



CLARITY 4 SURE

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FREE · REVISION SHEET

CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 2026

Exam-ready facts only · 364 items from 22 days

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

Big themes · Facts To Remember 373 · National Affairs 116 · Banking and Finance 82

Most mentioned · RBI · Reserve Bank · New Delhi · SEBI · West Asia



GIANT KILLERS

NABARD GRADE A 2026

ENROLLED IN CLARITY NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

 1 188.75 SURAJ RAVINDRA	 2 185 LOKESH CHANDRAN	 3 185 VIVEK	 4 184.50 KAPIL PATLYA	 5 183.75 SIDDHANT KHESARWANI	 6 182 LALIT KUMAR
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EXPERT GUIDANCE | COMPLETE SYLLABUS | DAILY TEST & MCQ PRACTICE | DESCRIPTIVE ANSWER WRITING | INTERVIEW PREPARATION

RIGHT GUIDANCE. SMART STRATEGY. REMARKABLE RESULTS.

BE NEXT. BE A TOPPER !

6 OF THE
TOP 10

Six of the ten highest scorers in NABARD Grade A 2026 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors compile this book every day.

Contents

Names, numbers and tables only, topic by topic — 364 items from 22 days of March 2026. Every entry is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader.

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THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

March 2026 at a glance

22 daily compilations, 598 items across 5 topics — Facts To Remember weighed the most. Read the charts first: they tell you where this month's questions will come from.

22

daily compilations

598

items covered

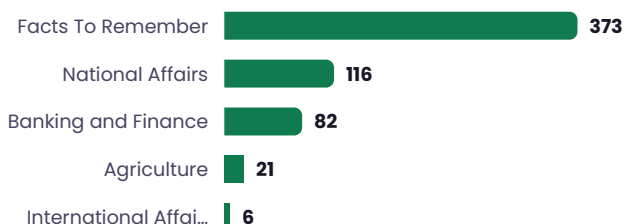
5

topics

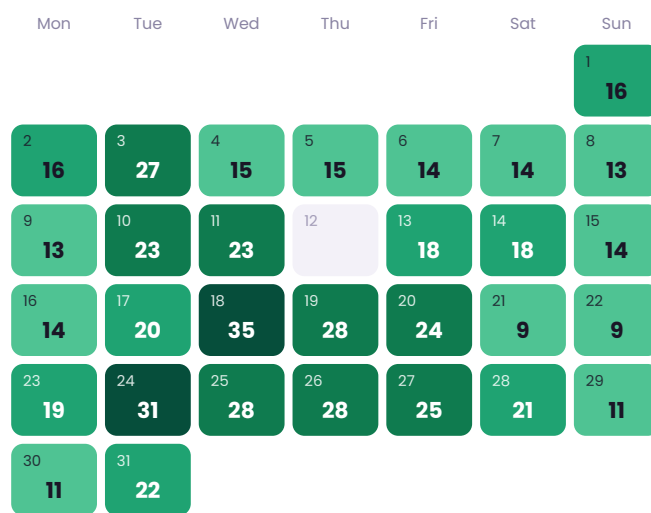
20

data tables

Items by topic



Items per day



Darker = a heavier day. Two-day posts are split across their days.

Where the items sat

Other exams 598 (100%)

Most mentioned this month

How many items each name appeared in. Know these cold.



"Rest is part of the plan, not a break from it."

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FIGURES THE PAPER LOVES

March 2026 by the numbers

The month's biggest figures with the line they came from. Say each one with its scheme or report before you turn the page.

₹15,000

The earlier Paragraph 11(4) of the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 allowed employees and employers to opt for pension ...

Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 2026 · 12 13 & 14 March 2026

95%

Countdown to 2030 The GEM Report's framing of urgency — with only 4 years remaining to the SDG deadline and completio...

UNESCO GEM Report 2026 · 31 March 2026

₹1 crore

Established at a cost of ₹1 crore

Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park in Kolli Hills · 1 & 2 March 2026

₹11.50 lakh

In February 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹11.50 lakh on Mahindra & Mahindra Fi...

RBI Imposes ₹11.50 Lakh Penalty on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services · 3 March 2026

₹10,000 crore

In March 2026, Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore through Series-I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds, becoming th...

Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through Green Infrastructure Bonds · 10 & 11 March 2026

₹2.08 trillion

Earlier central assistance approved in 2019–20: ₹2.08 trillion.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 · 12 13 & 14 March 2026

₹2,584.60 crore

The Union Cabinet has approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme for the period FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31...

Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme · 20 March 2026

₹25,101 crore

The Reserve Bank of India injected ₹25,101 crore into the banking system through a 3-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auc...

RBI Injects ₹25,101 Crore via VRR Auction · 20 March 2026

₹31.80 lakh

In March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh on HSBC India for non-compli...

RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC India for Deposit Norm Violations · 23 March 2026

₹20,000 crore

The Government of India launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) in March ...

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions-2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) · 24 March 2026

READ IT THE WAY TOPPERS DO

How to use this book

This sheet is for the last lap: every item is cut down to the names, numbers and tables the paper actually asks. Work topic by topic, then close the book and take the test at the end of each topic.

1**Read a topic**

Cards first, in order. Mark every number and every proper noun as you go.

2**Cover and recall**

Cover the bullets with your hand and recite the item from its title alone.

3**Take the test**

Fill the blanks at the end of the topic from memory, then check the answers.

4**Come back**

Tick the tracker below. Revisit weak topics on day 3 and day 7.

Your revision tracker

Tick as you go. Day 3 and day 7 recalls are what move a fact from short-term to exam-day memory.

TOPIC	READ	RECALL +3	RECALL +7	TEST	NOTES
Facts To Remember (373)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
National Affairs (116)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Banking and Finance (82)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
Agriculture (21)	☐	☐	☐	☐	
International Affairs (6)	☐	☐	☐	☐	

"Preparation is quiet. Results are loud."

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NATIONAL AFFAIRS · 109

INS Anjadip Commissioned

28 February 2026

- Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) at Kattupalli.
- Length: 77 metres.
- Designed to detect, track and neutralise enemy submarines in coastal and shallow waters.
- Shallow-water sonars

Rail Tech Policy

28 February 2026

- The Ministry of Railways launched the Rail Tech Policy along with a dedicated Rail Tech Portal. The initiative aims to involve startups and innovators in solving railway challenges through technology.
- Provides a structured platform for startups, industry, researchers, and innovators to develop and test technological solutions for railway operations.
- 24×7 digital platform inviting innovative ideas and solutions.

