger States.
- ➔ Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Madras would have lost three seats each, while Bihar would have lost one seat. To mitigate this, the Commission increased the total number from 481 to 490.



## DMK government:

- ➔ The abolition of hand-rickshaws is a major one, along with other major social reforms initiated in Tamil Nadu by the government. The DMK government led by M. Karunanidhi abolished the practice in 1973.
- ➔ It was inspired by the ideals of the Dravidian Movement. It helped make the State a leader in social justice reforms in India. In West Bengal, however, it took another three decades for the State to finally end this inhuman system. The Dravidian Movement was initiated and propagated by what the Italian Communist leader Antonio Gramsci would describe as organic intellectuals with an organic ideology.
- ➔ After returning from tours of the United States and Japan, Anna told All India Radio (AIR) in 1968 that in a country like India, endowed with abundant manpower, industries and development projects ought to be more labour-oriented than capital-oriented. Annadurai also favoured a strong emphasis on agriculture, as the majority of the population depended on it.

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## Operation Sankalp:

- ➔ Indian Navy warships deployed under Operation Sankalp have been placed on standby for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations due to rising tensions in West Asia. Operation Sankalp is a maritime security mission launched by the Indian Navy on 19 June 2019.
- ➔ It was started to ensure the safety of Indian-flagged merchant vessels in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The operation secures sea routes in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman, and the Gulf of Aden. It aims to protect India's maritime trade and prevent piracy in the region. The mission is supported by the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022.

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### **India and Canada:**

- ➔ India and Canada signed a \$1.9 billion uranium supply agreement for 10,000 tonnes of uranium (2027–2035) to support India's nuclear power plants. The uranium will be supplied by Canadian company Cameco to support India's clean energy and nuclear power programme.
- ➔ Both countries have also agreed to restart negotiations for the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to increase bilateral trade to \$50 billion by 2030.
- ➔ Canada agreed to join the International Solar Alliance and Global Biofuel Alliance, strengthening cooperation on renewable energy. The two countries have also decided to improve cooperation in counter-terrorism, security, energy, and technology.

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## Scotland:

- ➔ Scotland became the first nation in the United Kingdom to legalise water cremation, also called alkaline hydrolysis. Water cremation is an eco-friendly alternative to traditional burial and flame cremation. The process uses water, heat, and potassium hydroxide to break down the body in a sealed chamber.
- ➔ It takes about 90 minutes, leaving only bones, which are later processed into ashes. The method produces fewer carbon emissions and uses less energy compared to flame cremation. The law was approved by the Scottish Parliament to provide more environmental sustainable funeral options.



## Earliest animals:

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- Scientists have found evidence of the earliest animals on Earth in rocks that are about 541 million years old. Researchers discovered chemical fossils called steranes in ancient rocks. These fossils suggest that sea sponges (demosponges) were among the first animals to live in the oceans.
- The discovery shows that animal life existed before the Cambrian explosion, when many animals rapidly evolved. It also indicates that early animals lived in oceans with low oxygen levels.



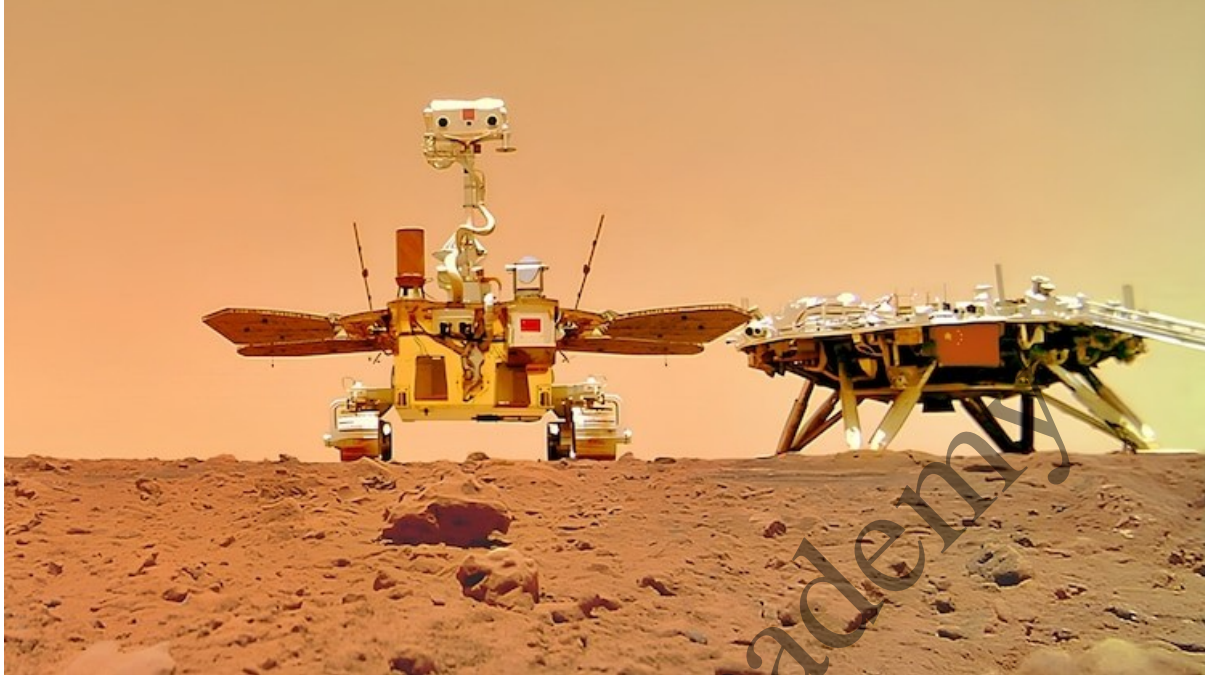
## Tianwen-1 mission:

- China's Zhurong rover, part of the Tianwen-1 mission, discovered evidence of ancient beaches on Mars. The rover operates in Utopia Planitia, a large northern basin on Mars. Ground-penetrating radar detected buried sediment layers resembling coastal deposits several metres below the surface.
- These formations date back to the Late Hesperian period, around 3.5–4 billion years ago. The findings suggest Mars once had a long-lasting ocean called the Deuteronilus Ocean. Ancient Mars likely had a warmer climate and stable liquid water, potentially supporting habitable conditions.

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## Dark Oxygen:

- ➔ Scientists have discovered “Dark Oxygen” about 4,000 metres below the Pacific Ocean, where sunlight does not reach. Dark Oxygen refers to oxygen found in deep-sea regions without sunlight.
- ➔ The discovery was made in the Clarion–Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists observed oxygen levels increasing near polymetallic nodules on the seafloor. Polymetallic nodules contain metals like manganese, nickel and cobalt. This discovery challenges the idea that oxygen is produced only through photosynthesis.



## World Obesity Atlas 2026:

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- The World Obesity Atlas 2026 report has revealed that India has overtaken the United States to become the second-highest country globally in childhood obesity. The report was released by the World Obesity Federation (WOF).
- India ranks second globally, after China, in childhood obesity. About 41 million Indian children were estimated to have high Body Mass Index(BMI) in 2025. Around 14 million children in India were living with obesity.



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2026, March 8-9

## Indian national cricket team:

- The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 ended in spectacular fashion as the India national cricket team defeated the New Zealand national cricket team by 96 runs in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.
- With this victory, India secured back-to-back T20 World Cup titles, cementing their dominance in world T20 cricket.



## Air and missile defense systems:

- Modern warfare relies heavily on air and missile defense systems that can intercept rockets, drones, aircraft, and ballistic missiles before they reach their targets. Countries such as Israel, the United States, and Iran have developed advanced systems to protect their airspace.

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- Three of the most discussed systems are Iron Dome (Israel), THAAD (United States), and Bavar-373 (Iran). Each of these systems is designed for different types of threats and operates at different ranges and altitudes.



## LAMITIYE 2026:

- Indian Armed Forces team has reached Seychelles to participate in the 11th edition of Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE 2026. this exercise has been conducted with the Seychelles Defense Forces (SDF). The exercise is being held at the Seychelles Defense Academy from 9 to 20 March 2026.
- This year's exercise marks an important milestone and it is special as all three services of the Indian Armed Forces Army, Navy and Air Force are participating together.
- The joint training programme aims to strengthen defense cooperation, enhance interoperability between forces and other areas. The India-Seychelles Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE 2026 is a key defense engagement between the two countries designed to strengthen military ties and strategic cooperation.

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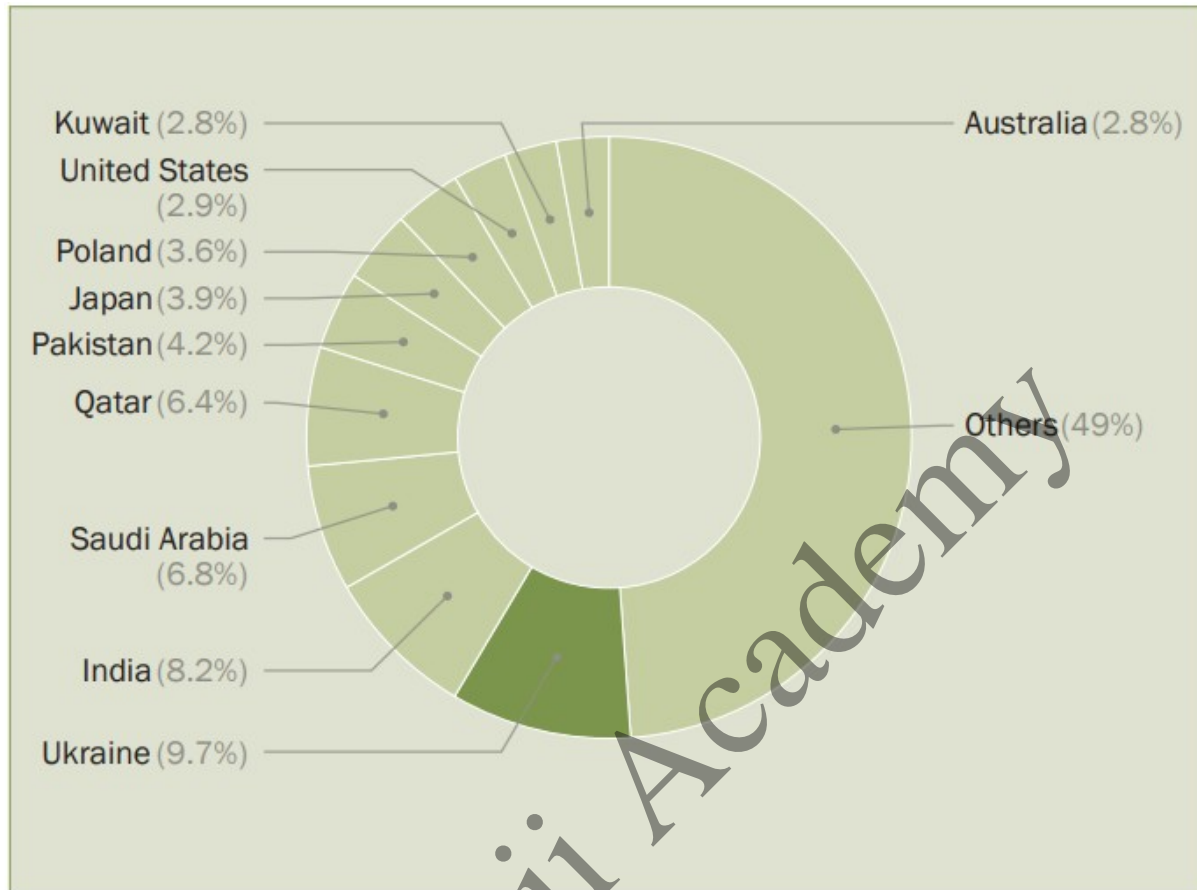
## Arms imports:

- ➔ India has emerged as the world's second largest arms importer during the period 2021-2025. This is accounting for 8.2% of total global arms imports. According to a report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- ➔ The report highlights a gradual shift in India's defense procurement strategy with the country increasingly sourcing weapons from Western suppliers such as France, Israel and the United States.
- ➔ However Russia still remains an important defense partner for India. Over the last decade India has gradually diversified its defense procurement sources and also reducing its reliance on Russian weapons.
- ➔ Russia's share in India's arms imports has steadily declined over time. According to the SIPRI report Russia accounted for about 70 percent of India's arms imports during 2011-2015. And this which dropped to 51 percent in 2016-2020 and further declined to 40 percent in 2021-2025.

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## Harpal Singh:

- ➔ The State of the Punjab Budget 2026-27 was presented by the Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema. He has introduced a major welfare initiative for women under the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhiyan Satkar Yojana.
- ➔ This scheme proposes ₹1,000 monthly financial assistance for women and also while Dalit women will receive ₹1,500 per month. The total size of the Punjab Budget 2026 has been set at ₹2,60,437 crore. The finance minister described it as a “Saari Guarantiyan Puri Karan Wala Budget”.

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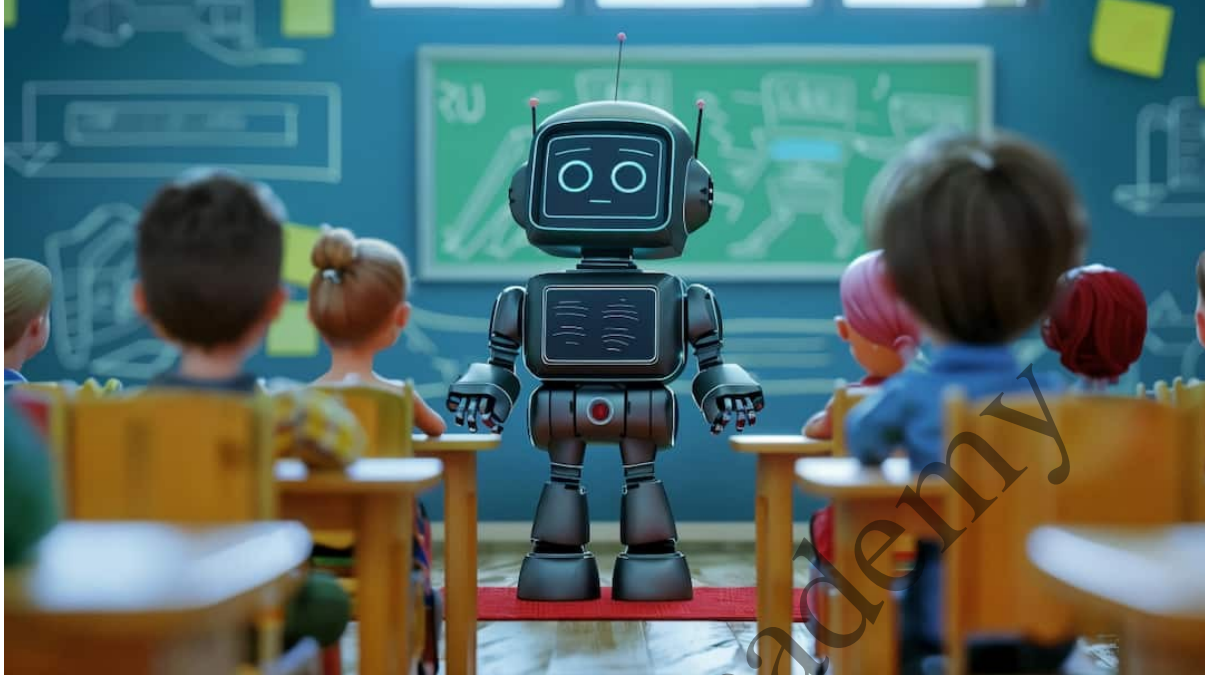
### **Cyber Safety Protocol 2026:**

- ➔ Kerala has introduced the Cyber Safety Protocol 2026. Which is a comprehensive framework aimed at protecting students in the evolving Artificial Intelligence (AI) era. This initiative has been developed by Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE).
- ➔ And the technology wing of the state's General Education Department. This Cyber Safety Protocol 2026 is designed to create the safe digital learning environment in Kerala's public schools. The framework focuses on strengthening cyber security, protecting student privacy.

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## Digital census:

- ➔ Amit Shah launched mascots Pragati and Vikas for Census 2027, symbolising equal participation of female and male enumerators in India's first fully digital census. The upcoming Census 2027 will be conducted for the first time using digital tools, allowing citizens to complete self-enumeration through a secure web portal in 16 languages before the door-to-door survey begins.
- ➔ Four digital systems were introduced to support the census process, including the Houselisting Block Creator App, HLO Mobile Application, Self-Enumeration Portal, and Census Management and Monitoring System for real-time tracking.
- ➔ The nationwide exercise will be conducted in two phases—the Houselisting and Housing Census (2026) and Population Enumeration (February 2027)—with over 30 lakh enumerators and officials deployed across India.

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## Echinus Geyser:

- ➔ World's largest acidic geyser, Echinus Geyser, located in Yellowstone National Park, USA, erupted again after remaining dormant for about six years since 2020.
- ➔ The geyser's acidic water is formed by a mix of acidic gases and neutral water, giving it red-colored deposits due to iron, aluminium, and arsenic compounds.



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## International Women's Day:

- ➔ International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March to recognise the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women worldwide. Theme 2026 – Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.
- ➔ The day also highlights the importance of gender equality and women's rights, encouraging action to remove discrimination and empower women globally. United Nations officially began celebrating International Women's Day in 1975, which was also declared as the International Women's Year.



## Vikko Sat-1:

- ➔ 13 students of the Class XI batch of Ariyakudi Government Higher Secondary School in Sivaganga district of Tamil Nadu have successfully launched a 600-gram mini satellite named "Vikko Sat-1" using a helium balloon to collect real-time atmospheric data.
- ➔ The student-built device reached a height of about 22 km in the stratosphere before being safely recovered, demonstrating significant scientific and technical skills. The mission aimed to detect fungal spores in the upper atmosphere using five sensors, helping researchers understand their impact on crop health and environmental cycles.

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## Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin has launched new government schemes and inaugurated several development projects in Chennai. The Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES) was launched by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department to encourage 1 lakh women to become entrepreneurs in five years.
- ➔ The government has also released the Tiruchirappalli Master Plan 2045 and the Thoothukudi Master Plan 2045 for urban development. Foundation stones were laid for a Mangrove Conservation Centre at Pichavaram, an International Migratory Bird Centre at Marakkanam, and a Nilgiri Tahr Conservation Centre in Coimbatore.



## CCTNS 2.0:

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- The Tamil Nadu Police launched a new website integrated with CCTNS 2.0 (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) to provide digital police services. The new portal does not allow third parties or the general public to view or download First Information Reports (FIRs).
- Only the accused, victim, or complainant in a case can access and download the FIR through the website. The portal is integrated with the Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) for better coordination among agencies.
- The integration enables real-time data sharing with courts, forensic science laboratories, prisons, and prosecution departments. e-Sakshya and e-Summon applications have been implemented to improve digital evidence management and electronic delivery of summons. To use services under CCTNS 2.0, users must register personal details such as mobile number and email ID and create login credentials.



## Om Birla:

- Om Birla, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, nominated 15 members to the Committee of Privileges in 2026. The committee will be chaired by Ravi Shankar Prasad. The Committee of Privileges examines cases related to breaches of parliamentary privileges of Members of Parliament (MPs). This parliamentary committee investigates complaints of violation of privileges of the House or its members.
- The Lok Sabha Committee of Privileges consists of 15 members, nominated by the Speaker. The committee performs semi-judicial functions and recommends action to the House. Parliamentary privileges are defined under Articles 105 and 122 of the Constitution of India.

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## GSDP:

- ➔ Maharashtra has recorded the slowest growth in GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) among India's four largest state economies.
- ➔ The big four states are Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Gujarat. Maharashtra's GSDP grew by about 43% between 2021–22 and 2024–25. Karnataka recorded the highest growth at about 65%, followed by Gujarat (48%) and Tamil Nadu (47%).
- ➔ Despite slower growth, Maharashtra remains India's largest state economy with a projected GSDP of ₹42.67 lakh crore in 2024–25. These four states together play a major role in India's economic growth, investments, and industrial development.

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## SEBI:

- ➔ SEBI used the Sudarshan Artificial Intelligence (AI) system to remove over 1.2 lakh misleading posts by financial influencers on social media.
- ➔ Sudarshan AI System is an Artificial Intelligence (AI) based decision-support system used in the banking and financial sector in India. It uses machine learning and data analytics to process large financial datasets and generate predictive insights.
- ➔ The system helps banks in credit risk assessment, loan appraisal and early warning detection of stressed assets. It is also used for fraud detection, transaction monitoring and regulatory compliance in financial institutions.

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### **Vikram-1:**

- ➔ Skyroot Aerospace is preparing to launch Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket. The rocket is designed to carry satellites up to 300 kg into low Earth orbit and will be launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ➔ The rocket is named after Vikram Sarabhai, the father of India's space programme. Earlier, the company successfully launched Vikram-S, India's first private suborbital rocket, in 2022.

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### **Slender Loris Conservation Centre:**

- ➔ Slender Loris Conservation Centre was inaugurated in Dindigul district, the first such facility in India. The centre focuses on conservation and research of the Slender Loris. The slender loris is a small arboreal primate found in the dry forests and scrub landscapes of southern India and Sri Lanka.
- ➔ The Tamil Nadu government earlier notified the Kadavur Slender Loris Sanctuary. The sanctuary covers 11,806.56 hectares across seven blocks in Dindigul and Karur districts. It includes reserve forests such as Thoppaswimalai, Thanneerkaradu, Mudimalai and D. Edayapatti.