India's Young Adults Rank 60th in Global Mental Health Report

28 February 2026

- Youth (18–34 years):
- Older Adults (55+ years):
- Adults 55+ years:
- Nearly 10% face clinically major mental health challenges

India's First State Innovation Mission (SIM) Launched in Tripura

28 February 2026

- First State-level innovation mission in India.
- Part of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) 2.0.
- Launched by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science & Technology.
- T-NEST (Tripura: Nurturing Entrepreneurship and Startups)

PM Launches Micron ATMP Semiconductor Plant in Gujarat

1 & 2 March 2026

- 50% capital subsidy from the Union Government (around ₹22,516 crore support).
- 20% additional support from the Gujarat Government.
- Packages semiconductor chips after fabrication (which occurs elsewhere).

- Converts advanced DRAM and NAND wafers into finished memory and storage products.

Government Bank Dashboard & Manual Initiative

1 & 2 March 2026

- The Controller General of Accounts (CGA), under the Government of India, has launched the Government Bank Dashboard and Government Bank Manual to modernise oversight of government banking operations.
- Shift from reactive (post-facto) correction to proactive oversight
- Cybersecurity safeguards
- Government Bank Dashboard — A real-time digital monitoring platform

Inland Waterway Projects on National Waterway-2

1 & 2 March 2026

- Supports NW-2 management
- Integrates customs, immigration, and Inland Waterways Authority of India operations
- Restored administrative facility of Inland Waterways Authority of India

Tamil Nadu Launches First Dark Sky Park in Kolli Hills

1 & 2 March 2026

- Established at a cost of ₹1 crore
- India's first internationally recognised Dark Sky Park is Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, designated in 2024 under the International Dark-Sky Places programme.
- Enables observation of stars, planets, the Milky Way, and the moon
- Minimal artificial light within a 1.5 km radius ensures ideal dark-sky conditions

India–Canada Relations

3 March 2026

- This marks a significant diplomatic revival after relations had deteriorated in 2023.
- Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)
- Advanced nuclear reactors
- The uranium supply agreement is valued at approximately CAD \$2.6 billion (US \$1.9 billion).

Centre Designates Legacy Thrust Territories

3 March 2026

- Around 2000: Nearly 200 districts were affected by LWE.
- By 2025: The number declined to 38 districts.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has introduced the concept of Legacy Thrust Territories (LTTs) to prevent the resurgence of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) following major security successes against Naxalism.
- Currently: Only 7 districts remain on the active LWE list:

National Arogya Fair 2026 Held in Shegaon, Maharashtra

3 March 2026

- The National Arogya Fair 2026 was successfully organised from 25–28 February 2026 at Shegaon in Buldhana district, Maharashtra. The event brought together healthcare professionals, policymakers, traditional medicine practitioners, and wellness stakeholders under one platform.

16th Finance Commission on Centre–State Fiscal Relations (2026–31)

4 & 5 March 2026

- Centre: Reduce fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31.
- Contribution to GDP (10%) introduced as a new criterion.
- Rural local bodies: ₹4.4 lakh crore
- Urban local bodies: ₹3.6 lakh crore

Criterion	Weight
Income Distance	42.5%
Population (2011 Census)	17.5%
Demographic Performance	10%
Forest & Ecology	10%
Area	10%
Contribution to GDP	10%

MGNREGS Workers Flag Glitches in Monitoring App

4 & 5 March 2026

- The scheme was introduced under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005.
- 2 February 2006
- Workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) have reported technical problems with the updated National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS) application used to record worker attendance. From March 1, the government made facial recognition mandatory for marking attendance in the NMMS app.
- Recording real-time attendance of workers

WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14)

4 & 5 March 2026

- Composed of trade ministers from all WTO member countries (currently about 166 members).
- Dates: 26–29 March 2026
- The Ministerial Conference was established under the Marrakesh Agreement (1994) that created the WTO.
- It must meet at least once every two years.

Government Plans Mandatory Carbon Credit Trading for Steel Sector

4 & 5 March 2026

- Achieving net-zero emissions by 2070
- 1 carbon credit = 1 tonne of carbon dioxide (CO₂) reduced or avoided.
- The CCTS framework was notified in 2023, aiming to establish an Indian carbon market.
- The Government of India plans to make compliance with the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS) mandatory for companies in the steel industry. The decision is part of India's broader strategy to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions and promote cleaner technologies. The scheme was introduced under the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which laid the foundation for a domestic carbon market in India.

Shtil Missile System

4 & 5 March 2026

- The Ministry of Defence of India recently signed defence contracts worth ₹5,083 crore to strengthen maritime security, including the procurement of Shtil Missile System for frontline warships of the Indian Navy.

Dusky Eagle-Owl

4 & 5 March 2026

- The Dusky Eagle-Owl has recently been sighted in the Phato tourism zone, Terai West Forest Division in Uttarakhand after nearly 15 years, highlighting the ecological importance of the region's forests and wetlands.

Operation Sankalp

4 & 5 March 2026

- The operation was launched on 19 June 2019 following security concerns after attacks on commercial ships in the Gulf of Oman and Strait of Hormuz.

India's 7th National Biodiversity Report

6 & 7 March 2026

- The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework sets 23 global targets for 2030, aiming to halt biodiversity loss worldwide.
- Protect 30% of land and marine areas (“30x30 target”)
- Out of 23 national biodiversity targets, only two are currently on track to be achieved by 2030, indicating significant gaps in implementation.
- Protected areas cover only around 5% of India’s land area, which is far below the global target of conserving 30% by 2030.

Census 2027 Mascots: Pragati and Vikas

6 & 7 March 2026

- It will involve over 30 lakh enumerators, supervisors, and officials.
- Support the vision of “Viksit Bharat by 2047”
- Census 2027 will be the largest census exercise in the world.
- The Union Home Minister unveiled the official mascots “Pragati” and “Vikas” for Census 2027 and also soft-launched digital tools to support the upcoming census exercise in New Delhi.