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2026, March 10

## CISF Raising Day:

- CISF Raising Day 2026 is observed across the India on March 10. This day observe to commemorate the establishment of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). This day honours the dedication, bravery and services of CISF personnel who protect the country's most critical infrastructure.
- CISF was Established in 1969 under the CISF Act, 1968. And the force has grown into one of India's key Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



## Board of Control for Cricket in India:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced the huge ₹131 crore cash reward for Team India. Team India secured the historic victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.
- India defeated the mighty New Zealand in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on March 8 2026. Team India has successfully defended the T20 World Cup title. And also become the first team in tournament history to retain the championship. The ICC prize for the champions was USD 2.34 million (around ₹21.5 crore).

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### **World Para Athletics Grand Prix:**

- ➔ The 2nd edition of the World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 in New Delhi. And it will take place from March 11 to March 13. In which the bringing together athletes from across the world.
- ➔ The international competition will feature around 257 athletes from eight countries, making it a major para sports event hosted by India. The event is expected to showcase high level performances in various track and field competitions.

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**NEW DELHI 2026  
WORLD PARA ATHLETICS  
GRAND PRIX**

DATE - 08<sup>th</sup> MARCH TO 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026  
VENUE - JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STADIUM

250+ Athletes

ATHLETES PARTICIPATING

NATIONS COMPETING

8 Nations

## Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay:

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has partnered with global technology company Honeywell to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE). They will establish CoE for sustainability skills and innovation for its Powai campus in Mumbai.
- This initiative aims to train more than 100,000 students in sustainability related fields by 2030 through industry academia collaboration. The centre will be named the IIT Bombay Honeywell Centre of Excellence for Future Skills and Innovation.

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## Cruise missiles:

- ➔ Cruise missiles play an important role in modern warfare because they can strike targets with high precision from long distances. Two notable cruise missiles in Asia are India's BrahMos and Iran's Hoveyzeh.
- ➔ Both are designed for precision land-attack missions, but they differ significantly in speed, range, and operational purpose. The BrahMos cruise missile is a joint development project between India and Russia. It is one of the fastest operational cruise missiles in the world and forms a key part of India's strategic strike capability.

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## Ballistic missiles:

- ➔ Ballistic missiles are among the most powerful strategic weapons used by countries for deterrence and long-range strike capability. India's Agni missile series and Iran's Khorramshahr missile are two important ballistic missile systems developed for strategic defense. While both missiles are capable of carrying powerful warheads, they differ in range, payload capacity, speed, and propulsion technology.
- ➔ The Agni missile series is a family of long-range ballistic missiles developed by India as part of its strategic defense program. The series includes several variants such as Agni-I, Agni-II, Agni-III, Agni-IV, and Agni-V, each with increasing range and capability.

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## Tactical ballistic missiles:

- ➔ Tactical ballistic missiles are designed for battlefield strikes against high-value targets such as airbases, radar stations, command centers, and military infrastructure. Two notable missiles in this category are India's Pralay missile and Iran's Zolfaghar missile. Both systems are road-mobile and designed for precision strikes, but they differ in range, speed, payload capacity, and battlefield role.
- ➔ The Pralay missile is a tactical quasi-ballistic missile developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It was designed to strengthen India's conventional strike capability against high-value enemy targets within regional distances.

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## Uttar Pradesh government:

- ➔ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched Project GANGA. This project launched to provide high-speed internet connectivity to more than 20 lakh rural households over the next two to three years.
- ➔ This initiative focuses on expanding digital connectivity in villages and semi urban regions along with creating new employment opportunities.
- ➔ For the implement of this Project GANGA Uttar Pradesh a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the State Transformation Commission (STC) and One OTT Entertainment Limited it is a subsidiary of the Hinduja Group.

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## Mizo language:

- ➔ The Mizoram State Legislative Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution requesting the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. This resolution was introduced by State Education Minister Vanlalhlana.
- ➔ And they received support from all members of the assembly. This step represents an important move toward official recognition of the Mizo language at the national level. If the Mizo language is added to the Eighth Schedule it could benefit from increased academic research, translation work and official usage in government examinations and administrative communication.

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## Karnataka government:

- ➔ The Karnataka government has launched the 'Chief Minister's Krishi Vistara' Scheme in the Karnataka Budget 2026–27 to help increase farmers' income.
- ➔ The scheme has an outlay of ₹100 crore for three years and aims to strengthen post-harvest activities and market linkages for farmers.

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## Sarbananda Sonowal:

- Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones for India's first riverine lighthouses from Lachit Ghat along the Brahmaputra River (National Waterway 2). Four lighthouses will be built at Pandu, Silghat, Biswanath Ghat, and Bogibeel, enabling 24-hour navigation on inland waterways and improving river transport safety.
- The ₹84 crore project is a joint initiative of the Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships and the Inland Waterways Authority of India, with 20-metre tall solar-powered lighthouses also planned as tourism landmarks.

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### **Essential Commodities Act:**

- ➔ The Government of India invoked the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 in March 2026 to ensure adequate supply of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) during a global energy crisis.
- ➔ The Act allows the government to regulate production, supply, distribution, and pricing of essential commodities. On 5 March 2026, oil refining companies were directed to maximise LPG production for domestic consumers.

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2026, March 11

## No Smoking Day:

- The No Smoking Day 2026 is observed on March 11. And this encouraging people worldwide to take a step toward a healthier life by quitting tobacco. This day focuses on spreading awareness about the harmful effects of smoking and supporting individuals who want to break free from nicotine addiction.
- No Smoking Day was originated in the United Kingdom in 1984 as a public health initiative aimed at reducing tobacco use. This campaign gradually gained international recognition as governments and health organizations began promoting similar anti-smoking awareness efforts.



## C-130J MRO:

- The Tata Advanced Systems has partnered with Ramco Systems to build the digital backbone of the Indian Air Force C-130J MRO facility in India. This collaboration will aim to modernize aircraft maintenance operations.
- This project will support the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) of the IAF's C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft. It is one of the most important tactical airlift platforms in India's defense system. The Tata Advanced Systems C-130J MRO facility is designed to provide the dedicated maintenance and support services for the Indian Air Force's C-130J Super Hercules fleet.

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### **Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority:**

- ➔ The Nagauri Pan Methi from Rajasthan's Nagaur district has been granted a patent by the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPVFRA). This registration was officially published in the Plant Variety Journal in the month February 2026. This is recognizing the crop under the community farmers variety category.
- ➔ This recognition provides statutory ownership and legal rights to the farming community of Nagaur district. The Nagauri Pan Methi PPVFRA registration represents the historic step in protecting traditional crop varieties developed by farmers.
- ➔ This intellectual property protection was granted under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act 2001. And in which safeguards both breeders and farming communities. Nagauri Pan Methi is a unique variety of fenugreek cultivated exclusively in the Nagaur district of Rajasthan.

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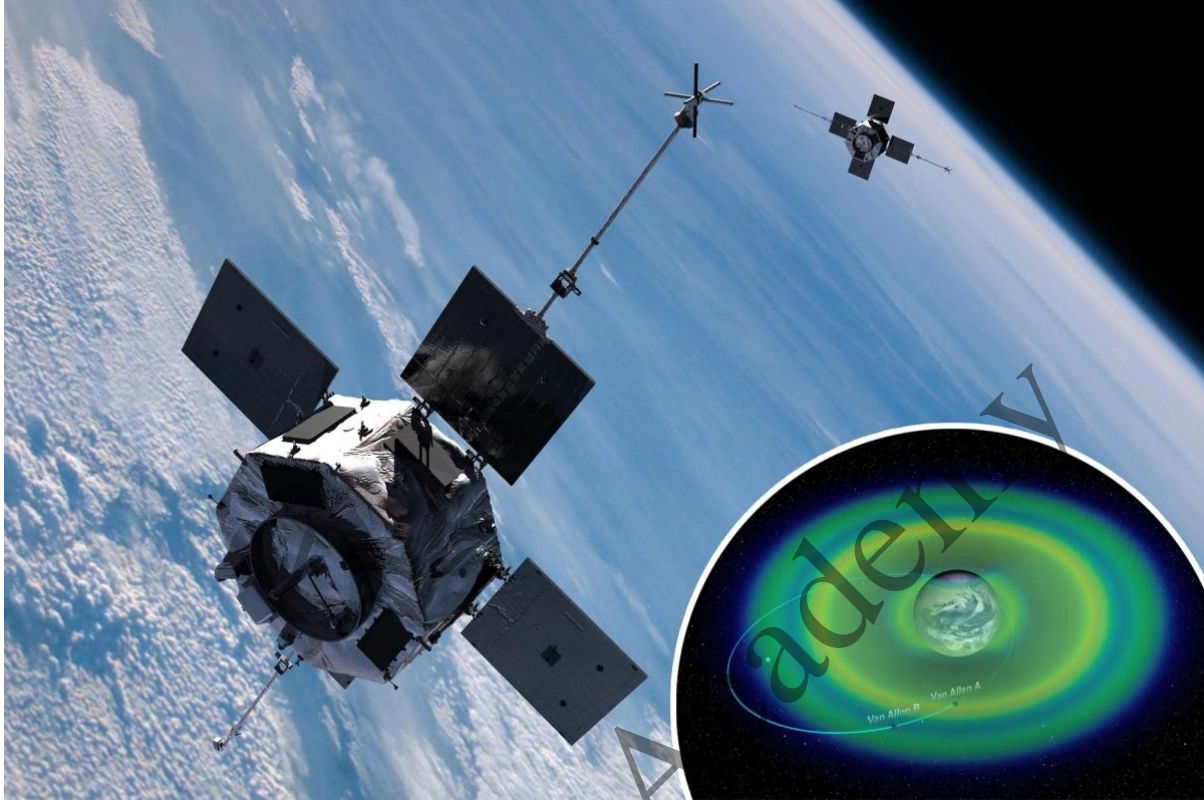
### **Van Allen Probe A:**

- ➔ The defunct NASA satellite which is called Van Allen Probe A is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere in March 2026. This satellite returned after spending more than a decade studying space radiation around the planet.
- ➔ The spacecraft which launched 14 years ago and it will make an uncontrolled re-entry. It means that NASA cannot guide and control where it falls. Most of the satellite is expected to burn up during atmospheric entry.

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### **Punjab Government:**

- ➔ The Punjab Government launched the Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojna in the 2026–27 Budget on International Women’s Day to provide financial assistance to women across the state.
- ➔ Under the scheme, eligible women will receive ₹1,000 per month, while women from the Scheduled Caste (SC) community will get ₹1,500 per month, directly transferred to their bank accounts.
- ➔ The scheme, a pre-poll promise of the Aam Aadmi Party, aims to help women manage household expenses and children’s education, with the state allocating ₹9,300 crore for FY 2026–27.

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## Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India:

- ➔ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the certificate of registration for Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance during its 134th meeting. Allianz Jio Reinsurance is an equal joint venture between Jio Financial Services and Allianz Group, incorporated in September 2025, to operate in the reinsurance business.
- ➔ The regulator also discussed the new regulatory framework after the enactment of the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha (Amendment of Insurance Laws) Act, 2025, which amended the Insurance Act, 1938 and IRDA Act, 1999, and approved drafting of new regulations for stakeholder consultation.

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**INSURANCE  
REGULATORY  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
AUTHORITY**

## Khelo India Tribal Games 2026:

- ➔ The first Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 will be held from 25 March to 6 April 2026 in Chhattisgarh. The Games will be organised across three cities — Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja.
- ➔ The event will feature seven medal sports — athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting, archery, swimming and wrestling, while Mallakhamb and Kabaddi will be included as demonstration sports.
- ➔ The Games will be organised jointly by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India, Indian Olympic Association, National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh state organising committee.



## International Day of Women Judges:

- ➔ International Day of Women Judges is observed every year on 10 March to highlight the importance of gender equality and women's participation in judicial systems worldwide.
- ➔ The day aims to promote the full and equal participation of women in the judiciary, encouraging more women to pursue careers as judges and legal professionals.

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**MARCH 10TH**

**INTERNATIONAL  
DAY OF WOMEN  
JUDGES**



### **V.O. Chidambaranar Port:**

- ➔ Berth 9 at V.O. Chidambaranar Port operates under the Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model and functions as a container terminal. Around 45% of the workforce at Berth 9 are women, working in administrative and other operational positions.
- ➔ V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located in Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, and it is one of the 13 major ports in India; it was declared a major port on 11 July 1974. The port is the second largest port in Tamil Nadu and has the third largest container terminal in India.

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### **Parandur Greenfield Airport Project:**

- ➔ The Government of Tamil Nadu has notified the Parandur Greenfield Airport Project as a “Special Project” under the Tamil Nadu Land Consolidation (for Special Projects) Act, 2023. The project has been declared a Special Project to expedite land acquisition and approval processes.
- ➔ Under the Act, projects requiring more than 100 hectares of land can be declared Special Projects to enable faster land consolidation. The airport project requires 5,746 acres of land, of which about 1,700 acres have been acquired so far.

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## Public Interest Litigation:

- ➔ A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Madras High Court seeking directions to conduct local body elections in the Union Territory of Puducherry. The Madras High Court has issued notices to the Puducherry Government and the State Election Commission regarding the conduct of local body elections.
- ➔ During French rule, elected communes and municipalities were created to support grassroots democratic governance in the region before its liberation in 1954. Elections to local bodies were held until 1968, after which they stopped for about 38 years. After the issue was raised in Parliament, local body elections were conducted in Puducherry in 2006.
- ➔ The tenure of these local bodies ended in 2011, and no local body elections have been held in the Union Territory since then. The Common Election Commission for Union Territories, created under Articles 243-K and 243-ZA of the Constitution, conducts elections for Panchayats and Municipalities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, and Ladakh was added to this commission in September 2023.

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## 2026:

- ➔ The issue of gender, agriculture, and climate change is in focus as the United Nations declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer, highlighted during International Women's Day.
- ➔ In India, about 80% of rural women are engaged in agriculture and perform nearly 70% of farm work, contributing 75% in crop production, 79% in horticulture, and 95% in animal husbandry and fisheries. Despite their role, only about 13.9% of agricultural landholdings are registered in the name of women.
- ➔ Climate change further increases women's vulnerability and, in the absence of adequate resources, they are forced to perform farm work and unpaid domestic work, as well as face various natural disasters such as droughts and floods. Rising of the male migration from the rural areas has led to the "feminisation of agriculture."

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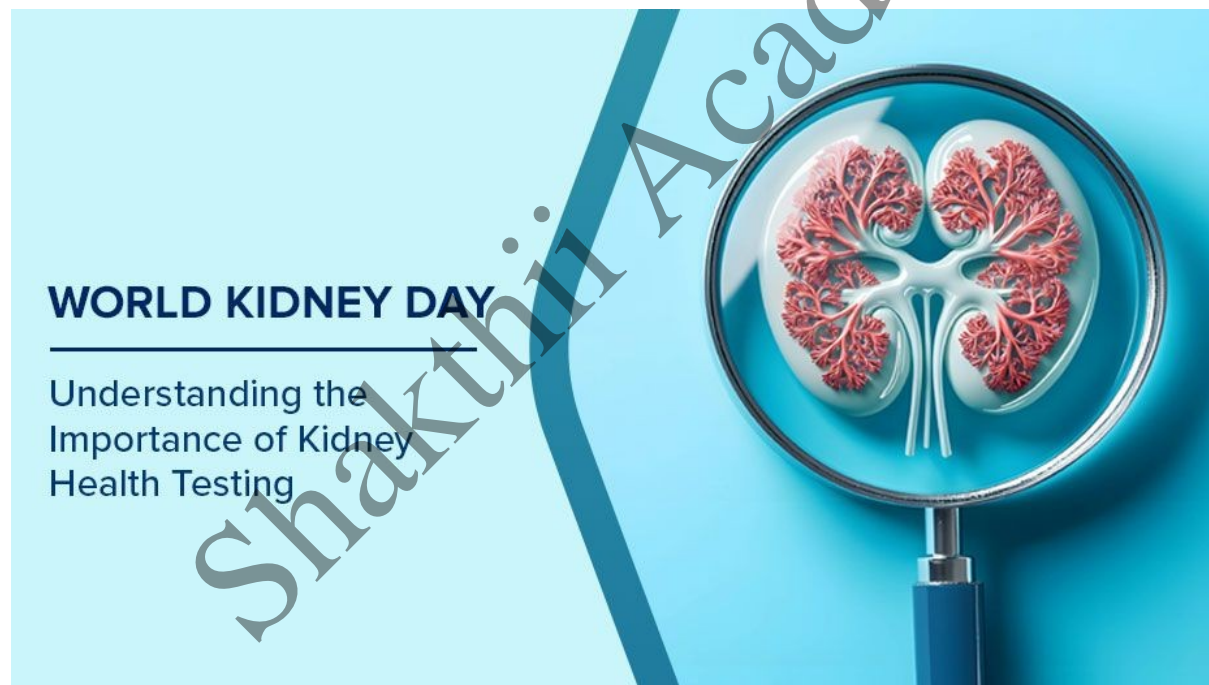
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2026, March 12

## World Kidney Day:

- ➔ World Kidney Day 2026 observed on March 12. This day is drawing global attention to the rising burden of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). And also the need for early detection and prevention.
- ➔ This international awareness day highlights how kidney diseases often remain silent in early stages and become serious later. The World Kidney Day theme 2026 “Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet”.
- ➔ And also focuses on the connection between kidney health and environmental factors such as pollution, heat and unsafe water. Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) has emerged as the major global health challenge which is affecting approximately one in ten people worldwide. The condition develops gradually when the kidneys lose their ability to filter waste and excess fluids from the body efficiently.



## Ballistic missile:

- ➔ India and Pakistan have developed advanced ballistic missile systems as part of their strategic deterrence programs. Two important missiles in their arsenals are India’s Agni-4 and Pakistan’s Shaheen-II. Both are medium to intermediate-range ballistic missiles designed to deliver conventional or nuclear payloads.
- ➔ The Agni-4 is an intermediate-range ballistic missile developed by India’s Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is part of the Agni series of missiles

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that strengthen India's nuclear deterrence capability. Agni-4 is a two-stage solid-fuel missile designed for high accuracy and improved survivability against missile defense systems.

- It can carry nuclear warheads and can be launched from a road-mobile launcher, which increases operational flexibility.
- The Shaheen-II (Hatf-VI) is a medium-range ballistic missile developed by Pakistan's National Engineering and Scientific Commission. It is one of Pakistan's key strategic missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads. Shaheen-II uses solid propellant and a two-stage rocket system, allowing faster launch readiness and safer storage compared to liquid-fuel missiles.



## DRDO and the Indian Navy:

- DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully tested the indigenous Air Droppable Container ADC-150 from a P-8I aircraft. This successful trials were conducted off the coast of Goa between February 21 and March 1, 2026.
- DRDO Air Droppable Container ADC-150 test involved four in flight release trials carried out under different extreme conditions. This tests confirmed that the container system can safely drop essential supplies from aircraft to ships operating far away in the ocean.

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## Microalgae:

- ➔ New Delhi has deployed India's first microalgae based PureAir Tower along the Aerocity highway corridor. It is introducing the innovative biotechnology-based solution to combat urban air pollution.
- ➔ This tower has been installed on a busy road median and transforming conventional road infrastructure into an active air purification system.
- ➔ This pilot project aims to address vehicular emissions on one of the capital's high traffic corridors. The conventional smog towers that rely on mechanical filters this microalgae air tower technology uses photosynthetic microalgae to absorb pollutants directly from the surrounding air.
- ➔ This system captures carbon dioxide particulate matter and nitrogen oxides at street level. Through natural biological processes this pollutants are converted into oxygen and algal biomass. The microalgae air tower operates with minimal energy consumption and produces no secondary filter waste and making it a sustainable air purification solution.

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## Chhattisgarh State Cabinet:

- ➔ The Chhattisgarh State Cabinet has approved the draft of the Freedom of Religion Bill of 2026,. This bill is aimed at preventing illegal religious conversions in the state. This decision was taken during a Cabinet meeting in Raipur chaired by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai.
- ➔ The primary aim of the Chhattisgarh Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 is to prevent unlawful religious conversions. Also protecting the constitutional right to practice and follow one's faith freely.
- ➔ This legislation comes to address cases where individuals may be pressured or manipulated into changing their religion. This government believes that the bill will help ensure that religious conversions occur only through voluntary choice and not through coercion or misleading practices. This proposal shows the state's attempt to regulate conversion activities while maintaining public order.

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### **Indian Orchid Festival:**

- ➔ The Indian Orchid Festival 2026 was concluded successfully in Pakyong district of Sikkim. This festival attracting orchid growers, entrepreneurs, researchers and floriculture experts from across India. India is one of the richest countries in terms of orchid diversity, especially in the North Eastern region and Himalayan states.
- ➔ Our country has more than 1,300 species of orchids with a large concentration found in states like Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Assam. Orchid cultivation is an important part of floriculture which includes the commercial production of flowers and ornamental plants. The global demand for orchids is rising rapidly due to their beauty and decorative value.

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## Gujarat state government:

- ➔ The Gujarat state government has launched the 'Lake and Air Watch' initiative to monitor and improve air quality and lake health across urban areas in the state. This project will be implemented by the Gujarat Urban Development Mission (GUDM) under the Urban Development and Urban Housing Department.
- ➔ Under this initiative air quality monitoring systems will be installed in 17 municipal corporations. And also the 152 municipal areas to provide real time Air Quality Index (AQI) data.
- ➔ The Lake and Air Watch Gujarat initiative aims to address environmental problems caused by rapid urbanization. State Authorities have observed that growing urban populations have led to declining water quality in lakes.