Sanand 2.0

6 & 7 March 2026

- Sanand’s industrial journey began in 2008 with the Tata Nano plant.
- Established industrial ecosystem

SHINE App Launched by Indian Railways

8 & 9 March 2026

- The Indian Railways launched a new mobile application called SHINE (Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment) on International Women’s Day (March 8) to help women employees report workplace harassment.
- Aims to ensure safety, quick reporting, and better grievance redressal.
- Complaints can also be filed on behalf of outsiders, such as:
- Provides a digital platform for women railway employees to report sexual harassment at the workplace.

Standards for Green Ammonia and Green Methanol

8 & 9 March 2026

- Launched: January 2023
- Initial Outlay: ₹19,744 crore
- Objective: To make India a global hub for the production, use, and export of green hydrogen and its derivatives.
- Green Ammonia: Produced using green hydrogen and nitrogen; used in fertilisers, shipping fuel, and

energy storage.

PM Modi on “Nari Shakti” on International Women’s Day

8 & 9 March 2026

- The Prime Minister said women are shaping India’s progress across sectors with determination and creativity.
- Women’s aspirations, leadership, and participation are crucial for India’s social and economic progress.

Very Low Earth Orbit (VLEO) Satellite Systems

8 & 9 March 2026

- VLEO refers to satellite orbits at an altitude of 150 km – 450 km above the Earth’s surface.
- This is lower than traditional Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which typically ranges from 500 km – 2,000 km.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL): A state-run defense electronics company under the Ministry of Defence.

Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG)

8 & 9 March 2026

- The first-ever Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG) will be held in Chhattisgarh from 25 March to 6 April 2026, as announced by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Declared an Event of National Importance in 2020 under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act, 2007.
- Launched to strengthen the sports ecosystem in India by identifying talent at the grassroots level.
- It is organised under the Khelo India Scheme, a flagship programme aimed at promoting sports culture, grassroots talent identification, and sporting excellence.

Sukhoi Su-30MKI Fighter Aircraft

8 & 9 March 2026

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet crashed at Inglong Ekopi Hill in Assam on March 5, 2026, during a routine training mission.
- The Sukhoi Su-30MKI (NATO reporting name: Flanker-H) is a heavy, twin-engine, multirole air superiority fighter aircraft.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955 (ECA)

8 & 9 March 2026

- Imprisonment from 3 months to 7 years
- The Central Government invoked the Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 in response to an energy crisis triggered by geopolitical tensions involving Iran, to regulate supply and prevent hoarding of essential resources.
- The ECA, 1955 is a central law that allows the

government to regulate the production, supply, and distribution of essential commodities.

- 6. Confiscation Powers

SWAYATT Initiative

8 & 9 March 2026

- Launched on: 19 February 2019
- The Government e-Marketplace (GeM) celebrated the 7th anniversary of the SWAYATT initiative on 6 March 2026 in New Delhi, highlighting its role in promoting inclusive public procurement for startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth.
- Objective: To integrate startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth-led enterprises into the government procurement ecosystem.
- Support women-led enterprises, startups, and youth entrepreneurs.

SIPRI Report 2025

10 & 11 March 2026

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its report "Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025", highlighting global arms trade patterns for the period 2021–2025.
- India remained the second-largest arms importer in the world, accounting for 8.2% of global arms imports during 2021–2025.
- Global arms transfers increased by nearly 10% during 2021–2025.
- Ukraine became the largest arms importer, receiving 9.7% of global arms transfers due to the ongoing war with Russia.

LaBL 2.0 (Lighting a Billion Lives 2.0)

10 & 11 March 2026

- LaBL 2.0 is a next-generation Decentralised Renewable Energy (DRE) programme designed to expand clean energy access in rural and underserved areas.
- It builds upon the earlier Lighting a Billion Lives initiative launched in 2008, which aimed to provide solar lighting solutions to off-grid communities.
- Promote green livelihoods and rural entrepreneurship.
- Women-led Entrepreneurship

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

10 & 11 March 2026

- 1946, through ECOSOC Resolution 11(II) of 21 June 1946.

SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk Initiative

10 & 11 March 2026

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development

organised the #SheLeadsBharat – Shakti Walk at Kartavya Path to mark International Women's Day in 2026.

- Align with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- #SheLeadsBharat is a national campaign celebrating women's leadership and contributions to nation-building.
- The Shakti Walk is a flagship event under this campaign, symbolising the empowerment and achievements of women across various sectors in India.

Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

10 & 11 March 2026

- At least 100 members of the Lok Sabha, or
- At least 50 members of the Rajya Sabha.
- Article 324(5) states that the Chief Election Commissioner can only be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
- A majority of the total membership of the House, and

Proba-3 Mission

10 & 11 March 2026

- Proba-3 is the world's first precision formation-flying space mission designed to study the Sun's outer atmosphere (corona) with high precision.
- It was launched in December 2024 by ESA aboard PSLV-C59 of the Indian Space Research Organisation.
- The satellites fly about 150 metres apart with millimetre-level accuracy, functioning as a single virtual instrument.
- Uses lasers, cameras, and cold-gas thrusters for automatic coordination and position control without continuous ground commands.

India-Uzbekistan Launch Pharma-Nutraceutical Corridor

10 & 11 March 2026

- The corridor is aimed at tapping a \$7–10 billion Eurasian healthcare market by strengthening pharmaceutical and nutraceutical trade.
- It is a policy-backed platform designed to facilitate regulatory alignment, investment flows, and market entry for global manufacturers, particularly Indian companies.
- Promote joint ventures, partnerships, and supply-chain integration between Indian manufacturers and Eurasian distributors.
- The initiative brings together Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health, Nutri Today, and Pharma Eurasia.

2.0)

10 & 11 March 2026

- In March 2026, Uttarakhand ranked first in India in the implementation of the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS 2.0), scoring 93.46 on the ICJS/CCTNS Progress Dashboard released by the National Crime Records Bureau with data up to January 2026.
- Uttarakhand – 93.46
- Haryana – 93.41
- Assam – 93.16

Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Example: In Punjab, committed expenditure reached 80% of revenue receipts in FY24.
- Example: Andhra Pradesh recorded a fiscal deficit of 4.35% of GSDP, exceeding the FRBM ceiling.
- Example: West Bengal spends over 20% of revenue receipts on debt servicing.
- The NITI Aayog released the second annual edition of the Fiscal Health Index, assessing the fiscal performance of Indian states for FY 2023–24.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Launched in 2019 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connections (FHTCs) to every rural household under the “Har Ghar Jal” initiative.
- 2019: 32.3 million rural households had tap water ($\approx 17\%$).
- Earlier central assistance approved in 2019–20: ₹2.08 trillion.
- Coverage now exceeds 81% of the 193.6 million rural households identified by states.

Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Union Government has allocated ₹2,500 crore for the fisheries sector under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in the Union Budget 2026–27.
- Launched: 10 September 2020.
- Approved with a total investment of about ₹20,050 crore for comprehensive fisheries sector development.
- Improve income and livelihoods of fishers and fish farmers.

Supreme Court Applies Passive Euthanasia Framework for First Time

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Supreme Court of India applied its passive euthanasia framework for the first time to permit the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment for Harish Rana, who had remained in a persistent vegetative state for 13 years.
- Involves withholding or withdrawing life-sustaining treatment such as ventilators or feeding tubes.
- I. P. Rathinam v. Union of India (1994)
- Held that Article 21 does not include the right to die, but recognised the idea of dying with dignity.

Bug Bounty Programme

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Unique Identification Authority of India has launched its first structured Bug Bounty Programme to strengthen the cybersecurity of the Aadhaar ecosystem.

Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Launched: 15 August 2019.
- The revised deadline for universal coverage is December 2028.
- Achieve “Har Ghar Jal” by ensuring 55 litres of water per person per day (lpcd) through tap connections for every rural household.
- The Union Cabinet of India has approved the extension of the Jal Jeevan Mission until 2028, with a renewed focus on sustained water service delivery rather than just infrastructure creation.

India Co-Sponsors UNSC Resolution Against Iran

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- 13 UNSC members voted in favour.
- About 50% of India's crude oil imports
- Around 90% of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) imports.
- The resolution was introduced by the Gulf Cooperation Council and supported by 134 countries.

Purple Fest

15 & 16 March 2026

- Purple Fest is an inclusive event organised by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to recognize the talent, achievements, and aspirations of persons with disabilities (Divyangjan).
- Promote awareness and dignity of persons with disabilities.

Dumpsite Remediation Accelerator Programme (DRAP)

15 & 16 March 2026

- Launched: November 2025

- Achieve 100% clearance of dumpsites within one year of adoption.
- Implementing Ministry: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- Implemented under: Swachh Bharat Mission – Urban 2.0

Project Great Indian Bustard Captive Breeding Programme

15 & 16 March 2026

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I
- Project Great Indian Bustard: 2013 (Rajasthan Government)
- Dedicated breeding facilities operational around 2019–2022.
- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

Centre Amends Electricity Rules to Strengthen Captive Power Generation

15 & 16 March 2026

- The Union government has amended the Electricity Rules, 2005 to strengthen the framework for captive power generation, particularly as industries increasingly invest in renewable and non-fossil fuel energy sources.
- The concept was earlier recognised under the National Electricity Policy, 2005.

NavIC's Atomic Clock Failure

17 March 2026

- The first satellite, IRNSS-1A, was launched in July 2013.
- Provides navigation services across India and about 1,500 km beyond its borders.
- The original constellation aimed to deploy seven satellites by 2016, with additional replacement satellites launched later.
- Even a billionth of a second error can cause a location error of several meters on Earth.

Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher (MBRL) System

17 March 2026

- A battery of six launchers can fire 72 rockets simultaneously, saturating an area of approximately 1,000 × 800 meters.
- A single launcher fires 12 rockets in 44 seconds.
- Mk-I: Range of about 38 km.
- Mk-II (Extended Range): Range of about 60 km.

Sujal Gaon ID

17 March 2026

- The initiative has been introduced under the Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, the flagship programme aimed at providing Functional Household Tap Connections

(FHTCs) to all rural households.

- Each rural drinking water scheme is assigned a distinct Sujal Gaon ID, enabling easy identification and tracking of water infrastructure assets and services.

Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary

17 March 2026

- The sanctuary became part of the tiger reserve after the SMTR notification in 2021.
- Its Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) had earlier been notified in 2018.
- Megamalai Wildlife Sanctuary, often called the High Wavy Mountains, is a protected forest landscape in Tamil Nadu. Since 2021, it has been a core component of the Srivilliputhur–Megamalai Tiger Reserve (SMTR), India's 51st Tiger Reserve.
- Tea and cardamom plantations interspersed with natural vegetation

Government Withdraws Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025

18 March 2026

- The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2025 aimed to:

State of Working India Report 2026

18 March 2026

- A report by Azim Premji University titled State of Working India 2026 highlights a significant trend in India's labour market: about 67% of unemployed youth aged 20–29 were graduates in 2023.
- 2023: Around 1.1 crore unemployed youth were graduates (67%)
- 2004: About 30 lakh unemployed youth were graduates (32%)
- 2004: 10% (1.9 crore)

UNEP Report: Safe Disposal of Unused Medicines (2026)

18 March 2026

- Up to 50% of household medicines globally eventually become waste.
- In the Netherlands, around 40% of unused medicines could be avoided through better prescribing practices and improved patient guidance.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the 2026 report "Safe Disposal of Unused Medicines", highlighting the serious environmental and public health risks caused by improper disposal of pharmaceuticals.
- 1.27 million deaths in 2019 were directly caused by bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Transgender Rights Amendment Bill 2026 24 Speed Post

18 March 2026

- The Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communications launched "24 Speed Post" on 17 March 2026 to provide guaranteed next-day delivery services for urgent consignments. This initiative strengthens the premium express delivery services of India Post.

India's First National Report on Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

18 March 2026

- The report covers the period from 1 November 2017 to 31 December 2025.
- India's First National Report (NR1) is an official submission describing the legal, institutional, and implementation measures taken by India to fulfil its obligations under the Nagoya Protocol.
- 2,76,653 Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been formed across India.
- ₹216.31 crore mobilised through approvals by the NBA.

Dual-Sex Crab (*Vela carli*)

18 March 2026

- Species is endemic to the Central Western Ghats, meaning it occurs only in this region.

Appropriation Bill 2026 Passed

19 March 2026

- The Parliament of India has passed the Appropriation Bill 2026, enabling the government to legally withdraw funds from the Consolidated Fund of India for the financial year 2026–27.
- Classified under Article 110
- No money can be withdrawn from the CFI without Parliamentary approval through an Appropriation Act

Economic Stabilisation Fund 2026

19 March 2026

- Fiscal deficit target remains intact (around 4% of GDP for FY26)
- ₹57,381 crore corpus
- Part of ₹2.01 lakh crore additional spending approved
- The Government of India has announced a ₹57,381 crore allocation for the Economic Stabilisation Fund to tackle global uncertainties such as the West Asia conflict, oil price volatility, and supply chain disruptions.

19 March 2026

- The Union Government has introduced the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
- The Bill proposes to delete Section 4(2) of the 2019 Act.
- Recognized as part of personal liberty under Article 21.
- Medical institutions must report SRS details to authorities

BHAVYA Scheme 2026

19 March 2026

- Scheme duration: 6 years (from 2026–27)
- Total allocation: ₹33,660 crore
- Central assistance: Up to ₹1 crore per acre
- Target: 100 industrial parks by 2032

World Happiness Report 2026

20 March 2026

- The World Happiness Report 2026, released on the occasion of the International Day of Happiness, ranks countries based on overall well-being using global survey data and expert analysis. This year's theme focuses on "Happiness and Social Media."
- India ranked 116th in 2026
- 118th (2024)
- 126th (2023)

Indicator	Rank
Perception of corruption	64th
Freedom to make life choices	61st
Generosity (charity)	78th
GDP per capita (PPP)	89th
Healthy life expectancy	95th
Social support	123rd

Krishi Sakhi Initiative

20 March 2026

- Activities planned throughout 2026:
- Empower women farmers
- Recognise women as key contributors to agriculture
- Understanding crop insurance schemes

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA)

20 March 2026

- Up to ₹1 crore per acre for infrastructure
- Up to 25% support for external connectivity
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) with an outlay of ₹33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play

industrial parks across India, aimed at boosting manufacturing and employment.

- 100 parks across States & UTs

Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) Framework

20 March 2026

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has expanded the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM) framework to include solar ingots and wafers, effective June 1, 2028. This move deepens India's push for self-reliance in the solar value chain.
- Launched: 2019 (ALMM Order, 2019)
- Objective: Ensure quality, reliability, and domestic manufacturing in solar energy

Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme

20 March 2026

- The Union Cabinet has approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme for the period FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 with a total outlay of ₹2,584.60 crore, to accelerate India's clean energy transition.
- Launched: March 2026
- The Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme is a centrally sponsored renewable energy initiative aimed at promoting small hydro projects (1–25 MW capacity) across India, especially in remote, hilly, and underserved regions.
- Central allocation: ₹2,584.60 crore

Suraksha Sankalp Karyashala

21 & 22 March 2026

- 95% of people know their HIV status
- 95% of diagnosed individuals receive treatment
- 95–99% achieve viral suppression
- Covers 219 priority districts

PRARAMBH 2026

21 & 22 March 2026

- PRARAMBH 2026 (Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat) is a comprehensive outreach campaign designed to educate taxpayers, build awareness, and facilitate compliance with the new tax regime.
- Help taxpayers and officials adapt to new provisions and compliance requirements
- Provision of FAQs, tutorials, and easy-to-understand materials
- Launch of Income Tax Website 2.0

Export Credit Interest Subvention Scheme

21 & 22 March 2026

- Scheme applicable only to export credit disbursed

on or after January 2, 2026

- The Government of India has amended the norms for the interest subvention scheme on export credit, a crucial policy tool to support exporters with affordable financing. The revision is part of the broader ₹25,060 crore export promotion mission aimed at enhancing India's global trade competitiveness.
- It is an interest subsidy provided to exporters
- Helps reduce the cost of borrowing for exporters, especially MSMEs

Corporate Law Reforms and Finance Bill

23 March 2026

- Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008
- Companies Act, 2013
- To implement the Union Budget 2026–27 proposals
- The Finance Bill, 2026 is listed for consideration and passing in the Lok Sabha.

Exercise Lamitiye 2026

23 March 2026

- Maiden Tri-Services Edition (2026)
- Exercise Lamitiye 2026 is a bilateral military exercise between India and Seychelles, conducted in March 2026. The name "Lamitiye" means "friendship" in Creole, reflecting the close strategic ties between the two nations.
- First Participation of Indian Navy
- First Responder in the Indian Ocean Region

National DMF Summit 2026

23 March 2026

- Aims to support development of mining-affected communities
- The Ministry of Mines will organise the National District Mineral Foundation (DMF) Summit 2026 on 23–24 March 2026 at SCOPE Convention Centre. The summit focuses on improving the effective and outcome-oriented utilisation of DMF funds, especially in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

SWAMIH Investment Fund II to Be Launched

24 March 2026

- Launched in 2019
- Total corpus: ₹15,000 crore
- Complete 1 lakh (100,000) stalled housing units
- The Government of India is in the process of launching SWAMIH Investment Fund II, a ₹15,000-crore fund aimed at completing stalled housing projects and providing relief to distressed homebuyers.

Stealth Frigate Taragiri (F41)

24 March 2026

- The Indian Navy is set to commission the stealth frigate Taragiri (F41) on 03 April 2026 at Visakhapatnam. The warship is a key milestone under indigenous defence manufacturing and aligns with the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- Over 75% indigenous components
- Stealth guided-missile frigate under Project 17A
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai

Iran–Pakistan–India (IPI) & TAPI Pipelines

24 March 2026

- A proposed 2,775 km natural gas pipeline
- Connects Iran's South Pars gas field to Pakistan and India
- 60 mmscmd each for:
- Energy-rich Persian Gulf

Centre Launches AI Skilling Drive with Google & YouTube

24 March 2026

- Implemented in partnership with:
- Target: Train 15,000 youth (free of cost)
- Phase I (March–June 2026):
- Courses include:

Centre to Amend Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

24 March 2026

- The Union Government is set to introduce amendments to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 during the ongoing Parliament session. The proposed changes aim to strengthen regulation, accountability, and oversight of foreign-funded NGOs.
- From 5 years → 1 year
- Annual foreign funding: ~₹22,000 crore
- Members of governing bodies or managing committees

Global Terrorism Index 2026

25 March 2026

- Global deaths decreased by 28%
- Institute for Economics and Peace releases Global Terrorism Index 2026
- Pakistan highest impact in 2026
- India's rank: 13th

Internal Audit Portal (Ministry of Rural Development)

25 March 2026

- UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 (Governance, Transparency,

Accountability)