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## Madurai:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, approved the declaration of Madurai Airport in Madurai, Tamil Nadu as an International Airport.
- ➔ Madurai Airport, situated in the famous temple city of Madurai, is among the oldest airports in Tamil Nadu, enhancing its role in domestic and international connectivity.



## Tamil Nadu Forest Department:

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Forest Department planted 20,000 mangrove seedlings along the Buckingham Canal to strengthen Chennai's coastal ecosystem and improve climate resilience. The mangrove restoration is part of a phased programme to establish a green belt of mangrove species in the district.
- ➔ In the second phase, around 5,000 mangrove saplings of species including *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Avicennia marina*, and *Excoecaria agallocha* were planted at the Battle of Adyar Island on the Adyar River estuary.
- ➔ The latest phase involves planting 20,000 seedlings of five species: *Avicennia marina*, *Avicennia officinalis*, *Rhizophora mucronata*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, and *Excoecaria agallocha*. The step-by-step restoration aims to rebuild Chennai's mangrove cover, create

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a living coastal bioshield, protect the shoreline, nurture biodiversity, and strengthen the city's resilience to cyclones and sea-level rise.



## Rajya Sabha:

- ➔ Six candidates have been elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu to fill six vacancies as the term of existing members ends on 2 April 2026. The elected members are Tiruchi Siya and Constandine Ravindran (DMK), M.Christopher Tilak (INC), L. K. Sudhish (DMDK), M. Thambidurai (AIADMK), and Anbumani Ramadoss (PMK).
- ➔ Tamil Nadu has a total of 18 members in the Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha elections use an open ballot system, where each MLA must show their marked ballot to their party's authorized agent before casting it. Independent MLAs keep their votes secret. The election follows Proportional Representation by Single Transferable Vote(STV). MLAs rank candidates in order of preference.
- ➔ In Round 1, all first-choice votes are counted. A candidate wins by reaching a specific quota calculated from the total MLAs and seats available. Winners exceeding the quota are declared elected. Surplus votes are transferred to second-choice candidates. If seats remain unfilled, the candidate with the lowest votes is eliminated and their votes redistributed based on the next preferences.

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## Upemba National Park:

- ➔ An armed attack held on the headquarters of Upemba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Upemba National Park is one of the oldest national parks in Africa, established in 1939.
- ➔ It is located in southeastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, across Lualaba, Haut-Katanga and Haut-Lomami provinces. The Park covers about 12,752 square kilometres and contains over 80 lakes, including Lake Upemba, supporting rich biodiversity.



## Global arms import:

- ➔ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported that India ranked second in global arms imports during 2021–2025. India accounted for about 8.2% of total global

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arms imports during this period. According to the report, Ukraine is ranked first, followed by India, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Pakistan.

- ➔ India has gradually reduced dependence on Russia and increased arms purchases from France, Israel, and the United States. Russia's share in India's arms imports declined from about 70% (2011–2015) to around 40% (2021–2025).



## THAAD:

- ➔ The THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defence) missile defence system developed by the United States Department of Defence is being used during the Israel–Iran conflict of 2026 to intercept ballistic missiles.
- ➔ THAAD is an advanced ballistic missile defence system designed to intercept short, medium and limited intermediate-range ballistic missiles in their final stage of flight. It uses “hit-to-kill” technology, where the interceptor destroys the incoming missile by direct collision using kinetic energy instead of an explosive warhead.
- ➔ The system can intercept missiles at a range of about 150–200 kilometres and at high altitude inside or outside the Earth's atmosphere. THAAD works as part of the BMDS (Ballistic Missile Defence System) and can integrate with systems like MIM-104 Patriot.

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## PrSM:

- ➔ The PrSM (Precision Strike Missile) was reportedly used by the United States Army during strikes in the West Asia conflict involving Iran. PrSM is a long-range surface-to-surface precision-guided missile. It is designed to replace ATACMS (Army Tactical Missile System) used by the U.S. military.
- ➔ The missile can strike targets at a range of about 60 km to over 499 km with high precision. It can be launched from MLRS (Multiple Launch Rocket System) and HIMARS (High Mobility Artillery Rocket System) platforms. It is designed to attack enemy air defence systems, command centres, and logistics bases in deep-strike operations.

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2026, March 13-14

## KSRTC:

- ➔ The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has received the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award in the “Excellence in Innovation” category for its unique initiative called “Dhwani Spandana.”
- ➔ This innovative system has been designed to help visually impaired passengers identify buses and navigate their journeys independently, making public transportation more accessible and inclusive.
- ➔ The recognition highlights KSRTC’s efforts to use technology-driven solutions to improve passenger accessibility and mobility. The Dhwani Spandana – Onboard Bus Identification and Navigation System is an assistive technology developed to help visually challenged passengers easily recognise buses and travel safely.
- ➔ The system provides audio-based guidance, enabling passengers to identify the correct bus and board it without relying on others.



## International Day to Combat Islamophobia:

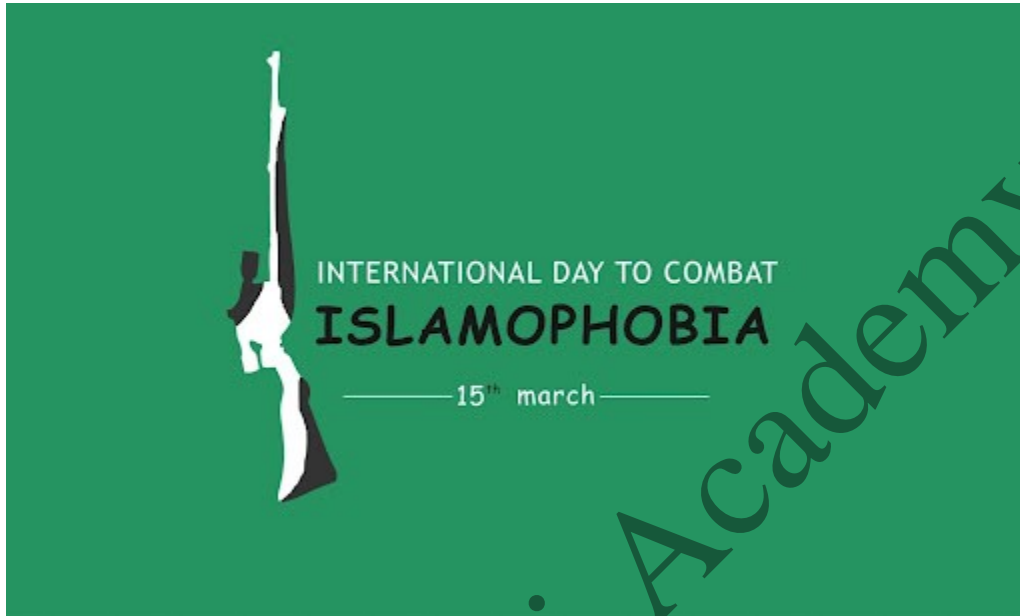
- ➔ The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed every year on 15 March to raise awareness about discrimination, prejudice, and hatred faced by Muslims around the world.

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- The day encourages countries, organizations, and communities to promote tolerance, mutual respect, and peaceful coexistence among people of different religions and cultures.
- This observance was established by the United Nations (UN) to highlight the growing concern about Islamophobia and to encourage global action against religious intolerance.



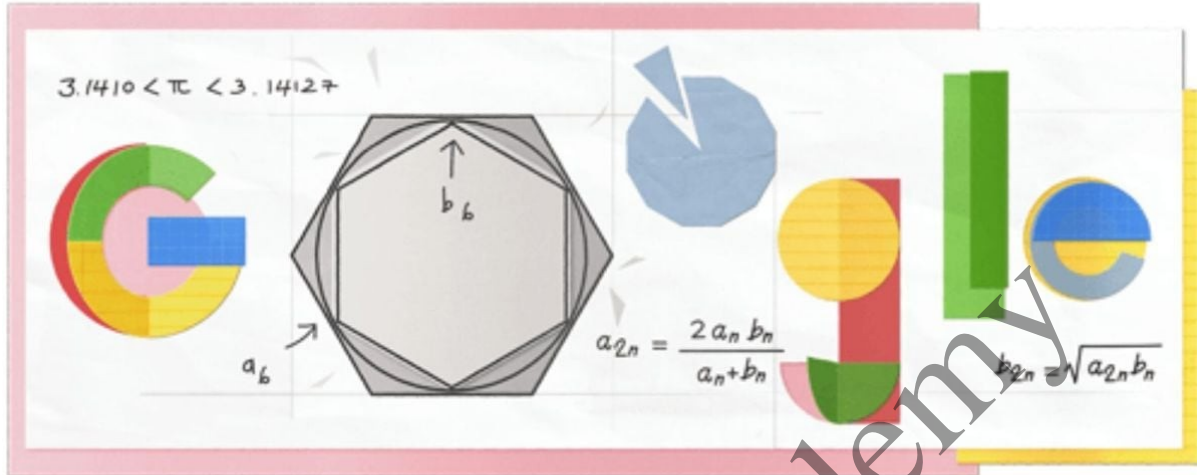
## Pi Day:

- Pi Day is celebrated every year on 14 March to honor the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi). The date 3/14 represents the first three digits of pi, which are 3.14. The day is widely celebrated by students, mathematicians, and science enthusiasts around the world.
- Pi Day highlights the importance of mathematics and encourages students to develop interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

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(Image source: Google)

## PM-KISAN:

- ➔ The 22nd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme has been released, providing financial assistance to millions of farmers across India.
- ➔ Under this installment, ₹2,000 has been transferred directly to the bank accounts of eligible farmers through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system.
- ➔ The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a central government scheme launched in February 2019 to provide financial support to farmers.

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## Araku Kouni:

- ➔ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched 'Araku Kouni', the state's first tribal millet-based food menu, during the Collectors' Conference held at the State Secretariat.
- ➔ The initiative aims to bring traditional millet-based diets of tribal communities into mainstream food culture, while also highlighting the rich culinary heritage of the tribal regions of Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ Araku Kouni is a specially curated menu featuring authentic tribal millet recipes sourced directly from indigenous communities in the Alluri Sitarama Raju district. The initiative focuses on promoting healthy millet-based foods while supporting tribal farmers and preserving their traditional cooking practices.

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## Prime Minister Narendra Modi:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a two-day visit to Assam ahead of the state assembly elections and announced several development initiatives for the region. During his visit, he inaugurated and laid foundation stones for projects worth more than ₹24,000 crore.
- ➔ The initiatives focus on improving infrastructure, energy, transport, and welfare for local communities, especially tea garden workers who have long awaited legal land ownership rights.

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- Tea tribes and Adivasi communities make up nearly 20% of Assam's population. They also play a significant role in the state's politics, as they influence voting in around 35 out of 126 assembly constituencies. Because of their large population and influence, welfare measures for this community are often a major political focus in the state.



## Indian Space Research Organisation:

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved another important milestone in rocket technology by successfully conducting a sea-level hot test of its CE20 cryogenic engine. The test was performed at a thrust level of 22 tonnes at the ISRO Propulsion Complex.
- This successful experiment is expected to improve the payload capability of India's heavy-lift rocket, the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3). ISRO carried out a sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine on March 10. The engine operated successfully for 165 seconds at a thrust level of 22 tonnes using advanced systems designed to ensure safe testing.



**SHINE:**

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- ➔ Indian Railways has launched a customised mobile application “SHINE” (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) to help women employees report sexual harassment complaints at the workplace.
- ➔ The SHINE app was launched on the occasion of International Women’s Day (8 March 2026), aiming to strengthen safety and empowerment for women staff in the railway system.
- ➔ The app allows complaints through the Human Resources Management System (HRMS) and can also be used to report incidents involving visitors, contractual staff, students, and others, ensuring confidential and faster grievance redressal.



## America First Refining:

- ➔ Donald Trump, President of the United States, announced a \$300 billion partnership with Reliance Industries to establish a new oil refinery project called “America First Refining.” The project aims to build the first major new oil refinery in the United States in nearly 50 years, marking a significant development in the country’s energy sector.
- ➔ The refinery will be located at the Port of Brownsville in Texas, United States. With an estimated value of \$300 billion, the project is being described as one of the largest investment initiatives in U.S. history.

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## Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar:

- ➔ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar has been appointed to additionally discharge the functions of the Governor of Tamil Nadu. He assumed office at Raj Bhavan Chennai on 12 March 2026. Hailing from Goa, Mr. Arlekar assumed office as Governor of Kerala in January 2025.
- ➔ The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice of the Madras High Court Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari. Former Governor R. N. Ravi completed his tenure and left the State on 11 March 2026 and now appointed as the Governor of West Bengal. R. N. Ravi had assumed office as Governor of Tamil Nadu on 18 September 2021.

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## Strait of Hormuz:

- India is exploring new energy sources and diversifying crude oil imports due to the Strait of Hormuz disruptions amid the Iran–Israel conflict. India has started importing crude oil from about 40 countries to strengthen energy security. Around 60% of India's crude imports now arrive through alternate routes.
- India imported nearly 300 million metric tonnes of crude oil and petroleum products in 2024–25. The country meets about 88% of crude oil needs and 51% of gas demand through imports. India signed a \$3 billion Liquefied Natural Gas deal with the United Arab Emirates.
- Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited maintains Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, and Padur (Udupi, Karnataka).

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### **Pavini Shukla vs Union of India:**

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India in the Pavini Shukla vs Union of India (UoI) case suggested implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to address gender bias in personal laws. Uniform Civil Code (UCC) aims to replace religion-based personal laws with a common law for all citizens, irrespective of religion, caste, creed or gender.
- ➔ Article 44 of the Constitution of India directs the State to secure a UCC for citizens across India. Matters such as marriage, divorce, adoption and succession fall under the Concurrent List (Seventh Schedule) allowing both Centre and States to make the laws.
- ➔ UCC aims to ensure gender justice, secularism, simplified legal procedures and national unity. Uttarakhand is the first State in independent India to implement UCC, while Goa follows the Portuguese Civil Code (1867) as a common civil law. The 21st Law Commission of India (2018) said a nationwide UCC is not necessary at present, suggesting reforms in existing family laws instead.

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## Foreign Direct Investment:

- ➔ The Union Cabinet of India has approved a partial relaxation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rules under Press Note 3 (2020) for countries sharing land borders with India. Press Note 3 (2020) requires government approval for investments from neighbouring countries such as China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, and Afghanistan.
- ➔ The policy was introduced in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies.
- ➔ The new relaxation allows limited FDI in selected manufacturing sectors such as capital goods, electronic capital goods, electronic components, and solar manufacturing inputs (polysilicon and ingot-wafer). Strategic sectors like semiconductors remain restricted. Investments up to 10% beneficial ownership from land-border countries can be allowed through the automatic route, while majority ownership must remain with Indian entities.

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## Harish Rana:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India allowed withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana, a 32-year-old man in a vegetative state since 2013, marking the first court-approved implementation of passive euthanasia in India.
- ➔ The bench of J. B. Pardiwala and K. V. Vishwanathan permitted withdrawal of medical treatment, including clinically assisted nutrition.
- ➔ The Court directed All India Institute of Medical Sciences to implement palliative end-of-life care ensuring dignity and comfort. Medical boards formed by the Court concluded that his condition was irreversible with negligible chances of recovery. Passive euthanasia means withdrawing or withholding life-sustaining treatment, while active euthanasia (assisted dying) remains illegal under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.
- ➔ The legal basis comes from Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which the Court interprets as including the right to die with dignity.

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## Cheetahs:

- ➔ Two cheetahs were tracked in the Mangrol range of Baran and Banjh Amla Conservation Reserve, travelling 60–70 km from Kuno National Park. The cheetahs, KP2 and KP3, are about 6 km apart on either side of the Parvati River.
- ➔ They are first-generation cubs born in India, descended from African cheetahs brought in 2022 under Project Cheetah. The project allows inter-State movement within the Kuno–Gandhi Sagar meta population landscape.
- ➔ It supports the plan for a 17,000 sq. km Kuno–Gandhi Sagar inter-State wildlife corridor covering 7 districts of Rajasthan and 8 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Nine cheetahs from Botswana arrived in India on 28 February 2026 under Project Cheetah.
- ➔ Botswana is the third African country to send cheetahs to India after Namibia and South Africa since September 2022. Project Cheetah aims to reintroduce cheetahs in India, which became extinct in 1952. Three adult cheetahs are currently kept at the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.

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## CGD:

- ➔ The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a City Gas Distribution (CGD) network project by Bharat Petroleum.
- ➔ The project will be implemented in the Nilgiris district and the Erode district. It aims to supply Piped Natural Gas (PNG) to around nine lakh households and several commercial establishments.
- ➔ CGD is a network of underground pipelines used to supply natural gas to households, industries and vehicles. Natural gas is considered a cleaner fuel compared to conventional fuels such as coal and diesel.
- ➔ The CGD network project is expected to reduce emissions and support environmental sustainability in the region. The Prime Minister also dedicated the Lube Blending Plant of Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) in Chennai to the nation.
- ➔ The plant is considered one of the world's largest lubricant blending facilities and will supply lubricants to various industries within and outside Tamil Nadu, reducing import dependence. The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for a highway bypass at Gangaikonda Cholapuram in Ariyalur district.

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## Other Backward Classes:

- ➔ The Supreme Court ruled that income cannot be the sole criterion to decide the creamy layer among Other Backward Classes (OBCs). It settled the long-pending question of equivalence between PSUs and private sector employees and those in the government sector. Earlier, those included in the ‘creamy layer’ are not entitled to OBC reservation benefits.
- ➔ Now, the Supreme Court’s judgement will be applicable to children of parents working at PSUs and in private employment. It provides relief to about 100 candidates who appeared in CSEs (Civil Service Exams) since 2015 and had been denied the OBC quota. A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan affirmed that social status, rather than just a salary, must be the primary measure for identifying the “creamy layer”.
- ➔ The Bench was hearing petitions arising due to a letter issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) with regard to the creamy layer criterion. It was clarifying an Official Memorandum (OM) issued long back in September 1993. The court noted that the OM excluded income from salary and agricultural income from the income/ wealth test for determination of creamy layer status.

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## Om Birla:

- ➔ The no-confidence motion brought by Opposition parties against Om Birla was dismissed by a voice vote. The tradition has been that when a no-confidence motion is discussed against the Speaker, the Speaker does not occupy the Chair.
- ➔ These rare motions occurred in 1954 (against G.V. Mavalankar), 1966 (against Hukam Singh), and 1987 (against Balram Jakhar). In all these instances of a motion, the House was presided over for 14 days by other officers.
- ➔ The Speaker has stayed away from presiding over the Lok Sabha since the Motion of Removal against him was admitted in the first part of the Budget Session. BJP MP Jagdambika Pal was in the presiding officer during the debate.
- ➔ According to Article 94(c) under the Constitution, the Speaker can be removed only through a resolution passed by a majority of all the members of the Lok Sabha (Effective Majority), not merely those present and voting (Simple Majority).
- ➔ The process begins when a member submits a written notice to the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha seeking removal. At least two Lok Sabha members have to sign the notice to move a resolution for the Speaker's removal. Any number of members can sign the notice, but a minimum of two is mandatory.

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- ➔ At least 14 days' notice must be given before the motion can be taken up. Once admitted, the motion requires the support of at least 50 members to proceed for discussion in the House. The procedural framework governing this process is laid down in the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, specifically Rules 200 to 203.
- ➔ Article 96 of the Constitution bars a speaker or a Deputy Speaker from presiding over the House while a resolution for his removal from office is under consideration. The Speaker has a constitutional right to defend himself in the House if the resolution is discussed in the Lok Sabha.



## International Energy Agency:

- ➔ The International Energy Agency (IEA) will release 400 million barrels of emergency oil due to tensions in West Asia. The release is the largest in IEA history from member countries' strategic reserves. IEA member nations hold 1.2 billion barrels of public emergency oil and 600 million barrels of industry stocks under government rules.
- ➔ The decision follows attacks on commercial shipping in the Persian Gulf by Iran after US and Israeli strikes. Germany, Japan and Austria will release parts of their reserves. The release aims to stabilize global oil supply amid regional security threats. The Strait of Hormuz, a key shipping route, has been disrupted, affecting oil transport.

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## Chhattisgarh government:

- ➔ The Chhattisgarh government approved the Freedom of Religion Bill 2026 to prevent illegal religious conversions. The bill prohibits conversions done by force, fraud, inducement (including financial incentives), or undue influence. The law applies to all religions and ensures conversions happen voluntarily.
- ➔ It mandates that any conversion through prohibited methods is punishable under the law. The bill aligns with the Indian Constitution (Articles 25–28), which guarantees freedom of religion but allows regulation in the interest of public order, morality, and health. The proposal aims to regulate religious conversions while maintaining public order in the state.

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**Chhattisgarh Cabinet approves  
Freedom of Religion Bill, 2026 to curb  
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2026, March 15

## Orunodoi 3.0:

- The government of Assam transferred ₹9,000 each to 40 lakh women under Orunodoi 3.0, marking a major welfare initiative for women beneficiaries.
- Around ₹3,600 crore was disbursed through Direct Bank Transfer (DBT), making it one of the largest single-day welfare fund transfers in the state. Assam Formation – 26 January 1950.



## Nirbhaya Nisha:

- Kerala Police has launched the Nirbhaya Nisha initiative to enhance women's safety during night travel across Kerala.
- The initiative provides rapid police assistance between 9 PM and 5 AM to ensure timely support for women travelling at night. Women can seek immediate help through the 112 emergency helpline, enabling quick response from the police.