- [1] Ministry of Finance[2] Ministry of Rural Development[3] NITI Aayog[4] RBI[5] SEBI

Jal Seva Aankalan Framework

25 March 2026

- Objective: Improve quality, reliability, and sustainability of water supply
- UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 (Governance, Transparency, Accountability)
- [1] District Collector[2] Gram Sabha[3] Village Water & Sanitation Committee[4] NITI Aayog[5] Parliament
- Evaluates rural tap water services under Jal Jeevan Mission

Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP)

25 March 2026

- Launched: January 1, 2021
- Change: Withdrawal of earlier 50% restriction on rates and caps
- Covers 10,000+ export products
- [1] Provide direct subsidies to exporters[2] Refund un-rebated taxes and duties[3] Increase imports[4] Control inflation[5] Regulate banking

Raajmarg Infra Investment Trust (RIIT)

25 March 2026

- Constituted under Indian Trusts Act, 1882
- SEBI (Infrastructure Investment Trusts) Regulations, 2014
- [1] Tax collection[2] Asset monetisation of highways[3] Loan disbursement[4] Insurance services[5] Export promotion
- [1] 50%[2] 60%[3] 70%[4] 80%[5] 90%

Corruption Perceptions Index 2025

25 March 2026

- Transparency International releases Corruption Perceptions Index 2025
- Stagnant performance (38–41 since 2014)
- India score: 39/100
- Rank: 91 out of 182 countries

Important For:

25 March 2026

- UPSC Mains GS Paper 2 (Governance, Transparency)
- UPSC Mains GS Paper 3 (Economy, Investment Climate)
- [1] World Bank[2] IMF[3] Transparency International[4] UNDP[5] OECD

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

25 March 2026

- Lok Sabha passes Transgender Persons Amendment Bill 2026
- Amendment to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act
- Rights and protection of transgender persons
- Legal penalties for crimes against transgender persons

Revamped UDAN Scheme (Regional Connectivity Scheme)

26 March 2026

- Launched in 2016 under:
- Subsidy period increased from 3 to 5 years
- Total outlay: ₹28,840 crore
- Aim: Revive underutilized Tier-2 and Tier-3 routes

Indian Railways "Reform Express" 2026

26 March 2026

- Passengers can change boarding station up to 30 minutes before departure
- Automobiles: ~24% (low → growth potential)
- Extra performance guarantee for bids >5% below estimate
- Indian Railways launches 5 new reforms under "Reform Express" initiative (total reforms in 2026: 9)

India's Updated Climate Targets (NDC 2035)

26 March 2026

- 60% non-fossil fuel power capacity by 2035
- 47% reduction in emissions intensity (from 2005 levels)
- 47% reduction in emissions intensity (base year: 2005)
- 60% installed power from non-fossil sources

Vayu Baan Project – India's Helicopter-Launched Drone System

26 March 2026

- India's first helicopter-launched drone system
- Provides stand-off strike capability beyond 50 km
- Launched from:
- Keeps helicopters outside threat range

Biologics and Biopharma SHAKTI Strategy

26 March 2026

- Union Budget 2026 promotes biologics under Biopharma SHAKTI strategy
- Focus on domestic production of biologics and biosimilars

- Cells grown in bioreactors

QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026

27 March 2026

- Quacquarelli Symonds releases QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026
- Jawaharlal Nehru University – Rank 26 (Development Studies)
- 99 institutions ranked (up from 79 in 2025)
- Top-50 presence doubled since 2024 (27 entries)

Operation Urja Suraksha

27 March 2026

- Handles ~20% of global oil trade
- Objective: Safeguard energy supply routes
- Persian Gulf → Gulf of Oman

India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 2031–2035

27 March 2026

- Net-zero emissions by 2070
- Q3. What is the targeted reduction in emissions intensity under India's updated NDC? [1] 30% [2] 40% [3] 47% [4] 55% [5] 60%
- Q4. What is the target share of non-fossil fuel-based electricity capacity under the updated NDC? [1] 40% [2] 50% [3] 60% [4] 70% [5] 80%
- Q2. What is India's target year for achieving net-zero emissions? [1] 2050 [2] 2060 [3] 2070 [4] 2080 [5] 2090

Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme

27 March 2026

- Outlay: ₹1,800 crore
- Q2. The IVFRT Scheme is implemented by which ministry? [1] Reserve Bank of India [2] Ministry of Home Affairs [3] SEBI [4] NABARD [5] Ministry of External Affairs
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the continuation of the Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking (IVFRT) Scheme beyond 31 March, 2026 for a period of five year from 01 April, 2026 to 31 March, 2031 with budget outlay of Rs.1800 crore.
- Implemented by: "Ministry of Home Affairs", "India internal security ministry"

BRICS CCI WE Summit 2026

27 March 2026

- Q3. The theme "WISE" at the summit primarily relates to: [1] Trade only [2] Women in innovation and leadership [3] Agriculture [4] Defence [5] Energy security
- BRICS CCI Women Empowerment Summit 2026 held

in New Delhi (March 21–23, 2026)

- 6th edition of BRICS CCI WE Summit
- Q2. The BRICS CCI WE Summit 2026 was held in which city? [1] Mumbai [2] New Delhi [3] Beijing [4] Moscow [5] Johannesburg

India Explores Local Currency Payments for West Asian Oil Imports

27 March 2026

- Scope: Could cover ~80% of India's oil imports
- 1–2% per transaction stage
- Q1. What is meant by local currency trade in international transactions? [1] Trade using gold [2] Trade using domestic currencies of partner countries [3] Trade using cryptocurrencies [4] Trade using barter system [5] Trade using SDRs only
- Objective: Reduce dollar dependence & transaction costs

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

28 March 2026

- The Government of India has introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha. The Bill was presented by Jitin Prasada after incorporating recommendations of a Select Committee.
- Q4. Decriminalisation refers to: [1] Increasing imprisonment [2] Removing criminal penalties for certain offences [3] Introducing new crimes [4] Strengthening police powers
- Q1. The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was introduced in which House of Parliament? [1] Rajya Sabha [2] Lok Sabha [3] Joint Session [4] State Assemblies

Kerala's 'MLATrack.com'

28 March 2026

- MLATrack.com is a public digital database platform that aggregates and presents detailed data on the performance and legislative activities of Members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly for the term 2021–2026.
- Enable citizens, researchers, and media to assess MLA performance objectively
- Tracks over 68,000+ questions
- Covers debates, motions, and interventions

PRISM-SG Portal

28 March 2026

- 25 March 2026, New Delhi
- Full Form Portal for Rail-Road Inspection & Stages Management – Steel Girders
- Q2. PRISM-SG is primarily used for managing: [1] Airport construction [2] Steel girders in Road Over

Bridges [3] Metro rail projects [4] Highway toll systems [5] Port infrastructure

- Ministry of Railways (in coordination with highway authorities)

Nasha Mukh Vidyalaya Initiative

28 March 2026

- Q2. The initiative is implemented by: [1] Ministry of Health [2] Ministry of Education [3] Ministry of Home Affairs [4] NITI Aayog [5] Ministry of Youth Affairs
- The Ministry of Education has released a 3-year Action Plan under the Nasha Mukh Vidyalaya Initiative to combat substance abuse among school students.

Maternal Mortality in India

29 & 30 March 2026

- Global maternal deaths: ~2.4 lakh
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR): Declined to 116 per 1 lakh live births
- Maternal deaths in India (2023): ~24,700
- However, progress has slowed after 2015, raising policy concerns

Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2025

29 & 30 March 2026

- What is it? The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) was launched in 2017 by the National Statistical Office to estimate labour market indicators.
- Overall (15+): 59.3%
- Female: 40.0% (significant gender gap persists)
- Overall: 57.4%

Tunguska Air Defence Missile System (2K22M)

29 & 30 March 2026

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹445 crore contract with JSC Rosoboronexport for the procurement of the Tunguska Air Defence Missile System (2K22M) for the Indian Army.
- Attack helicopters

Revision of PM E-DRIVE Scheme

29 & 30 March 2026

- Q3. Till when are incentives for electric two-wheelers (E2W) valid under the scheme? [1] 2025 [2] July 31, 2026 [3] 2027 [4] 2028
- Q4. Till when are incentives for electric three-wheelers (E3W) valid under the scheme? [1] 2026 [2] 2027 [3] March 31, 2028 [4] 2029
- Total outlay: ₹10,900 crore
- Focus: Electric two-wheelers (E2W) and three-wheelers (E3W)

Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

31 March 2026

- January 2026 MHA Guidelines Mandated two-year central stints for IPS officers at IG level to foster operational bonds with CAPF cadre subordinates — referenced in the Bill's rationale for mandatory IPS deputation.
- Inspector General (IG): 50% reserved for IPS officers
- Additional Director General (ADG): Minimum 67% for IPS officers
- Special Director General (SDG) and Director General (DG): 100% reserved for IPS officers

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	Very High	GS-2 Polity — All India Services, CAPFs, federalism, judicial review, civil services
State PSCs	Very High	Civil services structure, IPS role, internal security, federal administration

Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC)

31 March 2026

- The RAB's inauguration in 2026 marks BRIC reaching strategic maturity — nearly three years after the restructuring was initiated in late 2023
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) The nodal ministry-level department under the Ministry of Science and Technology responsible for the development and promotion of biotechnology in India. BRIC functions under its administrative oversight.
- iBRIC Institutes The 14 formerly independent institutes now integrated under BRIC — referred to as Integrated BRIC (iBRIC) institutes. They continue to function as research centres but are now governed under a unified strategic framework monitored by the RAB.
- Research Advisory Board (RAB) The apex scientific oversight body within BRIC. It reviews and monitors scientific activities of all iBRIC institutes, ensures alignment with national goals, and provides strategic direction to BRIC's research agenda.

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	Very High	GS-3 Science and Technology — biotechnology, government research institutions, Atmanirbhar Bharat
State PSCs	High	Science and technology institutions, government schemes, biotechnology policy

Social Media Regulation — IT Rules Amendment 2025

31 March 2026

- Section 69A of the IT Act Allows the government to issue legally binding blocking orders against online content on grounds of sovereignty, security, public order, etc. More powerful and legally enforceable than takedown notices under Section 79.
- Intermediary Any entity that stores or transmits data on behalf of others — includes social media platforms like Meta, X (Twitter), YouTube. Their liability is governed by Section 79 of the IT Act.
- Reducing safe harbour compliance window to 2-3 hours effectively forces platforms to act hastily, often removing content without adequate scrutiny
- IT Rules, 2021 Formally called the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021. Notified under Section 79 of the IT Act, 2000. Govern social media intermediaries, digital news platforms, and OTT platforms.

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	Very High	GS-2 Polity — IT Act, free speech, digital governance, intermediary liability
SSC	Moderate	Digital media regulation, compliance frameworks
State PSCs	High	Constitutional rights, IT governance, censorship and free speech

Great Indian Bustard (Ghorad)

31 March 2026

- Legal Protection:** Listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 — the highest level of legal protection in India, prohibiting hunting and trade.
- Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** The highest protection category under India's primary wildlife law. Species listed here cannot be hunted, traded, or disturbed. Violations carry the most severe penalties under the Act.
- Flagship Species** A species selected to act as an ambassador for a particular habitat or ecosystem. Protecting the GIB automatically protects the entire grassland ecosystem and the biodiversity it supports.
- Q2. What legal protection does Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provide to the Great Indian Bustard and what are its implications?**
 - Schedule I provides moderate protection allowing regulated trophy hunting with government permits
 - Schedule I allows trade in GIB feathers but prohibits killing
 - Schedule I provides the highest level of legal protection in India — prohibiting hunting, trade, and disturbance of the species with the most severe penalties under the Act
 - Schedule I protection applies only within designated national parks and sanctuaries
 - Schedule I listing requires the species to be kept only in captivity for protection

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
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Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	Very High	GS-3 Environment — species conservation, Wildlife Protection Act, grassland ecosystems

NABARD Grade A	High	Grassland ecosystems, agricultural biodiversity, wildlife-farmer coexistence
SSC	Very High	Local species conservation, Desert National Park, inter-state cooperation

TEST YOURSELF · NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute released its report “Trends in International Arms Transfers, 2025”, highlighting global arms trade patterns for the period _____.
2. _____ is the world’s first precision formation-flying space mission designed to study the Sun’s outer atmosphere (corona) with high precision.
3. Launched in _____ by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Jal Jeevan Mission aims to provide functional household tap connections (FHTCs) to every rural household under the “Har Ghar Jal” initiative.
4. The Union Government has allocated _____ under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in the Union Budget 2026–27.
5. The revised deadline for universal coverage is _____.