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## Freedom Shield:

- ➔ The United States and South Korea began a large joint military exercise called Freedom Shield, involving thousands of troops.
- ➔ Around 18,000 South Korean troops are participating in the exercise, which will continue until March 19, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.



## Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar:

- ➔ Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Governor of Tamil Nadu, appointed A. Vijayaram as State Information Commissioner. The appointment was made under Section 15(3) of the Right to Information Act, 2005.

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- ➔ A. Vijayaram took the oath of office before the Governor at Lok Bhavan. The Governor also prorogued the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly with effect from 13 March 2026. The Assembly session had begun on 20 January 2026.



## Wallajah Big Mosque:

- ➔ The historic Wallajah Big Mosque has reopened after months of renovation by the Prince of Arcot Endowments. The Wallajah Big Mosque, also called the Triplicane Big Mosque, is a historic mosque located in Triplicane, Chennai.
- ➔ It was originally built in 1795 by Muhammad Ali Wallajah, the Nawab of the Carnatic and ancestor of the Prince of Arcot. The mosque was constructed entirely of granite, without using wood or steel. It was built in the Mughal architectural style, featuring two minarets, though it does not follow a fixed architectural design.

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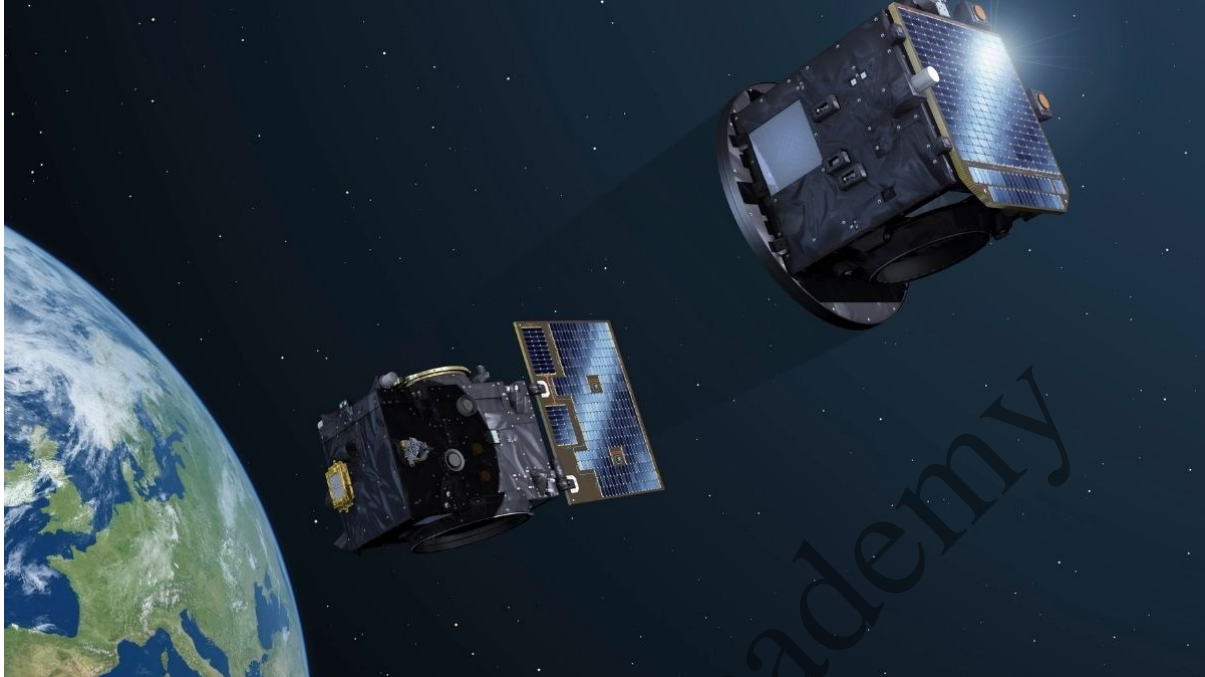
## European Space Agency:

- ➔ The European Space Agency (ESA) lost contact with the Coronagraph satellite of the Proba-3 mission due to a power failure. Proba-3 is the first precision formation-flying mission to study the Sun's outer atmosphere (corona). It was launched in December 2024 aboard the ISRO PSLV-C59 rocket.
- ➔ The mission uses twin satellites: Coronagraph (camera) and Occulter (blocks the Sun to create an artificial eclipse). It helps study Solar Winds and Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) that can disrupt satellites and power grids.

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2026, March 16

## National Vaccination Day:

- National Vaccination Day 2026 is observed in India on the 16th March every year. This year observed to promote awareness about the importance of vaccination and recognize the efforts of healthcare workers and policymakers.
- This day commemorates the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995 when the first dose of oral polio vaccine was administered across the country.
- This nationwide campaign played a major role in eliminating polio in India. National Vaccination Day highlights the importance of vaccines in preventing diseases and protecting public health.



## Osbeckia zubeengargiana:

- A new plant species which is named as *Osbeckia zubeengargiana* has been discovered in the grasslands of Manas National Park in Assam. This plant species has been named after famous Assam singer Late Zubeen Garg.

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- ➔ This discovery was made by botany experts from Gauhati University during botanical survey. This survey were carried out between 2021 and 2025. This plant is belongs to the Melastomataceae family and produce the clusters of beautiful pink flowers.



## Gujarat:

- ➔ Gujarat has created history after its first sounding rocket was successfully launched near Dholera on March 15, 2026. This mission took place at Bavliyari village near Dholera. And it is marking the state's entry into India's growing private space technology ecosystem. A major highlight of the Gujarat sounding rocket launch was the integration of a mini satellite payload onboard the rocket.
- ➔ This payload was designed to collect weather related atmospheric data during the mission. This inclusion of this scientific payload demonstrated how sounding rockets can be used for research and atmospheric monitoring. These missions help scientists study weather patterns, atmospheric conditions and environmental parameters at different altitudes.



## O. Chidambaranar Port Authority:

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- ➔ O. Chidambaranar Port Authority has become the first port in India to launch a Digital Twin initiative for advanced and technology-driven port management.
- ➔ The Digital Twin system creates a real-time replica of port infrastructure and operations, using technologies like IoT, GPS, LiDAR, drones, and CCTV to improve monitoring, predictive maintenance, and operational efficiency.



## Asia Cup Archery:

- ➔ India will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery in 2027 in Delhi, marking the return of a major international archery event after 22 years. India last hosted a major international archery tournament when the Asian Archery Championships were held in Delhi in 2005.
- ➔ The decision was finalised after a meeting between Kazi Rajib Uddin Ahmed Chapol and Virendra Sachdeva regarding upcoming international archery events.

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## Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India directed the Union Government to create a “no-fault compensation policy” for people who suffered serious adverse effects or deaths after COVID-19 vaccination. No-fault liability means victims or families can receive financial compensation without proving negligence by the government or vaccine manufacturers.
- ➔ The Court said the State has a positive obligation under Article 21 (Right to Life) to support people affected by rare vaccine complications. Monitoring of side effects is done through AEFI (Adverse Events Following Immunisation) committees. Rare serious side effects include myocarditis and pericarditis (heart inflammation) and TTS (Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome), a rare blood-clotting disorder.

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## Transgender Persons:

- ➔ The Union Government introduced a Bill to amend the Transgender Persons(Protection of Rights) Act in Parliament. The amendment proposes a new definition of “transgender person” and removes the provision of self-perceived gender identity. The 2019 Act earlier allowed people whose gender did not match their birth assigned sex to identify as transgender without mandatory medical procedures.
- ➔ The proposed Bill gives District Magistrates the authority to issue transgender identity certificates based on medical board recommendations. The amendment also introduces specific punishments for offences against transgender persons, including denial of public access or forced labour.

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## White phosphorus:

- ➔ Human Rights Watch (HRW) has claimed that Israel used white phosphorus munitions over residential areas in Yohmor, Lebanon. White phosphorus is a chemical substance that ignites immediately when exposed to oxygen and produces dense smoke.
- ➔ It is used by militaries to create smoke screens, illuminate battlefields, or mark targets. When used as an incendiary weapon, it can cause severe burns, respiratory damage, organ failure, and death. International humanitarian law restricts the use of incendiary weapons in civilian or populated areas.

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## Bureau of Indian Standards:

- ➔ Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) withdrew the 2025 seismic code (IS 1893) after concerns raised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). The earlier standard IS 1893 (Part 1): 2016 is now again applicable in India. A seismic code is a set of building standards designed to help structures withstand earthquake forces and reduce damage.
- ➔ India is divided into four seismic zones under the code: Zone II (Low), Zone III (Moderate), Zone IV (High), and Zone V (Very High). About 59% of India's land area is considered earthquake-prone according to the seismic zonation system.

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## Vairamuthu:

- Vairamuthu received the Jnanpith Award 2026, becoming the third Tamil writer to win the honour after 24 years. Earlier Tamil recipients include Akilan and Jayakanthan. Vairamuthu won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2003 for his novel Kallikattu Ithikasam.
- The Jnanpith Award is the oldest and highest literary award in India, instituted in 1961 by Bharatiya Jnanpith, founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain in 1944. The award is given to Indian writers writing in languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India and English. Out of 23 eligible languages, the award has been presented for works in 16 languages.

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2026, March 17

## Sahitya Akademi Award:

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 are officially announced on 16th of march 2026. The award is recognizing outstanding literary works across the total 24 Indian languages. This prestigious literary honour is presented annually by Sahitya Akademi.
- It is India's National Academy of Letters and it is to celebrate excellence in literature. The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 recognizes literary excellence across multiple genres which are representing India's diverse literary traditions.



## World Social Work Day:

- World Social Work Day 2026 will be celebrated around the world on 17 March 2026. This day is to recognize the contributions of social workers in building stronger and more inclusive communities.
- The theme for the World Social Work Day 2026 is the Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society,. World Social Work Day is observed

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annually on the third Tuesday of March to recognize the work and dedication of social workers worldwide.



## Foot and Mouth Disease:

- ➔ The State Government of Gujarat has launched a statewide Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccination drive to protect livestock and prevent the spread of the disease. This campaign was begun on March 1 and it will continue until April 15 across the state. It is being implemented under the National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) which is the major initiative aimed at eliminating major animal diseases in India.
- ➔ Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a viral disease that mainly affects cloven hoofed animals, including cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats. The National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP) is a central government initiative.
- ➔ This initiative is aimed at controlling and eventually eliminating diseases like Foot and Mouth Disease and Brucellosis in livestock. Under this program the large scale vaccination campaigns are conducted across different states.

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## Kusunpur village:

- ➔ Kusunpur village in Kendrapada district of the Odisha is set to become the first smart village of the Odisha. This initiative has been launched by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ➔ This project aims to transform the village and in which has around 130 families and a population of 700. It will be turn into a model of sustainable and self reliant rural living. The Kusunpur smart village Odisha project is designed to the bring advanced technology and scientific solutions directly to rural communities.
- ➔ This initiative will follows a mission mode approach where multiple research institutions collaborate to implement practical and scalable solutions. The primary goal is to create a self sufficient, climate resilient and sustainable village model. This initiative is expected to serve as the blueprint for developing smart villages across India.



## National Highways Authority of India:

- ➔ National Highways Authority of India has revised the FASTag Annual Pass fee from ₹3,000 to ₹3,075 for the financial year 2026–27, effective from 1 April 2026. The FASTag Annual Pass is available for eligible non-commercial vehicles such as cars, jeeps, and vans with a valid FASTag, and it can be used on National Highways and National Expressways.

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- The pass, launched on 15 August 2025, remains valid for one year or up to 200 toll plaza crossings (whichever is earlier) and can be purchased via the Rajmarg Yatra App or the National Highways Authority of India.



## Chapchar Kut:

- The spring festival Chapchar Kut was celebrated with traditional fervour in Aizawl. It is the largest traditional spring festival of the Mizo people, celebrated after clearing forests for jhum (shifting) cultivation, marking the arrival of spring.
- The week-long festival concluded with the theme “Zo Nun Ze Mawi: Inremna” (Mizo Ethics: Reconciliation) and witnessed a large gathering, including V. K. Singh and C. Lalsawivunga.



## Arpita Patra:

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- Arpita Patra, a professor at the Indian Institute of Science, successfully climbed Nevado Ojos del Salado. Nevado Ojos del Salado is located in the Atacama Desert in the Andes Mountains on the Chile–Argentina border and is the highest mountain in Chile.
- Earlier, she had climbed Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa), Mount Elbrus (Europe), Mount Giluwe (Oceania), and Pico de Orizaba (North America).



## Tamil Nadu Assembly election:

- The announcement of the Tamil Nadu Assembly election schedule was made on March 15. Consequent to the announcement of the election schedule, the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) came into force in Tamil Nadu in the evening. The Model Code of Conduct (MCC) is a set of rules issued by the Election Commission to guide political parties and candidates during elections.
- This is in keeping with Article 324 of the Constitution, which gives the Election Commission the power to supervise elections to the Parliament and state legislatures. The model code of conduct consists of seven sections which deal with general conduct, meetings, processions, party in power, polling booth, polling day and election manifestos.

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**SCHEDULE FOR TAMIL NADU**  
(All 234 Assembly Constituencies)

Poll Events	Date and Day
Date of Issue of Gazette Notification	30.03.2026 (Monday)
Last Date for making Nominations	06.04.2026 (Monday)
Date for the scrutiny of Nominations	07.04.2026 (Tuesday)
Last date for the withdrawal of candidatures	09.04.2026 (Thursday)
Date of Poll	<b>23.04.2026</b> <b>(Thursday)</b>
Date of Counting	04.05.2026 (Monday)
Date before which election shall be completed	06.05.2026 (Wednesday)

## Kharg Island:

- ➔ The United States carried out air strikes on military targets on Kharg Island, the main oil export hub of Iran. It is located in the northern Persian Gulf, about 50–55 km from the Iranian mainland and northwest of Bushehr port. Kharg Island is a five-mile-long coral island formed from coral limestone deposits.
- ➔ Unlike many islands in the Gulf, it has natural freshwater resources, which supported settlements in the past. It lies close to the Strait of Hormuz, one of the world's most important oil shipping chokepoints.

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## **Supplementary Demands for Grants:**

- ➔ The Lok Sabha approved the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for 2025–26. The finance minister proposed the Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF) with a total outlay of ₹1 lakh crore.
- ➔ The ESF is intended to help India respond to global crises, sudden economic shocks, and supply chain disruptions.
- ➔ Supplementary Demands for Grants are required when the budget approved by Parliament for a financial year is insufficient for a particular service.
- ➔ The President lays these demands before both Houses of Parliament, and they must be passed before the end of the financial year. Supplementary Demands for Grants are mentioned under Article 115 of the Indian Constitution.



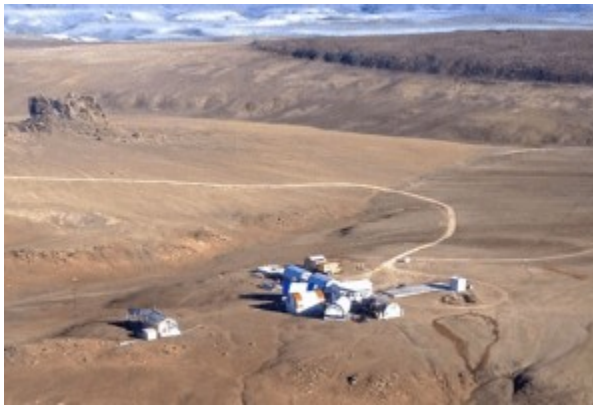
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## Devon Island:

- The Scientists are studying Devon Island in Nunavut, Canada, as a natural site to test technologies and survival methods for future Mars missions. It is the world's largest uninhabited island and has a polar desert environment with very low temperatures and almost no vegetation.
- The island contains the Houghton Impact Crater, a 20-km-wide meteorite crater that resembles the rocky surface of Mars. Scientists also conduct experiments, such as the Arthur Clarke Mars Greenhouse, to study how plants could grow in Mars-like soil.



## Bakiribu waridza;

- Scientists discovered a new flying reptile species, Bakiribu waridza, from a 100- million- year-old fossilised regurgitate (dinosaur vomit). The fossil was found in the Araripe Basin of Brazil, a major Cretaceous fossil site.
- It is the first extinct species described entirely from fossilised regurgitated material (regurgitalite). The remains likely came from a predator such as a Spinosaurid dinosaur. The pterosaur had hundreds of thin teeth used for filter-feeding, similar to modern flamingos.

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2026, March 18

## Ordnance Factory Day:

- ➔ Ordnance Factory Day 2026 is observed across the India on 18 March. This day is to celebrate the India's rich legacy in defense manufacturing and self reliance.
- ➔ This day marks the beginning of production at India's first ordnance facility in Cossipore in the Kolkata in 1802. This occasion highlights the contribution of ordnance factories in strengthen national security by supplying weapons, ammunition and the military equipment.



## National Para Athletics Championship:

- ➔ The National Para Athletics Championship 2026 is set to take place at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar in Odisha. This will be bringing together top para athletes from around the India. This event will shows the participation from 1,460 athletes an it will representing 28 states.
- ➔ Also this time along with teams from the Border Security Force (BSF) and Services Sports Control Board (SSCB). This championship will be held from March 19 to March 21, 2026 and the total 145 medal games to held.

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## Sea Dragon 2026:

- ➔ India has joined the U.S. led multinational naval exercise Sea Dragon 2026. This exercise is currently being held near Guam. The Indian Navy is participating alongside forces from country like Australia, Japan and New Zealand.
- ➔ This exercise to enhance coordination and combat readiness in anti submarine warfare. This two week exercise focuses on detecting and tracking submarines in complex maritime environments.



## USS Gerald R Ford:

- ➔ Aircraft carriers are among the most powerful assets in modern naval warfare. They act as floating airbases, allowing countries to project military power far beyond their shores. The United States operates the world's most advanced aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford, while India has developed its first indigenous carrier, INS Vikrant. USS Gerald R Ford represents the latest generation of aircraft carriers.
- ➔ It is designed with advanced technology, high automation, and future warfare capabilities. INS Vikrant is India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier and a major milestone in defense manufacturing. It strengthens India's naval presence in the Indian Ocean region.

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USS Gerald R Ford is significantly larger, with a displacement of around 100000 tons, while INS Vikrant is about 43000 tons.



## Uniform Civil Code:

- ➔ Gujarat has taken an important step towards implementing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC). The Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai committee submitted its final report to Chief Minister of Gujarat Bhupendra Patel.
- ➔ This report has been presented in three volumes and it outlines a detailed legal framework. This framework is aimed at creating uniform personal laws across communities.
- ➔ The Justice Ranjana Desai committee report on the UCC Gujarat provides a comprehensive blueprint for harmonizing personal laws. These recommendations focus on bringing consistency in civil matters across religions while maintaining social balance.
- ➔ The Uniform Civil Code Gujarat framework aims to replace the diverse personal laws with a single set of rules. These rules are applicable to all the citizens in civil matters. Currently, the personal laws differ across religions in India and especially in areas like marriage and inheritance.

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## Maharashtra Assembly:

- ➔ Maharashtra Assembly has passed the Freedom of Religion Bill 2026. This bill is to prevent forced religious conversions across the state. This bill was approved by voice vote and introduced the strict penalties for conversions.
- ➔ These conversions are carried out through coercion, fraud, inducement or marriage. The government stated that the law aims to ensure transparency and protect constitutional rights.



## Punjab Vidhan Sabha:

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- The state of Punjab Vidhan Sabha has unanimously passed the Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur World-Class University Bill 2026. This new university will be established at Sri Anandpur Sahib. This place is the place of deep historical and spiritual significance.
- This initiative aims to create a cutting edge institution focused on advanced and emerging fields likes such as defense, aerospace, cyber security and quantum computing.



## IIT Guwahati:

- IIT Guwahati researchers have developed the unique material that can produce the hydrogen fuel and also purify seawater. This dual purpose innovation used a special MXene based catalyst to address two global challenges.
- This two challenges are the clean energy and safe drinking water. This material enables efficient hydrogen production through electrolysis while supporting solar powered desalination.

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## Department of Posts:

- ➔ Department of Posts has launched the '24 Speed Post', offering next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery for urgent consignments, inaugurated by Jyotiraditya M. Scindia. In the first phase, the service will be available in six major cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, enhancing fast logistics in metro regions.
- ➔ The service includes OTP-based secure delivery, real-time tracking with SMS alerts, free pickup, BNPL facility, and money-back guarantee, strengthening premium services of India Post.

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## Haldia Bulk Terminal:

- ➔ PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Haldia Bulk Terminal(West Bengal), a fully automated dry bulk handling facility at the Haldia Dock Complex.
- ➔ The terminal is part of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port and is India's first fully automated dry bulk cargo handling facility on the Hooghly River. It has been developed by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, boosting efficiency in cargo operations and maritime infrastructure.

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## **Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project:**

- ➔ Narendra Modi virtually inaugurated the 120 MW Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project in Assam, located in Dima Hasao and Karbi Anglong districts.
- ➔ The project is a run-of-river hydropower project built in the Kopili River basin, enhancing clean energy generation. It has been developed by Assam Power Generation Corporation Limited with financial support from the Asian Development Bank under the Assam Power Sector Investment Program.

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## Early Chola Dynasty:

- ➔ Early Chola Dynasty period sculptures and inscriptions were discovered on the bed of the Cauvery River near Musiri. The sculptures of Dakshinamurthy and Vinadhara Shiva were found about 200 metres from the river bund and likely belonged to a ruined temple.
- ➔ A stone slab contains two Tamil inscriptions dated to the 10th century C.E. One inscription records 120 kasu (ancient coins) donated to the sabha of Mahendramangalam to maintain two perpetual lamps in a temple. Another inscription mentions tax-free land donated to the temple as devadana (gift to the deity).

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## Union Public Service Commission:

- ➔ The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) revised the rules for appointing the State Director General of Police (DGP). States must now seek permission from the Supreme Court of India if there is any delay in sending the names of eligible officers for DGP empanelment. States must send proposals to UPSC at least three months before the retirement of the current DGP.
- ➔ The rule follows the judgment in Prakash Singh vs Union of India, which laid guidelines for police reforms and DGP appointments. The Supreme Court clarified that there is no concept of an “acting DGP” and that states must appoint a regular DGP. UPSC prepares a panel of three senior IPS (Indian Police Service) officers, from which the State government selects the DGP.

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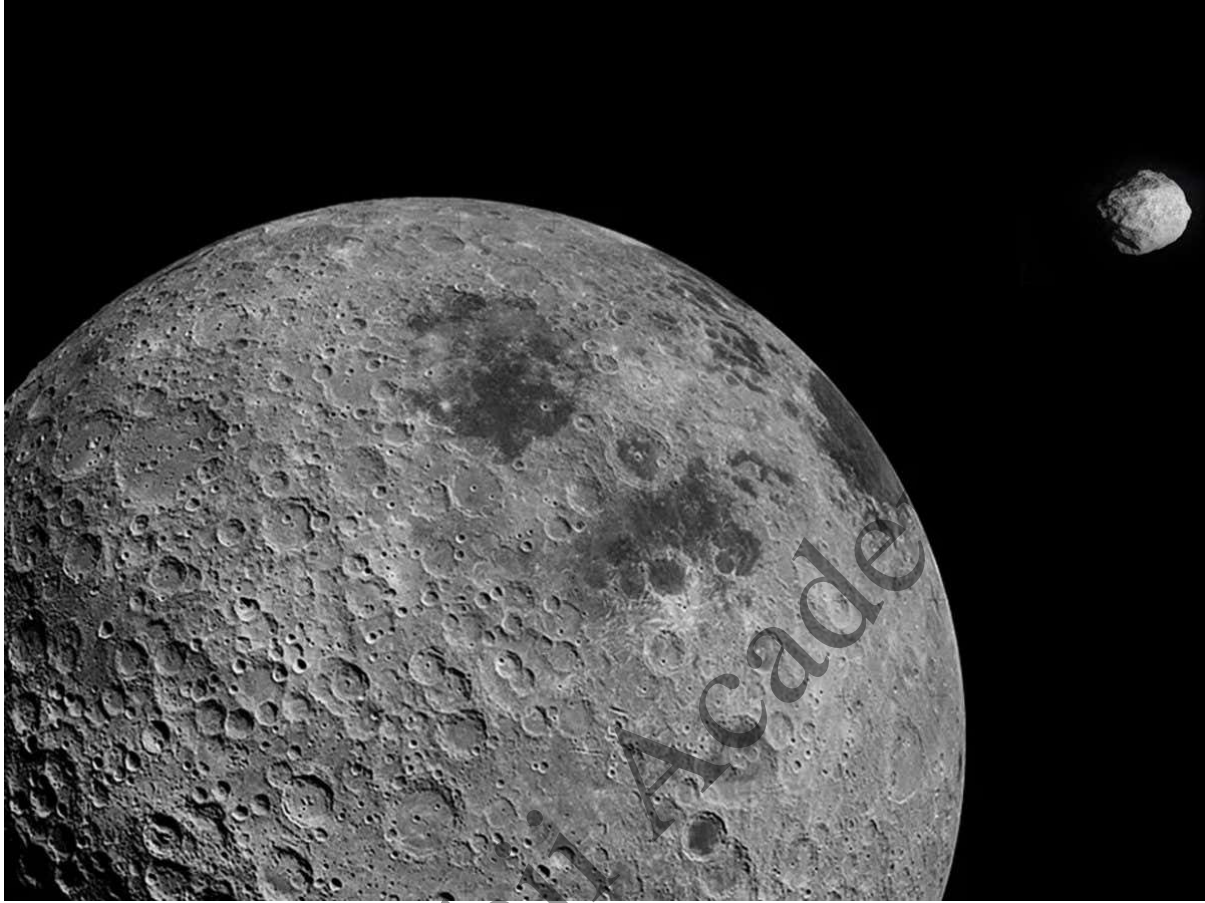
## NASA:

- ➔ NASA confirmed that Asteroid 2024 YR4 will not collide with the Moon in 2032 after new observations. The asteroid was discovered in 2024 and was earlier predicted to have about a 3.8–4.3% chance of hitting the Moon on 22 December 2032.
- ➔ Scientists refined its orbit using observations from the James Webb Space Telescope. New calculations show the asteroid will pass the Moon at a safe distance of about 21,200 kilometres. The asteroid is about 65 metres wide and is classified as a Near-Earth Object (NEO).

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### **Zoological Survey of India:**

- ➔ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered nine new species during a faunal survey at Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary in the Western Ghats. The survey recorded 977 species across 21 faunal groups, including 511 vertebrates (286 birds, 97 reptiles, 77 mammals, 36 amphibians, and 15 fish) and 466 invertebrates.
- ➔ The sanctuary is part of the Srivilliputhur–Megamalai Tiger Reserve, India's 51<sup>st</sup> tiger reserve, notified in 2021, covering about 1,016 sq km. Many species found in the survey act as bio-indicators that help measure water quality and ecosystem health.

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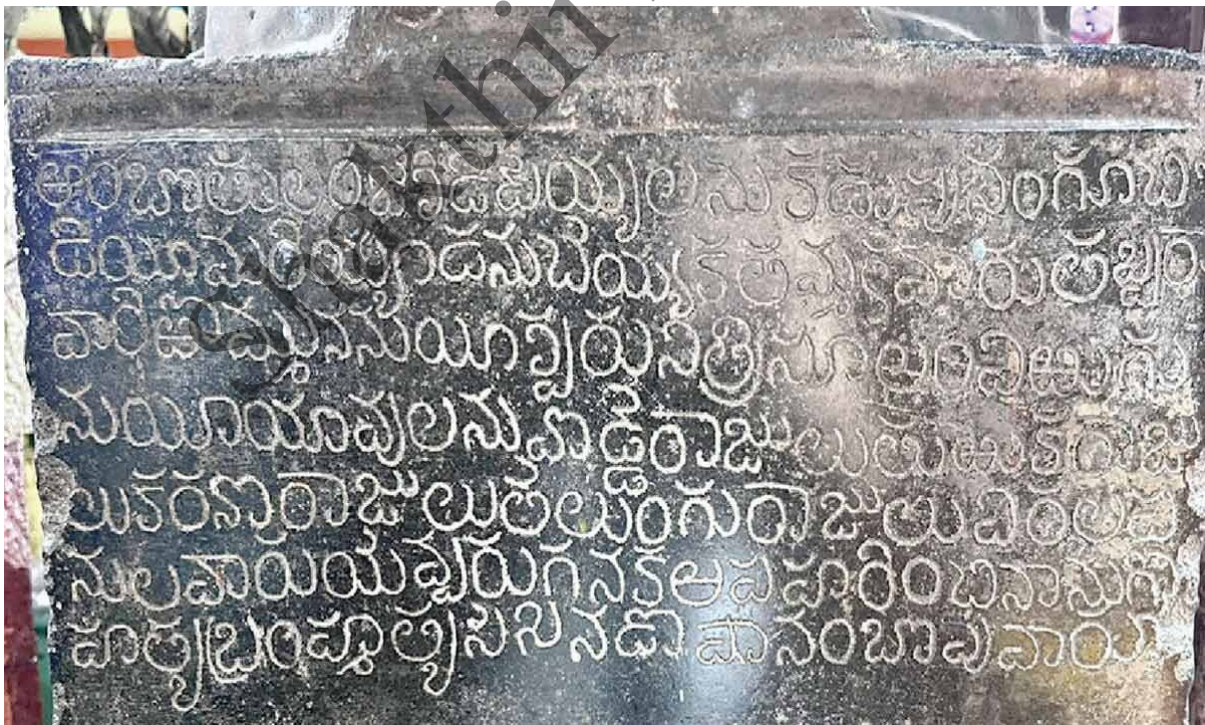
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## Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy:

- A medieval Telugu inscription linked to the Gajapathi dynasty was discovered at the Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh. The inscription is associated with Purushottama Deva, a 15th-century ruler of the Gajapathi kingdom of Odisha. It mentions Kumaraguru Mahapatra, a steward officer serving under the Gajapathi ruler.
- The inscription was found on a stone pillar in the temple mandapa and is written in Telugu. The temple artefacts are believed to have been brought from Kondaveedu Fort, an important medieval centre in Andhra Pradesh.



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2026, March 19

## Gudi Padwa:

- Gudi Padwa 2026 will be celebrated on the March 19, 2026. This day is marking the beginning of the Marathi New Year. This festival is widely celebrated in Maharashtra and Goa with great enthusiasm and devotion.
- This day falls on the Pratipada Tithi of Shukla Paksha in the month of Chaitra according to the Hindu lunisolar calendar. This festival symbolizes the new beginnings, prosperity and victory of good over evil.



## Ugadi:

- Ugadi 2026 will be celebrated on Thursday March 19 and this day is marking the beginning of the Telugu New Year. This important festival is widely celebrated in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana with traditional rituals and festive celebrations.
- The Ugadi symbolizes a fresh start, spiritual renewal and the arrival of spring. The Ugadi 2026 rituals and traditions are deeply rooted in cultural practices followed by communities likes of Telugu and Kannada.

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### **Floating LiDAR:**

- ➔ India has taken a major step in ocean technology with the successful testing of the Floating LiDAR Buoy System. This advanced system is designed to measure wind conditions over the sea with high precision.
- ➔ It will play an important role in improving weather forecasting, cyclone prediction, and offshore wind energy planning. The Floating LiDAR Buoy System is a modern ocean-based device used to measure wind speed and direction over the sea.

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## Liaoning:

- ➔ India and China are two major powers in Asia, and both are strengthening their naval forces. Aircraft carriers play a key role in sea dominance. India's INS Vikrant and China's Liaoning are often compared as symbols of naval strength.
- ➔ INS Vikrant is India's first indigenously built aircraft carrier. It shows India's growing self-reliance in defense. Liaoning is China's first operational aircraft carrier. It was originally a Soviet ship and later refurbished by China.



## USS Nimitz:

- ➔ India's INS Vikrant and the United States' USS Nimitz are two powerful aircraft carriers, but they belong to very different categories. While Vikrant represents India's growing naval strength, Nimitz is a symbol of unmatched global dominance.
- ➔ USS Nimitz is one of the largest and most powerful aircraft carriers in the world. It is nuclear-powered and part of the US Navy's global fleet.

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## IOS SAGAR:

- ➔ The Indian Navy has launched the second edition of IOS SAGAR on March 16 2026. This initiative focuses on to the enhancing collaboration among countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). This program comes soon after the India had assumed the chair of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) in February 2026.
- ➔ This will highlighting its growing leadership in regional maritime security. SAGAR Vision : Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) focuses on the ensuring a safe and stable maritime environment in the Indian Ocean.
- ➔ MAHASAGAR Framework: Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions (MAHASAGAR) also expands the cooperation to a wider regional context, emphasizing collective growth and security. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) is a key platform for cooperation among the navies in the Indian Ocean Region.



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## Prambanan Temple:

- India and Indonesia have strengthened the cultural ties by collaborating on the restoration of the Prambanan Temple complex.
- This discussion took place on March 16 2026, when Indonesia's Culture Minister Fadli Zon met the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) team in Jakarta. This initiative focused on the preserving to one of Southeast Asia's most important heritage sites.
- This partnership will showing growth in international cooperation in cultural conservation. The Prambanan Temple restoration project is not limited to the single structure but also covers the broader cultural landscape. The Indonesian government also emphasized that Prambanan should be preserved along with nearby Sewu and Plaosan temples.



## Haemodialysis policy:

- Tamil Nadu has adopted a single-use haemodialysis policy to improve patient safety in government hospitals. The policy aims to eliminate the reuse of dialysers for patients undergoing dialysis in public healthcare facilities.

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- Other states like Telangana, Karnataka, and Gujarat have already introduced similar single-use dialyser policies. Single-use dialysers offer advantages such as better efficiency, improved patient safety, and reduced risk of infections.



## Sejjil Ballistic Missile:

- Iran has reportedly deployed the Sejjil Ballistic Missile for the first time in active combat during a military operation against positions linked to the United States and Israel.
- The Sejjil is an indigenous two-stage medium-range ballistic missile developed by Iran's aerospace industries.
- The missile has an operational range of about 2,000 km and can carry a warhead of around 700 kg. The missile is nicknamed the "dancing missile" because it can perform evasive manoeuvres, making interception by missile defence systems difficult.

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## Zoological Survey of India:

- ➔ The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new lichen moth species (*Caulocera hollowayi* and *Asura buxa*) in the eastern Himalayas. These species were found in the Sikkim and West Bengal regions.
- ➔ Lichen moths belong to the order Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths). The eastern Himalayas are a major biodiversity hotspot with rich biodiversity. Lichen moths act as indicators of air quality as they depend on pollution-sensitive lichens.

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*Cautocera hollowayi* S. Singh, N. Singh & Bhattacharya, 2026



*Asura bixa* Bhattacharya, S. Singh & N. Singh, 2026



## Ladakh:

- ➔ Protests in Leh and Kargil demanded the statehood, Sixth Schedule status, Public Service Commission (PSC), and greater representation for Ladakh. Ladakh became a Union Territory (UT) without legislature after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, leading to a “representation deficit”.
- ➔ Around 97% of the population belongs to tribal communities, seeking protection of land, culture, and the fragile ecosystem. Demand includes inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution (Article 244(2)) for Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).
- ➔ The Sixth Schedule currently applies to tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. Concerns include strategic security due to borders with China and Pakistan, along with constitutional and administrative challenges. Ladakh Reservation (Amendment) Regulation, 2025 provides 85% reservation and domicile-based safeguards for locals.

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2026, March 20-21

## International Day of Happiness:

- ➔ International Day of Happiness is celebrated globally on March 20. And this day as recognized by the United Nations to promote happiness and well-being as universal human goals. This day highlights the idea that happiness is not just a personal feeling but a global development goal.
- ➔ The UN recognizes only economic growth is not enough and it must be balanced with social well being and environmental sustainability. The day encourages governments to focus on policies that will improve quality of life, including healthcare, education, equality and social justice. It also promotes the awareness that happiness is closely linked to peace, stability and effective governance.



## World Oral Health Day:

- ➔ World Oral Health Day is observed globally on March 20. This day observed to promote awareness about dental hygiene and preventive care. For 2026 the theme 'A Happy Mouth is a Happy Life' and it highlights the link between oral health and overall well-being.
- ➔ Technical Experts emphasize that simple daily habits like proper brushing, flossing and night care routines can prevent infections and reduce risks of disease.

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### **Eid al-Fitr 2026:**

- ➔ Eid al-Fitr 2026 is being celebrated on the March 20 in Saudi Arabia, UAE and Gulf countries. Eid al-Fitr falls on the first day of Shawwal which is the 10th month of the Islamic lunar calendar. The exact date depends on the sighting of the crescent moon and it varies across regions.
- ➔ In 2026 Saudi Arabia and UAE already seen the moon sighting on March 19 and it also leading to Eid celebrations on March 20 in respective countries. Countries like India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are usually observe Eid a day later due to geographical differences. So this time South Asia will start celebrations on March 21.

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### **World Puppetry Day:**

- ➔ World Puppetry Day 2026 is being celebrated globally on the March 21st every year. The day is to promote and preserve the rich tradition of puppetry arts.
- ➔ This day highlights the importance of the puppetry as a cultural and educational tool. First time it was initiated in 2003 by UNIMA and the event brings together puppeteers, artists and several cultural organization.

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### **International Nowruz Day:**

- ➔ International Nowruz Day is observed on March 21 and the day is celebrating the Persian New Year and the arrival of season spring. It was recognized by the United Nations as Nowruz marks the vernal equinox with symbolizing renewal, hope and new beginnings.
- ➔ The day is celebrated for over 3,000 years and it is observed across regions like Iran, Central Asia, the Caucasus. It brings together diverse cultures through shared traditions, peace and call for unity.

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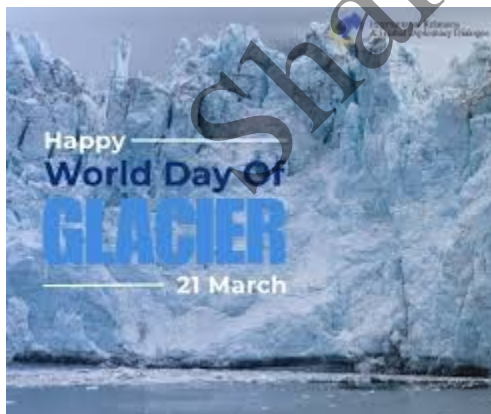
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## Glaciers:

- ➔ The World Day for Glaciers 2026 is observed on the March 21 and is to raise awareness about the how critical role glaciers play to sustain life on Earth. The massive ice formations store nearly about 70% of the world's freshwater and it make them essential for ecosystems and human survival.
- ➔ The day is recognized by the United Nations and also highlights the urgent need to protect glaciers because they are melting is concerning.



## International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination:

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- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every year on March 21. This day is to promote equality and fight racism worldwide. The day also commemorates the tragic Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 in where 69 peaceful protesters were killed in South Africa.
- The day was established by the United Nations and observance highlights the need for global action against racial discrimination.



## Sheshnaag-150 and Iran's Shahed-136:

- Modern warfare is rapidly shifting toward low-cost, high-impact drone systems. Countries are now investing in swarm drones that can overwhelm even advanced air defence systems. India's Sheshnaag-150 and Iran's Shahed-136 are two such powerful loitering munitions that are changing the battlefield.
- While both are designed for long-range strikes, their technology and strategy are very different. The Sheshnaag-150 is India's advanced AI-enabled swarm drone system developed by New Space Research and Technologies. The Shahed-136 drone is a kamikaze drone designed for one-way attack missions.

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## Tamil Nadu:

- ➔ Tamil Nadu has emerged as the India's top textile exporter in 2024-25 with state has surpassing Gujarat and Maharashtra with exports worth of \$7,997.17 million. In the last four years state recorded a strong growth of over 29% which is reflecting consistent policy support and expansion.
- ➔ With this numbers, its contribution to India's total textile exports now stands at 21.84%. State has witnessed steady growth in textile exports increasing from \$6,193 million in 2020-21 to nearly \$8 billion in 2024-25. With strong industrial base, skilled workforce and export oriented production ecosystem played the role for the growth.



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## Sagar Defence Engineering:

- ➔ Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd. has laid the foundation of the world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre in the Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.
- ➔ The centre will operate as an advanced shipyard using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics for modern shipbuilding processes. It aims to enhance efficiency, productivity, and sustainability in the maritime and defence manufacturing sector.



## Supreme Court of India:

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India struck down the age cap on maternity leave for adoptive mothers as unconstitutional. The court ruled that Section 60(4) of the Social Security Code, 2020, violated equality and the right to life under Articles 14 and 21.
- ➔ It has granted 12 weeks of maternity leave to adoptive mothers irrespective of the child's age at adoption. The earlier rule limited benefits only to children below three months, making it impractical and discriminatory. The court also urged the government to consider paternity leave as part of social security benefits.

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### **MC Mehta v. Union of India:**

- ➔ The Supreme Court of India has closed the 40-year-old MC Mehta v. Union of India case related to air pollution in Delhi-NCR. The case was originally filed in 1985 by environmentalist MC Mehta and became a landmark Public Interest Litigation in environmental law. Over the years, the case led to major measures like CNG adoption in Delhi transport and stricter pollution control norms.
- ➔ The court has now initiated a suo motu case titled “Re: Issues of air pollution in NCR” to address ongoing concerns more effectively. It also directed those pending applications be converted into separate writ petitions for better case management. The move aims to ensure faster and more focused handling of air pollution issues in the National Capital Region.

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### **Coconut:**

- ➔ The government announced the Coconut Promotion Scheme in Budget 2026–27 to boost coconut production and farmer income. India is the world's largest coconut producer, contributing about 30.37% of global coconut production. Coconut is cultivated on about 2165 thousand hectares and produces around 21,373 million nuts annually.
- ➔ Nearly 30 million people, including about 10 million farmers, depend on coconut cultivation for their livelihood. The scheme focuses on improving productivity, replacing old trees, and promoting high-value agriculture crops like coconut, cashew and cocoa.

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The infographic is titled "UNION BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT COCONUT PROMOTION SCHEME". Below the title, it states: "To enhance productivity, replace old and senile palms and supply quality planting material to strengthen farmer income". The infographic is divided into four colored boxes: 1. Yellow box: "REPLANTING & REJUVENATION" with an image of palm trees being cut and replaced. Text below: "Cut and removal of palms, replanting with quality seedlings and Rejuvenating existing palms." 2. Green box: "QUALITY PLANTING MATERIAL PRODUCTION" with an image of rows of young palm seedlings in a nursery. 3. Purple box: "DIVERSIFY FARM OUTPUTS, INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY" with an image of a coconut grove. 4. Pink box: "ENHANCE FARMERS INCOME AND TO CREATE NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES" with an image of various coconut-based products like oil, milk, and sweets.

## Dirghavadhi Krishak Punji Sahakar Yojana:

- ➔ The Dirghavadhi Krishak Punji Sahakar Yojana has been launched by the National Cooperative Development Corporation under the Ministry of Cooperation to strengthen long-term credit for cooperatives.
- ➔ The scheme aims to provide long-term financial support for agriculture and allied sectors, promoting capital formation and rural infrastructure development.
- ➔ It targets cooperative societies with sound financial performance to ensure steady institutional credit flow and improve productivity. National Cooperative Development Corporation conducts appraisal, monitoring and loan sanction with proper security and due diligence norms.

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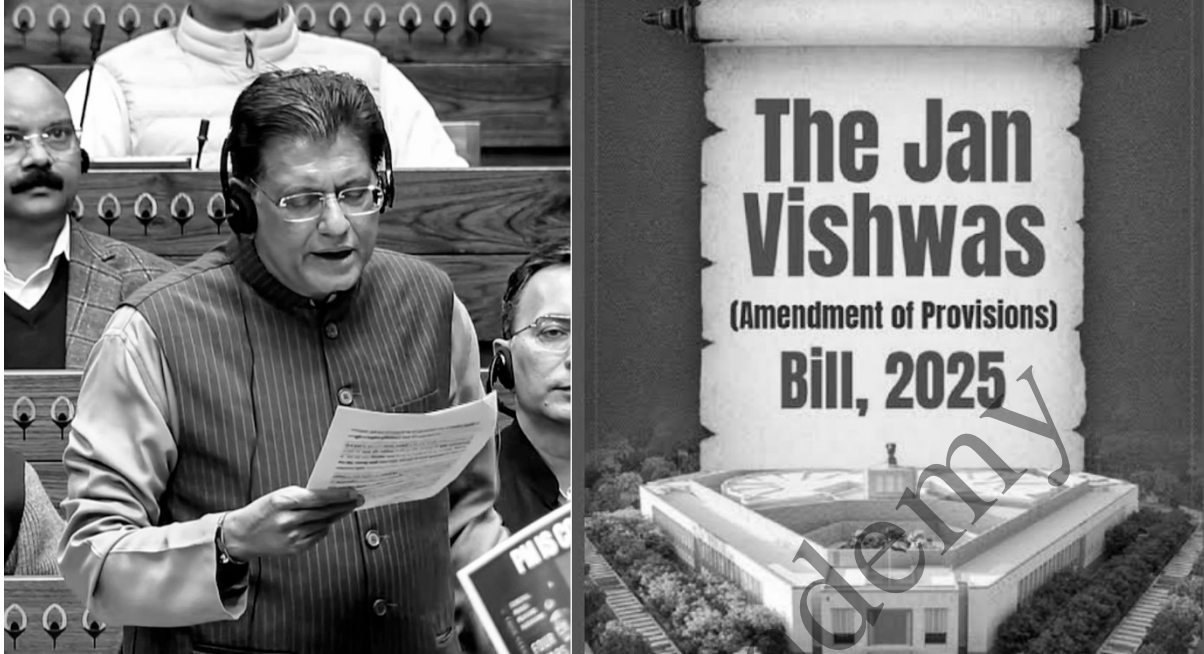
## Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill:

- ➔ The government withdrew the Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2025, from Lok Sabha after Select Committee review to incorporate detailed recommendations and improvements. The bill aims to decriminalize minor offences across various laws by replacing imprisonment provisions with monetary penalties and fines.
- ➔ It seeks to reduce the burden on courts, minimize litigation, and promote ease of doing business in India. Withdrawal is a procedural step allowing the government to revise, refine and reintroduce the bill with stronger provisions.

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## Asia Africa Agri Alliance:

- ➔ Asia Africa Agri Alliance has been established to boost trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between Asia and Africa. It is set up as a not-for-profit institution under Section 8 of the Companies Act to create structured frameworks for partnerships and policy alignment.
- ➔ The alliance focuses on improving agri-food value chains and promoting knowledge and technology sharing between the regions. Asia and Africa together contribute over 40 percent of global agricultural production, making this collaboration important. The bilateral agricultural trade between the two regions exceeds 90 billion US dollars annually.

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### **Tamil Nadu Government:**

- ➔ The Tamil Nadu Government has amended maternity leave rules to provide more benefits and flexibility to women employees. Women employees can now get 365 days of maternity leave for one additional delivery, even if the first delivery resulted in twins. Earlier, in such special cases, only 2 weeks to 6 weeks of maternity leave was allowed under the old service rules.
- ➔ The amendment follows important orders of the Supreme Court of India (2025) and the Madras High Court (2026). As per the revised rules, women with two or more surviving children can get up to 12 weeks' leave with full salary. The changes are based on provisions of the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Tamil Nadu Fundamental Service Rules, 1922.

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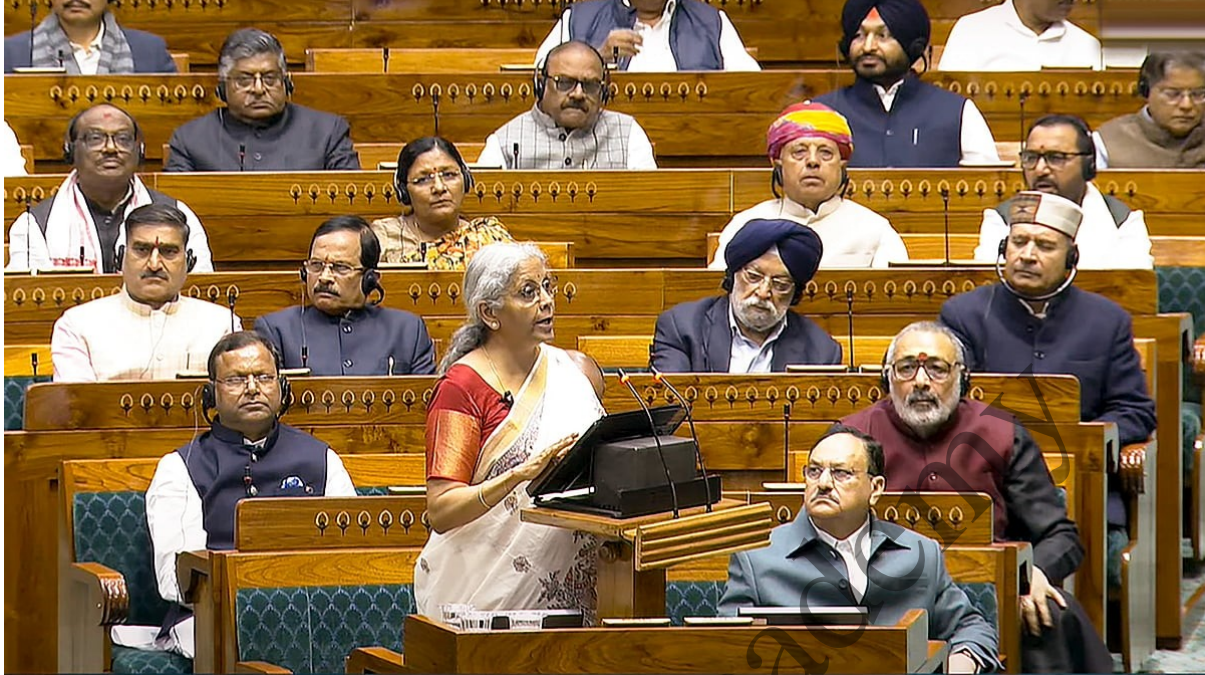
### **Appropriation Bill 2026:**

- ➔ Parliament passed the Appropriation Bill 2026, allowing the Union Government to withdraw and spend funds for the financial year. It authorizes withdrawal of money from the Consolidated Fund of India to meet expenses of ministries, departments and government schemes.
- ➔ It is mandated under Article 114 of the Constitution, making it legally necessary for all government expenditure. It is introduced after voting on Demands for Grants in the Lok Sabha as part of the annual budget process. It is classified as a Money Bill under Article 110, so the Rajya Sabha cannot amend or reject it.

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### **Silent Valley National Park:**

- ➔ Researchers discovered a rare case of gynandromorphy in a freshwater crab species in Silent Valley National Park, Kerala. The species *Vela carli* showed both male and female characteristics (gynandromorphy condition).
- ➔ This is the first recorded case of such condition in the freshwater crab family Gecarcinucidae. The species is endemic to the Western Ghats and found in tree holes inside the forest ecosystem.

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### **Kalinjar Hill:**

- ➔ Kalinjar Hill was declared a National Geo-Heritage Site by Geological Survey of India. The site lies in the Vindhya Range and exhibits the rare Eoparchaeon Unconformity, where rock layers of different geological ages meet.
- ➔ It features 2.5-billion-year-old Bundelkhand granite overlain by 1.2-billion-year-old Kaimur sandstone, offering insights into Earth's early history. Kalinjar Fort used the rocky terrain for natural defence and was built using locally available stone, showing a strong geo-cultural link. The site has historical and religious importance, including the Neelkanth Mahadev Temple linked to the Samudra Manthan legend and references in Buddhist texts.

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2026, March 22

## World Water Day:

- World Water Day is observed globally on the March 22 and the day raise awareness about water conservation and access to safe drinking water. In 2026 the focus highlights the connection between the water and gender equality. It also emphasizing how women and girls are disproportionately affected by water scarcity.
- The United Nations calls for inclusive solutions that empower women in water management. World Water Day is an annual UN observance day which focuses on the importance of freshwater.
- Also advocates for the sustainable management of water resources. It highlights the global water challenges, including scarcity, pollution and unequal access.



## BHAVYA:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore to boost industrial development in India. Under the scheme, 100 industrial parks will be developed across the country, each spanning 100 to 1,000 acres.
- BHAVYA follows the industrial corridor model (building on NICDP) and provides up to 25% support for external infrastructure, ensuring strong connectivity with transport networks.

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## Phool Dei:

- ➔ Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami celebrated the traditional folk festival Phool Dei in Uttarakhand. The festival marks the arrival of the spring season and is considered a Spring/Harvest Festival.
- ➔ It is mainly celebrated in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions, reflecting the rich cultural traditions of the state.



## Argentina:

- ➔ Argentina has officially withdrawn from the World Health Organisation, following a similar move by the United States.
- ➔ The withdrawal was initially announced in February last year and later formalised, with the US completing its exit in January. The decision was taken under the government of Javier Milei, marking a significant shift in global health cooperation.

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## A guillotine:

- ➔ The Lok Sabha recently invoked the guillotine procedure to clear the Demands for Grants for the 2026–27 fiscal year. A guillotine is a parliamentary mechanism used to fast-track approval of financial demands in a limited time.
- ➔ It is invoked by the Lok Sabha Speaker when discussion time is over, and many demands remain pending. Under this, all pending “Demands for Grants” are put to a vote together without further discussion.



## United Nations Commission on the Status of Women:

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- ➔ The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) concluded its 70th session in 2026, where member states adopted important conclusions on gender equality. It is a functional commission under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the main global body for women's rights.
- ➔ Established in 1946, it aims to promote gender equality and women's empowerment across political, economic, and social fields. It sets global standards, monitors progress on Sustainable Development Goal(SDG) 5, and reviews implementation of international agreements. It focuses on issues like legal reforms, digital safety, access to justice, and women's health rights worldwide.



## Meghalaya government:

- ➔ The Meghalaya government extended the tenure of the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) by six months. The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting held in Shillong, Meghalaya, amid protests and unrest in the Garo Hills region.
- ➔ The issue is related to demands to restrict non-tribal participation in GHADC elections. GHADC is a body under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, meant to protect tribal rights and governance. The extension allows time for discussions on electoral reforms and helps reduce tensions in the region.

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2026, March 23

## Shaheed Diwas:

- India observes Shaheed Diwas on March 23 2026 and remembering the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev. They were executed by the British on this day the year 1931. This day is not just about the history but about courage, youth and the spirit of freedom.
- At such a young age their sacrifice continues to inspire millions across the country. In modern times their contribution is still relevant.



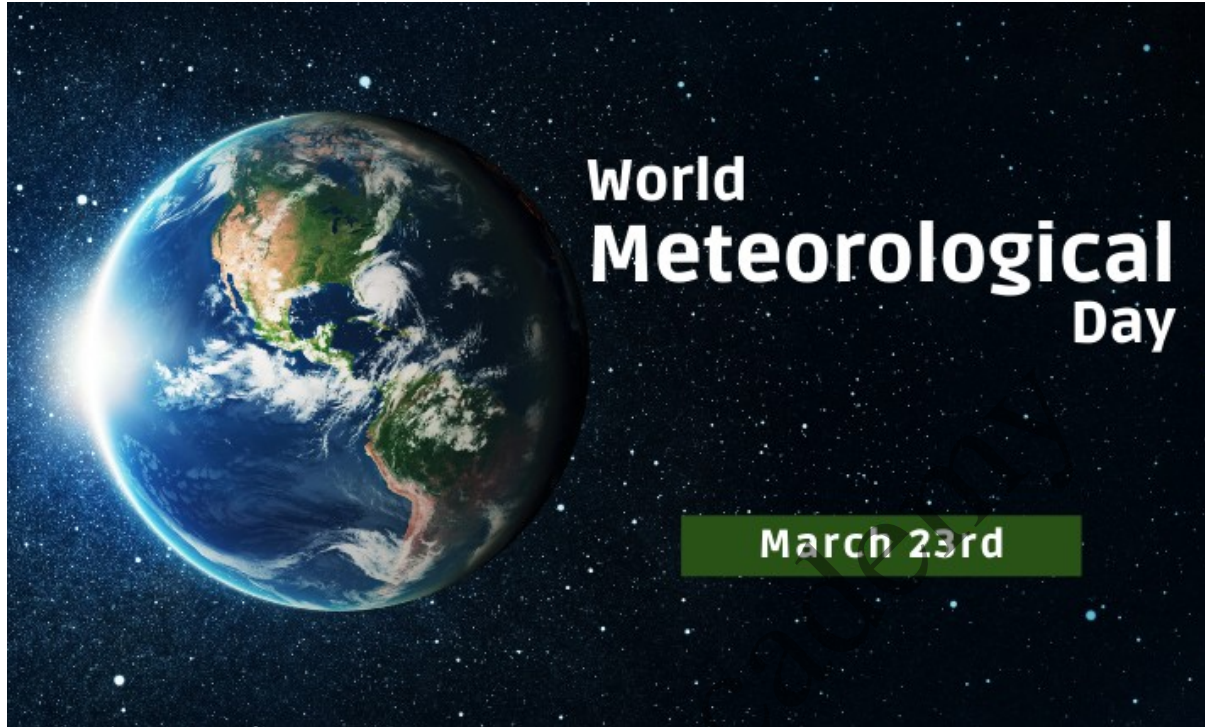
## World Meteorological Day:

- World Meteorological Day is observed on March 23 every year. The day highlight the importance of weather and climate science. In 2026 the theme is around ‘Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow’ and which focuses on how accurate weather data helps tackle climate change and natural disasters.
- The day also marks the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). World Meteorological Day (WMO) commemorates the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on March 23 1950.

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## **INS Taragiri:**

- ➔ The Indian Navy is set to commission the INS Taragiri on April 3 2026 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. It is marking a major step to strengthening India's maritime security. This new stealth frigate is built under Project 17A and it highlights the India's growing defense prowess and self-reliance.
- ➔ The launching event set to be attended by Defense Minister of India Rajnath Singh. INS Taragiri is the fourth stealth frigate under the Project 17A program. And it is which focuses on building the modern warships with improved stealth and combat abilities.
- ➔ Built by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) of Mumbai and it is showcasing India's shipbuilding expertise. This warship has a displacement of around 6,670 tonnes and making it a powerful asset for the Indian Navy.

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## Finland:

- ➔ Finland remains the world's happiest country for the 9th consecutive year, continuing the dominance of Nordic nations in global happiness rankings. The World Happiness Report 2026 highlights that excessive social media use is reducing happiness levels among young people, especially in Western and English-speaking countries.
- ➔ India ranks 116th out of 147 countries, showing a slight improvement from its 118th position in 2025. The report is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre in partnership with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

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### **Indoor Athletics Championships:**

- ➔ India will host the World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, marking a major boost for India's global sports profile.
- ➔ The hosting rights were granted by the World Athletics Council, reflecting confidence in India's sporting infrastructure and organizational capacity. The event will take place at the Kalinga Stadium Complex, while the 2025 edition is being held in Toruń, Poland.

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## World Forestry Day:

- World Forestry Day (also known as International Day of Forests) is observed annually on March 21. Theme 2026 – Forests and Economies.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the importance of forests and their role in sustaining biodiversity and climate balance. It was established by the United Nations to promote forest conservation and sustainable management worldwide.



## Election Commission of India:

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- The Election Commission of India has allowed postal ballot voting for senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PwDs), service voters, and essential service workers in Assembly elections. The facility is provided under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to improve voter participation.
- Voters above 85 years and PwDs can cast votes through postal ballots after submitting Form 12D via Booth Level Officers. Service voters will receive ballots electronically through the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).



## National Dental Commission:

- The Government of India established the National Dental Commission, replacing the Dental Council of India, to reform dental education and regulation. It aims to improve the quality of dental education, ensure transparency in admissions and exams, and provide affordable oral healthcare services to people.
- The commission has three autonomous boards that look after dental education, assessment of institutions, and professional ethics of dentists. It replaces the old system under the Dentists Act 1948, bringing a modern and structured regulatory framework. The commission is headed by Dr. Sanjay Tewari and focuses on accountability and better governance in the dental sector.

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### **Global Terrorism Index:**

- ➔ Global Terrorism Index 2026 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace. Pakistan ranked 1st with the highest impact of terrorism, recording 1,139 deaths and 1,045 incidents in 2025.
- ➔ India ranked 13th with a score of 6.43, reporting over 142 incidents and more than 100 deaths. The report covers 163 countries, representing about 99.7% of the world's population. Globally, terrorism deaths decreased by 28% to 5,582, and incidents fell by 22% in 2025.

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## **Göbekli Tepe:**

- ➔ Göbekli Tepe provides important new evidence about the origins of early human civilisation. It is located in Turkey and dates back to around 9600 BCE. It is considered the world's oldest known temple complex, older than the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge.
- ➔ The site has large T-shaped limestone pillars with detailed carvings of animals such as foxes, lions and birds. It was built by hunter-gatherers, showing that organised social life existed even before agriculture began. The site was deliberately buried around 8000 BCE, and the exact reason is still not known.

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## Neumark-Nord:

- ➔ A major archaeological discovery at Neumark-Nord shows that Neanderthals had organised methods of food processing. The site is located in Germany and dates back to around 125,000 years ago. Archaeologists found thousands of animal bones broken in a systematic pattern to extract marrow and fat.
- ➔ The bones were further crushed and heated to obtain grease, showing planned and repeated activity. This proves that Neanderthals had advanced survival skills and a proper understanding of nutrition. The site was used repeatedly, indicating it worked like a specialised processing area or “factory”.



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2026, March 24

## Karnataka Grameena Bank:

- ➔ Karnataka Grameena Bank has been awarded the 'National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG Bank Linkage 2024-25' by the Union Ministry of Rural Development. The recognition was announced on March 23 2026 during the national conference in Hyderabad.
- ➔ The SHG-Bank Linkage Program (SHG-BLP) was launched by NABARD (National Agricultural Bank For Rural Development) in 1992 to connect Self-Help Groups with formal banking institutions.
- ➔ It is considered as one of the largest microfinance initiatives in the world. The program focused on providing collateral-free loans to SHGs and encouraging the savings habits and promoting financial literacy among rural populations.



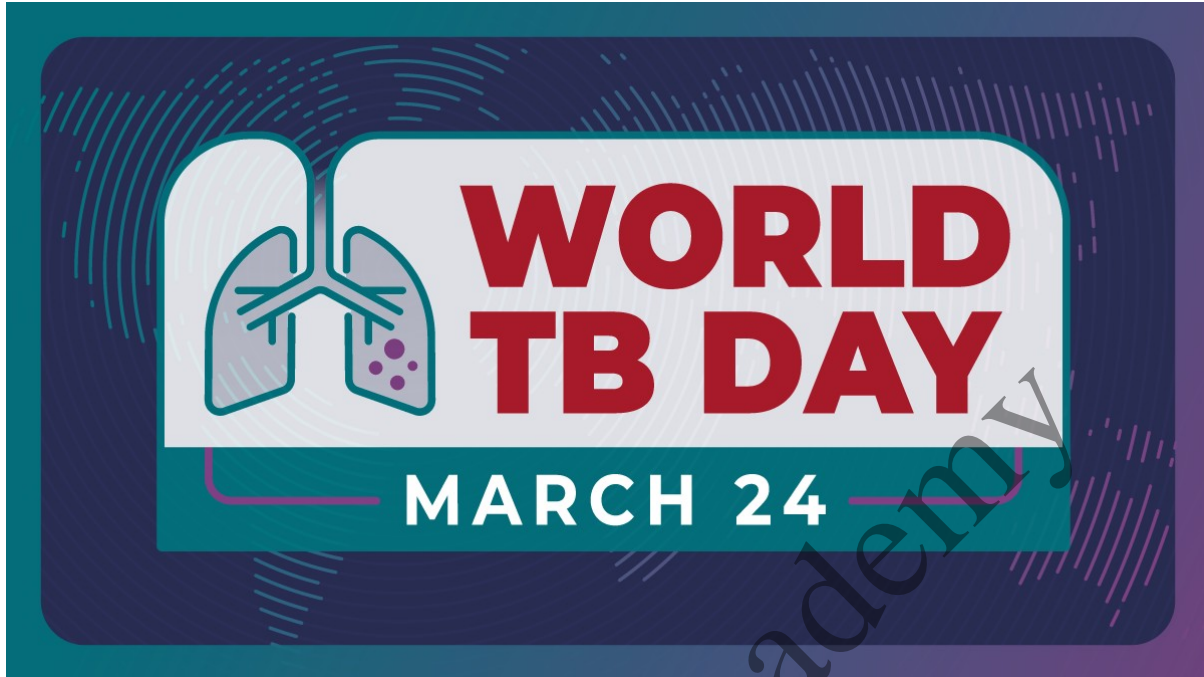
## World TB Day:

- ➔ World TB Day 2026 is observed on 24 March around the world. This year's theme comes with a powerful message 'Yes! We Can End TB' at a time when tuberculosis continues to affect millions people worldwide.
- ➔ Despite the being preventable and treatable disease nearly 10.7 million people fell ill and 1.23 million died from TB in 2024. Since the year 2000 around 83 million lives have been saved and it showcase that progress is possible. This year's theme emphasized strong leadership, public participation and innovation to eliminate TB by 2030.

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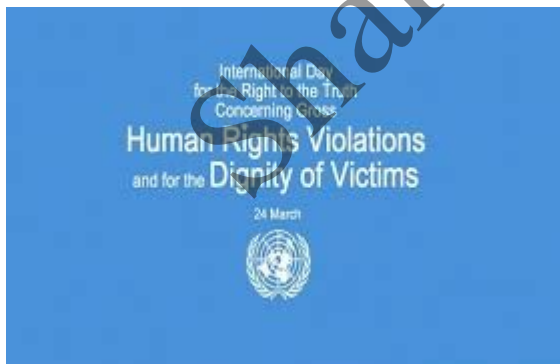
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## **24 March:**

- ➔ The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed on 24 March. The day reminds the world about the importance of justice, transparency and human dignity.
- ➔ The day was Established by the United Nations and it highlights the right of victims and their families to know the truth about serious human rights violations occurred. It also honors those who sacrificed their lives for fighting injustice.



## **Central Armed Police Forces:**

- ➔ The Union government is set to introduce the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026. This bill could significantly impact leadership in India's

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paramilitary forces. This Bill aims to retain the dominance of IPS officers in CAPFs reversing earlier efforts to reduce their deputation.

- ➔ This development has sparked debate over control, promotions and career growth within forces like BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, and SSB. The CAPF Bill 2026 aims to formalize the administrative control and leadership structure in Central Armed Police Forces.
- ➔ It also focuses on ensuring that Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to continue to hold top positions in these forces. Currently The IPS officers are appointed on deputation to lead CAPFs. With this new Bill aims to strengthen this system by providing the clear legal framework which supports their continued presence in senior roles.



## Gujarat state government:

- ➔ The Gujarat state government has digitized 20 high demand citizen services under the Sugam Digital Gujarat Initiative. This initiative is aiming to deliver faceless, cashless and paperless governance.
- ➔ It was announced on March 23 2026 it enables the complete online service delivery mechanism through the Digital Gujarat portal. It also uses technologies like Aadhaar authentication, DigiLocker, eSign and UPI payments to improve transparency and ease of access.

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## Musi River:

- ➔ The Telangana State Government has announced the formation of a Cabinet sub-committee for the Musi River Rejuvenation Project.
- ➔ This committee formation aimed at to transform Hyderabad's urban landscape. honorable Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has confirmed the move while addressing the Legislative Council. Initiative will focuses on river development, environmental improvement of river and better living conditions.

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## Garro Hills Autonomous District Council:

- ➔ The Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) in Meghalaya has passed an amendment and makes Scheduled Tribe (ST) Certificate mandatory to contest the elections. This was announced on March 24 2026 by the State Chief Minister Conrad Sangma.
- ➔ Also this move comes after weeks of tension and controversy which were developing in the region. The decision aims to reinforce the tribal character of the council. The GHADC amendment introduced the new eligibility condition which required for the candidates to be members of recognized Scheduled Tribes of Meghalaya.
- ➔ It means that non-tribal residents even if he is permanent in that part can no longer contest elections to the council. The GHADC operates under the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.
- ➔ Sixth Schedule which provides the special administrative autonomy to tribal areas in Northeast India. The councils are designed to protect tribal identity, customs and governance systems. That's why to restricting membership to Scheduled Tribes aligns with the main intent of these institutions.

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## Prosopis juliflora:

- ➔ The Madras High Court ordered the eradication of *Prosopis juliflora* (an invasive alien species) from Tamil Nadu. *Prosopis juliflora* is a plant species native to the Americas and was introduced in India during the colonial period.
- ➔ It is a shrub or small tree in the family Fabaceae, a kind of mesquite. It is native to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean. It grows rapidly in arid and semi-arid regions and outcompetes native plants.
- ➔ The plant consumes large amounts of groundwater and degrades soil quality. Its spread reduces biodiversity and harms local ecosystems.



## Narendra Modi:

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- Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving head of the government in March 2026. He completed 8,931 days in office, combining his tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister and Prime Minister. He surpassed Pawan Kumar Chamling (Sikkim CM), who held the previous record of 8,930 days.
- Narendra Modi served as Gujarat Chief Minister from 2001 to 2014 before becoming Prime Minister in 2014. He has led his party to victory in three Lok Sabha elections (2014, 2019, 2024). Jawaharlal Nehru holds the record for the longest uninterrupted tenure as Prime Minister.



## Sarhul:

- Sarhul is a major tribal festival celebrated recently mainly in Jharkhand and parts of Odisha, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh. It marks the worship of nature and the arrival of the spring season in tribal communities.
- The festival is associated with the sacred Sal tree, believed to be the abode of the village deity (Sarna Maa). It symbolises the union of the Sun and the Earth, representing renewal of life and ecological balance.

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2026, March 25

## International Day of the Unborn Child:

- ➔ The International Day of the Unborn Child 2026 is observed globally on March 25. The day is highlighting the importance of life before birth and raising awareness about the dignity of unborn children.
- ➔ The day was established during the time of Pope John Paul II and the day is marked as a reflection on the value of life. And it is observed in several countries and the day continues to spark discussions on ethics, human rights and the protection of the life.



## International Day of Solidarity:

- ➔ The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed to honor United Nations personnel who risk and often lose their lives while serving globally.
- ➔ The day observed globally around the world on the 25th March every year. As the rising threats to peacekeepers and humanitarian workers the day has gained renewed importance in recent years. It also draws attention to the dangers faced by UN staff and calls for global action to ensure their safety.

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# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE



## Ram Navami:

- Ram Navami 2026 will be celebrated on March 26 2026 (Thursday) across India with the great devotion and enthusiasm. This is the sacred Hindu festival which marks the birth anniversary of Lord Rama and the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu.
- The day is observed on the Navami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Chaitra month and it is also known as Ram Janmotsav. Devotees perform pooja rituals, recite Ramayana, and visit temples to celebrate the festival.

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## Gujarat state government:

- ➔ The Gujarat state government has created history after passing the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026 in the State Assembly on March 24 2026. It was tabled by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and the Bill proposes the common legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships across all religions.
- ➔ The state has become the second state to implement a UCC law after Uttarakhand. As per the bill details, its provisions will not apply to Scheduled Tribes (STs) and certain groups. This group customary rights are protected under the Constitution. The exemption is significant because the tribal communities enjoy special protections under Fifth and Sixth schedules of the Constitution of India.
- ➔ It also ensures that the UCC does not override the traditional custom practices that are constitutionally safeguarded. The idea of Uniform Civil Code is mentioned in Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) in the Constitution of Indian. It encourages the State to implement the uniform set of civil laws for all citizens.

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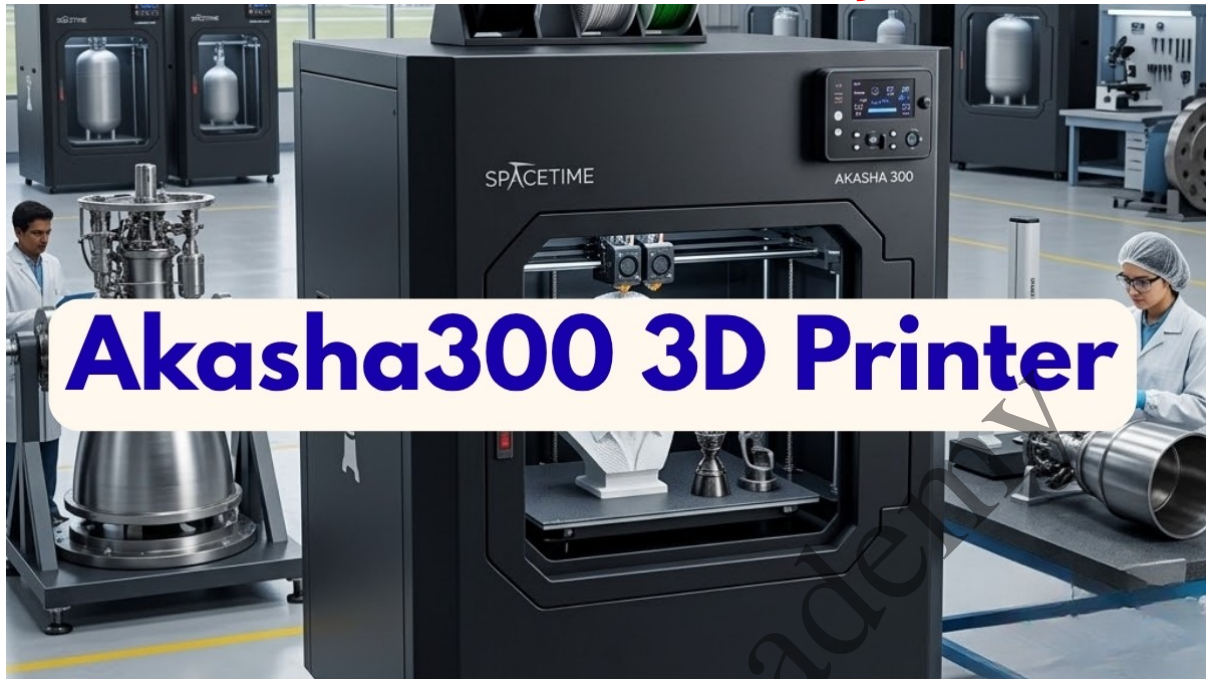
## Akasha300 3D printer:

- ➔ For India's space technology boost the Akasha300 3D printer which is developed by Kerala-based startup Spacetime 4D has been delivered to ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC). This industrial-grade and high-temperature 3D printer will mark an important step toward self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in the aerospace manufacturing.
- ➔ The printer was designed to produce the complex components for space missions. It is a high-temperature, multi-material extrusion 3D printer and specifically engineered for advanced aerospace applications. As compared to standard 3D printers, it is capable of handling engineering-grade thermoplastics and composite materials which are required for extreme conditions in space.

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### **Ningol Van Initiative:**

- ➔ The Manipur Government launched the “Ningol Van Initiative” on the occasion of International Day of Forests to strengthen forest conservation and promote community participation.
- ➔ The initiative focuses on enhancing women’s participation in biodiversity protection and sustainable practices, with plans to expand similar programmes across all districts.

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## SATHEE App:

- ➔ The Ministry of Education launched the SATHEE App in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. SATHEE (Self-Assessment Test and Help for Entrance Exams) is a free digital platform for exam preparation like JEE, NEET, CUET, SSC, RRB, and IBPS. It provides video lectures, mock tests, study material, and previous year question papers for students.
- ➔ The app includes AI-enabled (Artificial Intelligence-enabled) features for personalized learning and tracking. It aims to support economically weaker students by providing free, quality education and accessible learning resources.

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## Fujairah Port:

- ➔ The Fujairah Port in the UAE was attacked amid the Iran–US–Israel conflict. Attacks also hit the Shah gas field, one of the world's largest sour gas fields, halting production and supply.
- ➔ These attacks caused energy disruptions and reduced crude exports from the UAE. The disruptions affect global oil supply, especially via the Strait of Hormuz, a key energy route.

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## Pakistan day:

- ➔ Pakistan day is observed every year on March 23 to mark the adoption of the Lahore Resolution. The resolution was passed in 1940 by the All-India Muslim League in Lahore. It called for independent states for Muslims in the north-western and eastern regions of India.
- ➔ In 1956, Pakistan adopted its first Constitution and became an Islamic Republic on the same day. The Minar-e-Pakistan was later built at the site where the resolution was adopted.

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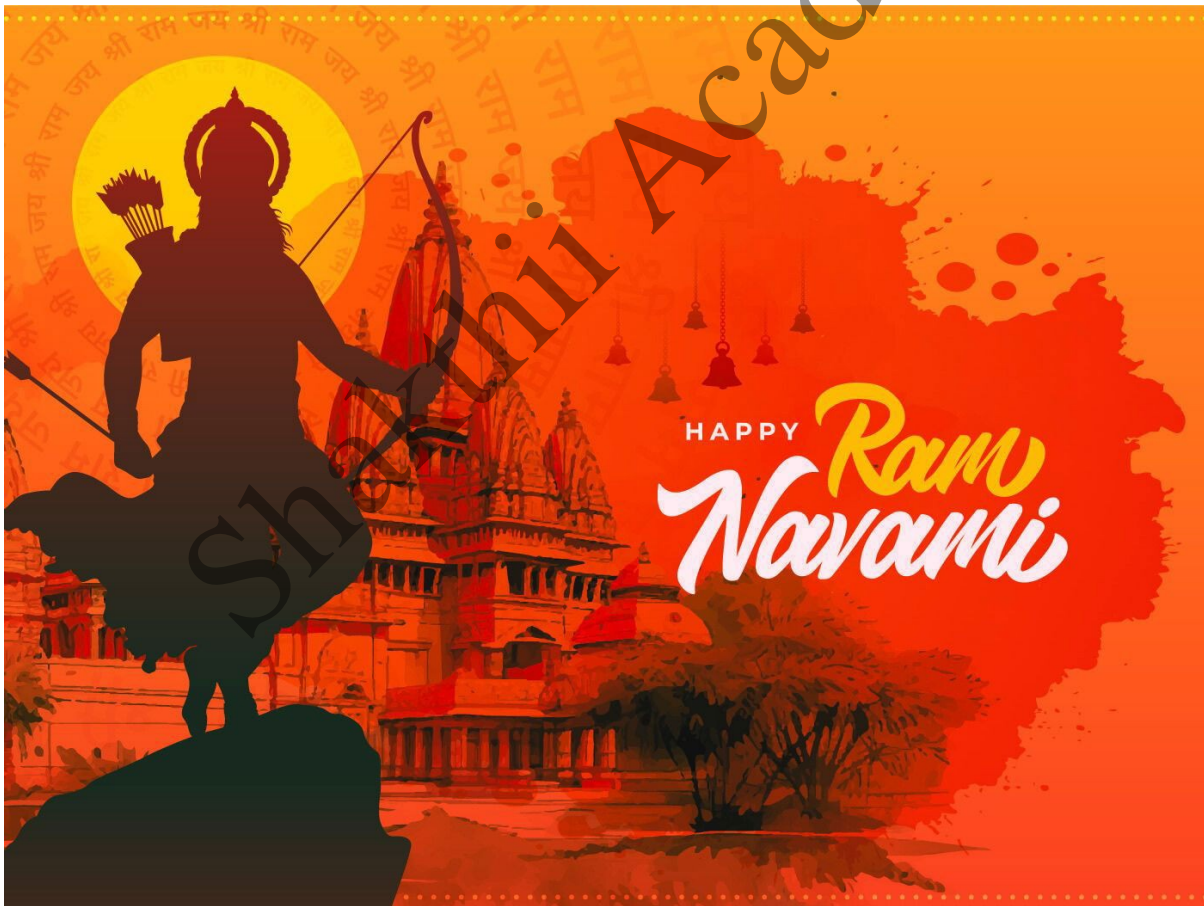
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2026, March 26-27

## Ram Navami:

- ➔ Ram Navami 2026 will be celebrated on March 26 2026 (Thursday) across India with the great devotion and enthusiasm. This is the sacred Hindu festival which marks the birth anniversary of Lord Rama and the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu. The day is observed on the Navami Tithi of Shukla Paksha in Chaitra month and it is also known as Ram Janmotsav.
- ➔ Devotees perform pooja rituals, recite Ramayana, and visit temples to celebrate the festival. Ram Navami is celebrated with great enthusiasm by people throughout India, especially in Ayodhya and it is believed to be Lord Rama birthplace.
- ➔ Devotees begin the day with a holy bath also often in sacred rivers like the Saryu River and then followed by temple visits and prayers. People Homes and temples are decorated with flowers, lights and diyas creating a divine atmosphere.



## Operation Urja Suraksha:

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- ➔ As the tensions are rising in West Asia India has launched Operation Urja Suraksha. Under which it has deployed multiple naval warships to safeguard cargo vessels near the Strait of Hormuz. The Indian Navy is actively escorting the India-bound ships which are carrying critical energy supplies such as crude oil, LPG and LNG.
- ➔ As with nearly 20 vessels stuck due to conflict-related risks and this mission showcase the India's urgent efforts to protect its energy security.
- ➔ Operation Urja Suraksha is the strategic naval mission launched by the Indian Navy. This to ensure the safe movement of cargo ships in conflict affected areas. Under this operation more than five frontline warships which are including destroyers and frigates have been deployed in the Gulf of Oman.



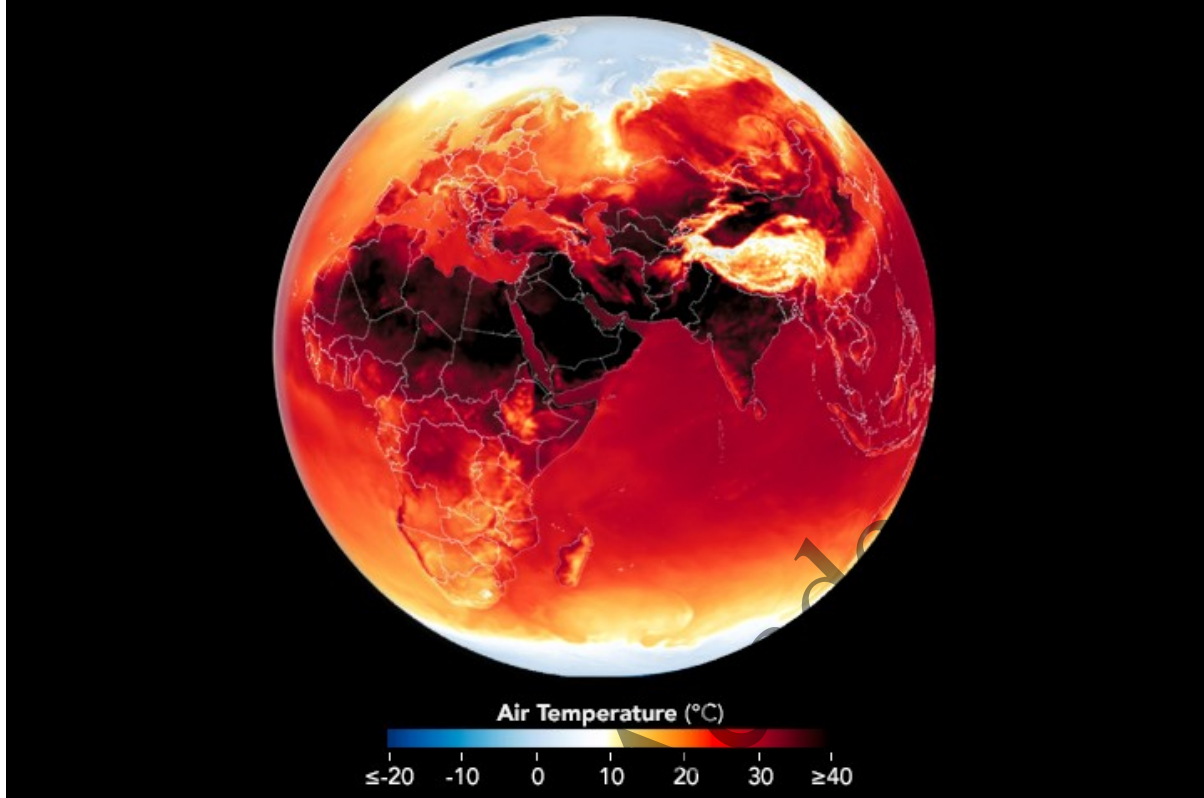
## UV radiation:

- ➔ India and Indian sub continent faces the longer summers and rising temperatures in that an often ignored thing but it is too serious is gaining intensity ultraviolet (UV) radiation. As the people regularly check temperature and air quality but the the UV Index (UVI) remains largely overlooked despite the direct indicator of skin damage risk. Even on the cloudy or cool days UV radiation can remain dangerously high.
- ➔ Technical Experts warn that ignoring the UV Index can lead to long-term health issues and can affect everyday's life.
- ➔ The UV Index (UVI) is a standardized measure which indicates the intensity of ultraviolet radiation which are reaching the Earth's surface and its potential to cause skin damage or sunburn. Scientifically it is focuses on 'erythemally effective UV radiation' which means the type of UV rays are most responsible for damaging human skin and mainly UVA and UVB rays.

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## NASA:

- ➔ NASA is all set to launch the Artemis 2 mission on April 1, 2026 and it will be marking the first crewed mission to beyond low Earth orbit in over 50 years.
- ➔ This mission will send the four astronauts on a 10-day journey around the Moon. And it also try to reviving human deep-space exploration after the era of Apollo 17. The launch represents milestone the NASA's Artemis program which is aimed at returning humans to the Moon.
- ➔ It is the first crewed flight under NASA' Artemis program. Designed for to take humans beyond low Earth orbit for the first time since 1972. Unlike lunar landing missions Artemis 2 will perform a lunar flyby and where astronauts will orbit the Moon and they return safely to Earth.
- ➔ This mission is the critical step before upcoming future missions which are aim to land humans on the lunar surface again. It also shows the NASA's capability to conduct long-duration human spaceflight in deep space.

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## Sikkim:

- ➔ Sikkim has been selected to host the 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship 2026 (U-19 category).
- ➔ The tournament will be held from November 14 to November 21, 2026, under the aegis of the Badminton Association of India. This will be the first time Sikkim is hosting this prestigious national-level badminton championship.

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### **Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights):**

- ➔ Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, was passed by the Lok Sabha. The Bill changes the process of identity recognition, requiring certification by the District Magistrate based on a medical board's recommendation.
- ➔ It allows transgender persons to change their name in official documents after obtaining the identity certificate. It amends the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. The Supreme Court of India (NALSA judgment, 2014) had recognised the right to self-identification under Article 21 (Right to Life).

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## Supreme Court of India:

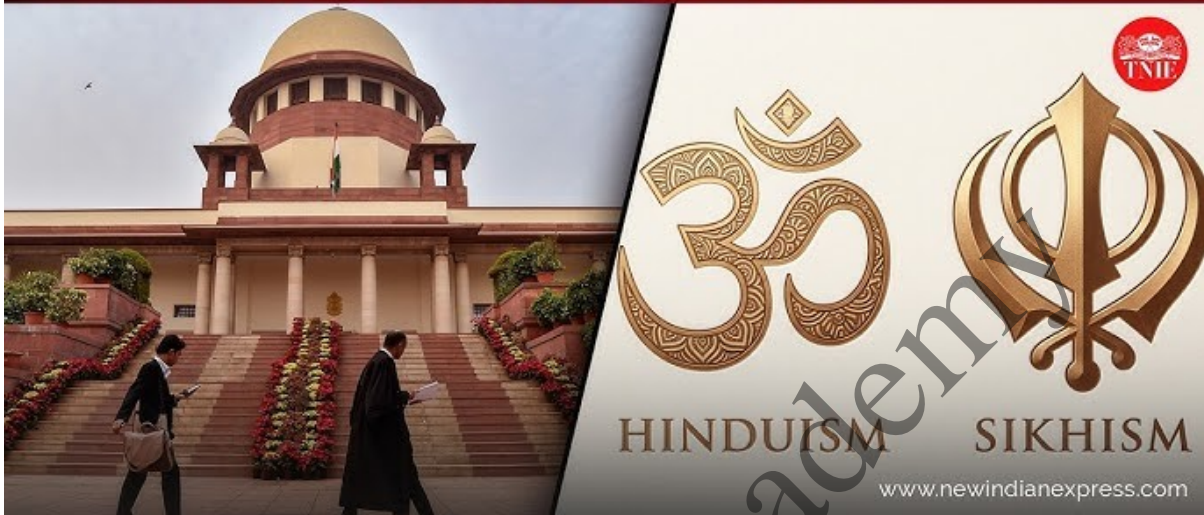
- ➔ The Supreme Court of India ruled that only Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists can claim Scheduled Caste status. The ruling is based on Clause 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950. It states that conversion to any other religion leads to immediate loss of Scheduled Caste status.
- ➔ Sikhism was included in 1956, and Buddhism was added in 1990 under this provision. A person cannot claim benefits under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, after converting to another religion. Re-conversion requires proof of original caste, genuine return to religion, and acceptance by the community.

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## SC STATUS FOR HINDUS, SIKHS ONLY: SUPREME COURT



### Uttar Pradesh officials:

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh officials visited Tamil Nadu to study its successful public health model for reducing maternal deaths. Tamil Nadu has achieved a low Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) of about 35–40, compared to around 140 in Uttar Pradesh.
- ➔ The model is based on strong healthcare infrastructure, efficient service delivery systems, and continuous monitoring mechanisms. Key features include district-level audits, MMR war rooms, standard treatment protocols, and a focus on high-risk pregnancy cases.



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## Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution

### Order:

- The government notified the Natural Gas and Petroleum Products Distribution Order, 2026, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, to expand gas use. India plans to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030 from about 6.2% in 2025.
- Natural gas is a fossil fuel mainly made of methane ( $\text{CH}_4$ ) (Methane). It reduces pollution by lowering Particulate Matter (PM), Nitrogen Oxides ( $\text{NO}_x$ ), and Sulphur Oxides ( $\text{SO}_x$ ). Consumption is expected to rise from 52 million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) in FY25 to 112 MTPA by FY40.



### Litani River:

- Israeli airstrikes destroyed a key bridge over the Litani River of Lebanon. The Litani River is the longest entirely within Lebanon. It originates near Baalbek and flows through the fertile Bekaa Valley before draining into the Mediterranean Sea.
- The river supports major infrastructure like the Qaraoun Dam for irrigation and hydroelectric power. The Bekaa Valley is a key agricultural region with significant arable land.

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## UNESCO:

- ➔ UNESCO raised concerns about the project's impact on the Western Ghats ecosystem. The project plans to divert about 35 million cubic feet (TMC ft) of water from the Aghanashini River to the Vedavathi River.
- ➔ UNESCO said all such projects must follow the World Heritage Convention, 1972 rules for protecting natural sites. The Western Ghats are a biodiversity hotspot and a UNESCO World Heritage Site with rich plants and animals.



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2026, March 28

## Nivesh Mitra:

- ➔ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0', a digital platform to simplify and enhance the investor experience, along with new schemes like the UP Private Business Park Development Scheme-2025 and Plug-and-Play Industrial Sheds Scheme.
- ➔ The platform includes features like an AI-based chatbot, real-time SMS alerts, and a Dynamic Combined Application Form (CAF) to enable single-window clearances and reduce the need for multiple approvals.



## G7:

- ➔ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit France to attend the G7 Summit, which will be held from June 15 to 17. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met French Foreign Minister Jean-Noël Barrot on the sidelines of the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting during his two-day visit to France.
- ➔ The G7 (Group of Seven) is an intergovernmental group of seven advanced economies: USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. It was established in 1975 (initially as G6) to discuss global economic issues, later expanded to include Canada in 1976.
- ➔ The G7 focuses on key global issues such as economic stability, climate change, international security, and development cooperation. It does not have a permanent

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secretariat; the presidency rotates annually among member countries, which host the summit.



## GDP:

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- ➔ India will achieve 60% of its total electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel (like solar, wind) energy sources by 2035. India aims to create a carbon sink (absorption of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)) of 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes through forests and tree cover.
- ➔ These targets are submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and align with the Paris Agreement goals. The targets support India's long-term goal of Net Zero emissions (no net carbon emissions) by 2070 and its sustainable development vision.

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### **Agricultural production:**

- ➔ India recorded its highest-ever agricultural production in 2024–25, with record output in foodgrains and horticulture. Foodgrain production reached 357.73 million tonnes (MT) and horticulture production reached 362.08 MT.
- ➔ India was ranked first globally in pulses, millets, dry onion, coconut, and spices production. India was ranked second globally in cereals, fruits and vegetables, and key cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, and tea. Agricultural exports increased to USD 51.1 billion in FY25.

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## United States:

- ➔ The United States (US) government has launched Task Force 250 and the “Story of America” video series to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.
- ➔ The American Revolution (1775–1783) was a struggle in which 13 British colonies in North America gained independence and formed the United States of America. Key causes included taxation without representation, Enlightenment ideas, British restrictions on westward expansion, and colonial opposition to mercantilist policies.
- ➔ Major events included the Boston Tea Party (1773), Battle of Saratoga (1777), and Treaty of Paris (1783), which formally ended the war. The revolution led to the creation of the first modern democratic republic and inspired global independence movements.

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## Cuba:

- ➔ Cuba experienced repeated nationwide blackouts in March 2026 due to a major collapse of its electricity grid. The crisis is driven by ageing power infrastructure, with many plants operating beyond their lifespan.
- ➔ Severe fuel shortages and reduced oil imports have further weakened electricity generation capacity. Cuba relies heavily on imported fuel, meeting only about 40% of its needs domestically.

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## ISA:

- Romania has ratified the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and officially joined the alliance. The ratification instrument was presented by Romania's Ambassador Sena Latif to the Depository of ISA in the presence of officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India.
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## SEZ:

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2026, March 30-31

## Mahavir Jayanti:

- ➔ Mahavir Jayanti 2026 will be celebrated on the 31st March, 2026. This day marks the birth anniversary of Lord Mahavir. It is one of the most sacred festivals in Jain religion and it is observed with deep devotion across India.
- ➔ This day highlights the powerful values of Mahavir Swami like non-violence (Ahimsa), truth and compassion and they are still remain relevant today.
- ➔ Devotees celebrate the day through prayers, charity and self-discipline and with this it is not just a religious event but also the meaningful reminder of living a peaceful and ethical life.



## Amrit Bharat Station:

- ➔ To modernize the railway infrastructure the Union Government has rolls out the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Under this scheme it will targeting the redevelopment of 1338 railway stations across the country.
- ➔ This Scheme implemented by the Ministry of Railways and it will aim to upgrade stations with modern facilities alongside improved connectivity and the good passenger experience. The scheme will be focuses on to providing modern and world-class facilities to passengers. This redevelopment is based on to the customized master plans for individual station.

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## Prahar:

- ➔ Adani Defense and Aerospace has delivered the first batch of 2000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs) to the Indian Army. These guns were manufactured in India under the initiative of Make In India.
- ➔ These 7.62 mm calibre guns are part of the larger order of 40,000 units. The delivery was completed within 11 months ahead of the schedule date and with this its significant step to indigenous defense manufacturing.
- ➔ This Prahar LMG is also known as the globally Negev NG7. It is designed as to significantly enhance and improved infantry combat capabilities.

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## ASRAAM:

- ➔ The Indian Air Force is set to equip the its MiG-29 fighter jets with the advanced ASRAAM (Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile). This move follows the proposal issued by the Ministry of Defense. And this proposal is aim to integrate and test the missile on the upgraded MiG-29 UPG variant.
- ➔ This upgradation of fighter jets will significantly enhance the aircraft effectiveness in to the close-range air combat.
- ➔ The ASRAAM missile which is developed by MBDA. This missile is the modern short-range air-to-air missile which is designed for the high-speed aerial combat. It use the heat-seeking technology and operates on the 'fire-and-forget' principle. It means that once it is launched it will automatically tracks and destroys the target without further pilot input.

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## Artemis II:

- ➔ NASA is preparing for the historic milestone as the Artemis II mission is aims to send humans around the Moon for the first time in the over last five decades. This mission is led by NASA and it is the part of the broader Artemis program which is designed to establish the long-term human presence on the Moon.
- ➔ The mission will be scheduled for launch in 2026 on the April 1st, 2026. Artemis II mission will test the critical systems and pave the way for the future lunar landings and it is precursor to the mission to the Mars. Artemis II is the first crewed mission under the Artemis program and it is following the successful uncrewed Artemis I flight.

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## Census 2027:

- ➔ Sudarshan Pattnaik has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for Census 2027 by the Ministry of Home Affairs to promote awareness and participation.
- ➔ The Census 2027 will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India and will be the country's first fully digital census. It will be the 16th Census of India and the 8th after Independence, marking a major milestone in India's data collection system.

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## Operation Energy Security:

- ➔ Operation Energy Security has been launched by India amid rising tensions in West Asia to safeguard energy supply routes near the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. The Indian Navy has deployed more than five frontline warships (destroyers and frigates) to protect India-bound ships carrying critical energy cargo like crude oil, LNG, and LPG.
- ➔ The mission ensured safe movement of multiple vessels, including the tanker 'Shenlong Suezmax' carrying over 135,000 metric tons of crude oil, highlighting efforts to secure India's energy security during regional conflict escalation.

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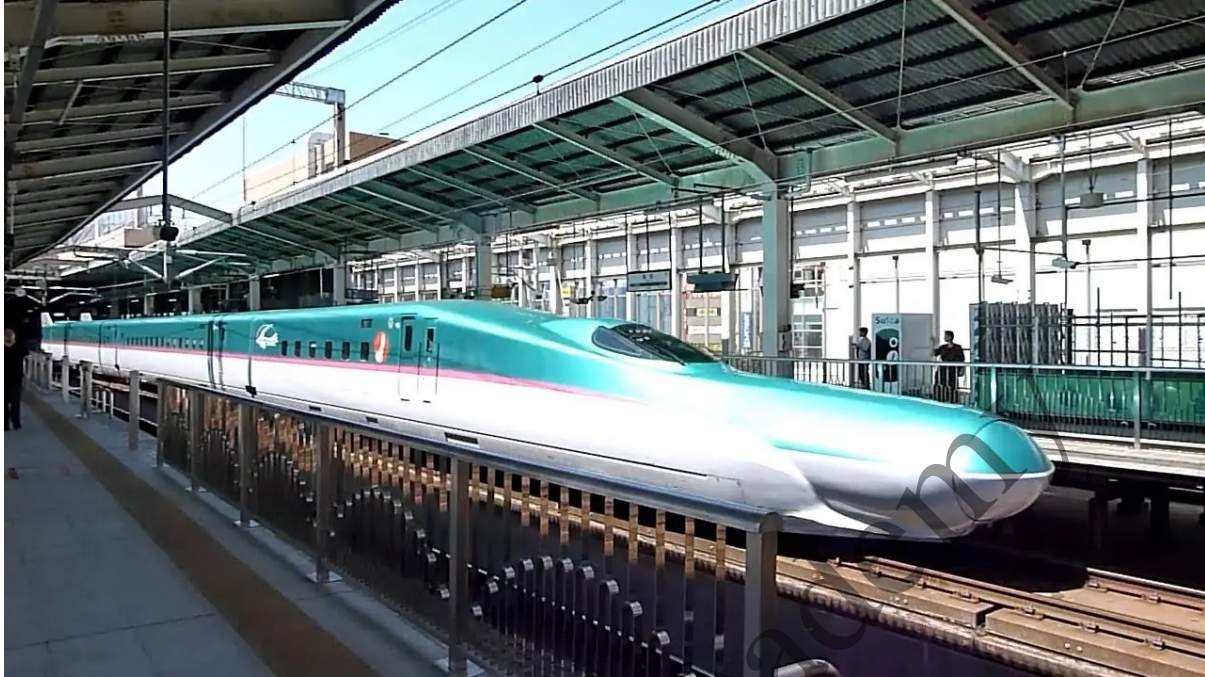
## Japan:

- ➔ Japan has launched the world's first dedicated freight-only Shinkansen, converting its bullet train into a high-speed cargo carrier to improve logistics efficiency and sustainability.
- ➔ The project repurposes the E3 series train by removing seats and redesigning interiors for cargo, enabling it to carry around 1,000 boxes (17.4 tonnes) at speeds up to 275 km/h.
- ➔ The service runs on the Tohoku Shinkansen route between Morioka and Tokyo, covering the distance in just over 3 hours while optimising existing rail infrastructure without affecting passenger services.

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## NCBC:

- ➔ Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti became Chairperson, and Kiran Umesh Mahalle became a Member of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC). The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is a constitutional body established in 1993 and granted constitutional status in 2018 through the 102nd Amendment.
- ➔ It functions under Article 338B of the Indian Constitution and works under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ➔ The Commission consists of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and three Members, all appointed by the President of India. Its key role is to safeguard the interests of OBCs, including examining inclusion/exclusion in the OBC list, addressing complaints, and advising the government on their welfare.



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## Rajasthan Day:

- Rajasthan Day is celebrated every year on 30 March to mark the formation of Rajasthan in 1949. The day commemorates the integration of princely states into a single state after India's independence.
- It is also known as Rajasthan Foundation Day, highlighting the state's rich cultural heritage, traditions, and history.



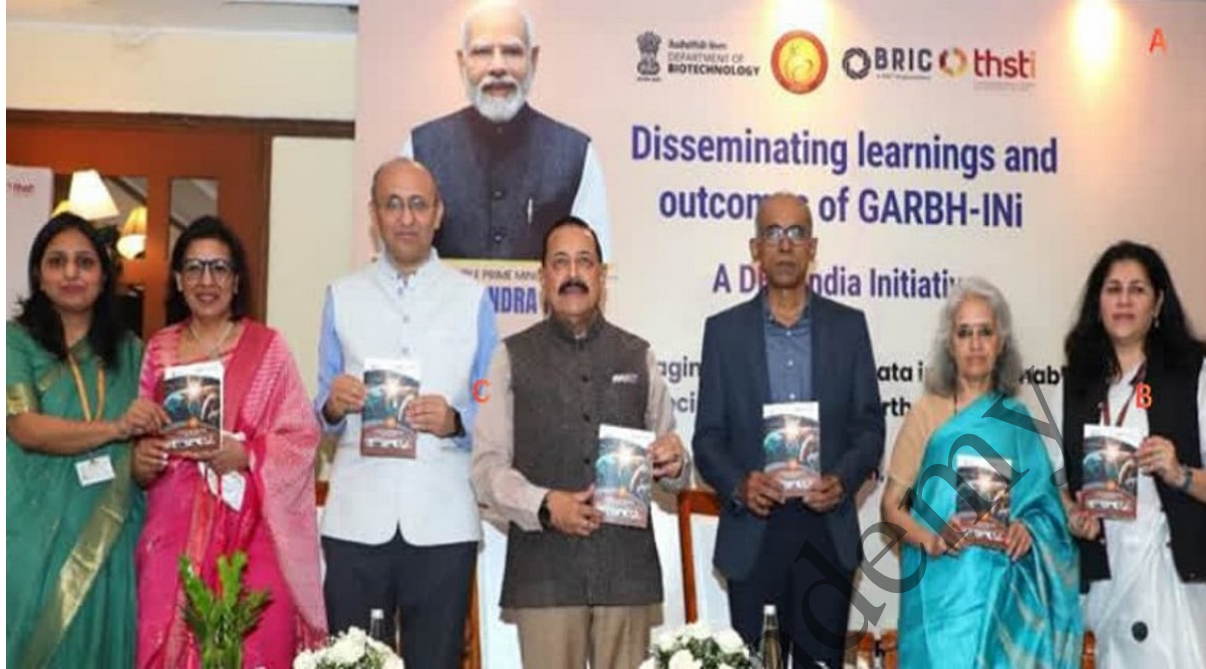
## GARBH-INi initiative:

- The Government of India is using the GARBH-INi initiative to predict and prevent preterm births early by using advanced research methods and artificial intelligence (AI).
- GARBH-INi (Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes) is a flagship programme under DBT (Department of Biotechnology), Government of India. India has one of the highest numbers of preterm births in the world. It leading to newborn deaths, child mortality, and long-term health problems.
- The initiative includes India's largest pregnancy cohort study, tracking about 12,000 pregnant women to identify early risk factors. It uses AI (Artificial Intelligence), clinical epidemiology, and multi-omics methods like genomics, proteomics, and microbiome studies for accurate prediction.

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## Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve:

- ➔ Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (VDTR) in Madhya Pradesh has been developed as India's third designated site for cheetah reintroduction under Project Cheetah. It is formed by merging the Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ➔ It is located in the Bundelkhand region across Sagar, Damoh, and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh. It was notified as a Tiger Reserve in September 2023 with approval from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). It will support the co-existence of cheetahs, tigers, leopards, and Indian wolves in a large grassland and forest ecosystem.



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## Forest Survey of India:

- ➔ Forest Survey of India (FSI) has stopped issuing alerts from the AI-based Anavaran deforestation system since early 2026. The Anavaran system is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based platform that detects forest loss using satellite data.
- ➔ It was launched in January 2024 to give near real-time alerts on deforestation to State Forest departments every 15 days. The system uses data from Sentinel-1 and Sentinel-2 satellites of the European Space Agency. FSI works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC).



## LOCs:

- ➔ The Ministry of Home Affairs has revised rules for issuing Look Out Circulars(LOCs) to strengthen control and improve coordination among agencies. Statutory bodies like the National Commission for Women (NCW), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cannot directly request LOCs and must route through police or central agencies.
- ➔ LOC forms now have 3 clear actions: detain and inform, prevent departure and inform, or “see remarks” for special cases. Intelligence agencies like the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) can use “see remarks” only for national security or terrorism related cases.
- ➔ If a person is detained, the concerned agency must take custody within 3 hours or hand over to the police, and within 24 hours for full action. LOC (Look Out Circular) is used

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to stop wanted or absconding persons from leaving India at airports and seaports by the Bureau of Immigration (BoI).



## Cotton:

- ➔ India has overtaken China to become the largest supplier of cotton products to the United States in 2025. India exported around 0.6 million tonnes of cotton products, while China's exports declined to about 0.5 million tonnes due to high tariffs (10%–125%) and regulatory restrictions.
- ➔ US laws like the Uyghur Forced Labour Prevention Act (UFLPA) reduced dependence on Chinese imports and increased sourcing from India and other countries. The United States remains the world's largest importer of cotton-based products like apparel and home textiles.

**Knowledge Is Of No Use Unless You Put It Into Practice**

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