Answers 1 2021–2025 · 2 Proba-3 · 3 2019 · 4 ₹2,500 crore for the fisheries sector · 5 December 2028

BANKING AND FINANCE · 82**SEBI Mandates Registered Name & Registration New GDP Series (Base Year FY23)**

28 February 2026

- Number of price indicators increased significantly (approx. 180 → 600).
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has revised India's national accounts. GDP base year shifted from 2011–12 to 2022–23 to improve accuracy and align with global statistical standards.
- Earlier base year: 2011–12
- Revised base year: 2022–23 (FY23)

New GDP Series Upgrades FY26 Growth to 7.6%

28 February 2026

- FY 2025–26 GDP growth revised to 7.6%.
- The Government released Second Advance Estimates of GDP based on the new national accounts series. India's GDP growth for FY 2025–26 is now estimated at 7.6%, higher than earlier projections.
- Earlier First Advance Estimate (January): 7.4% (based on old series).
- From 9.2% (old series) → 7.2% (new series)

MSME Ministry Upgrades NSIC to Schedule 'A' Category CPSE

28 February 2026

- Companies Act, 2013 (or earlier 1956 Act), or
- Introduced in 1965 following recommendations of the Committee on Top Posts.
- Companies in which the Central Government holds 51% or more equity.
- Operate in sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, finance, energy, and services.

Small, Steady Steps Toward Rupee Internationalisation

1 & 2 March 2026

- About 5% of India's international trade is now conducted in rupees.
- Exports invoiced in rupees: 6.08%
- Imports invoiced in rupees: 4.82%
- FY26 (Apr–Dec):

Govt Launches eSushrut@Clinic — A "BHIM UPI Moment" for Healthcare Digitisation

1 & 2 March 2026

- Assists doctors without replacing clinical judgment

Number Disclosure on Social Media

3 March 2026

- Enable investors to clearly differentiate between:
- Unregistered financial influencers ("finfluencers")
- Stockbrokers
- Investment Advisers

RBI Imposes ₹11.50 Lakh Penalty on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services

3 March 2026

- In February 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹11.50 lakh on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) for regulatory non-compliances observed during its annual inspection.
- Section 58B(5)(aa) of the RBI Act, 1934
- The inspection was conducted with reference to the company's financial position as on 31 March 2025 (FY25).
- Section 58G(1)(b) read with

IIP Growth Slows to 4.8% in January 2026

3 March 2026

- IIP Growth: Slowed to 4.8% in January 2026
- Previous Month (December 2025): 7.8% (later revised upward to 8%)
- December 2025 growth: 8.4%
- January 2025 growth: 5.8%

Fino Payments Bank's Transition to Small Finance Bank on Track

3 March 2026

- Provide basic banking services to underserved sections
- Extend credit to small businesses, micro enterprises, farmers, and unorganised sectors

Basis of Comparison	Payments Bank	Small Finance Bank (SFB)
Regulator	Reserve Bank of India	Reserve Bank of India
Objective	Promote financial inclusion through payments and deposit services	Promote financial inclusion through deposits and credit delivery
Lending Facility	Not allowed to lend	Allowed to provide loans
Deposit Acceptance	Demand deposits only (subject to RBI cap)	Demand and time deposits allowed

Basis of Comparison	Payments Bank	Small Finance Bank (SFB)
Revenue Model	Transaction fees, remittances, third-party product distribution	Interest income from loans + fee-based services
Priority Sector Lending (PSL)	No mandatory 75% PSL norm	Minimum 75% of ANBC to priority sector
Capital Requirement	Minimum ₹100 crore	Minimum ₹200 crore
Target Customers	Migrant workers, low-income households, small businesses	MSMEs, small farmers, informal sector, low-income individuals
Banking Scope	Limited banking functions	Full-service banking (within SFB framework)
Investment Pattern	Major portion invested in government securities	Diversified lending and investment portfolio

EPFO Retains EPF Interest Rate at 8.25% for FY26

3 March 2026

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has recommended retaining the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) interest rate at 8.25% for FY 2025–26.
- EPF Interest Rate: 8.25%
- FY26: 8.25% (unchanged)
- FY24: 8.15% (last revision before increase)

SEBI Intensifies Tech-Driven Enforcement to Curb Pre-Investment Scams

3 March 2026

- Diverting funds into personal bank accounts
- Luring investors through fake trading apps

SEBI's 50% Portfolio Overlap Rule

3 March 2026

- Thematic and sectoral schemes within the same asset management company (AMC) cannot have more than 50% common holdings.
- 51 sectoral and thematic schemes currently breach the 50% overlap threshold.
- Only 13 schemes (excluding those with assets below ₹1,000 crore) have overlap exceeding 52%.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has tightened norms for thematic and sectoral mutual funds by introducing a 50% portfolio overlap cap within schemes of the same fund house.

IRDAI Proposes Shift of Insurers to Ind AS

4 & 5 March 2026

- Insurance Act, 1938
- Shareholder participation remains capped at 10%.
- Surplus distribution will continue under Section 49 of the Insurance Act.
- The transition includes adoption of Ind AS 117, the accounting standard for insurance contracts aligned with IFRS 17.

SEBI Overlap Rules May Push Mutual Funds Toward Passive Products

4 & 5 March 2026

- Portfolio overlap between thematic/sectoral funds and other equity schemes is capped at 50%.
- Passive AUM share increased from 7.3% five years ago
- To about 19.02% of total mutual fund assets.
- In the United States, passive funds account for more than 50% of mutual fund assets.

Bank Liquidity May Come Under Stress

4 & 5 March 2026

- Bank credit growth: ~13.4% year-on-year
- Deposit growth: ~11.2%
- The Reserve Bank of India requires banks to maintain a minimum Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) of 100%.
- Banks usually maintain 115–120% LCR as a safety cushion.

RBI Nod for SBI Mutual Fund to Acquire Stake in Bandhan Bank & RBL Bank

4 & 5 March 2026

- SBI Mutual Fund can hold up to 9.99% of the paid-up share capital or voting rights in each bank.
- Established: 1987
- Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) provisions

IDFC First Bank Fraud

6 & 7 March 2026

- A ₹590-crore fraud involving Haryana government accounts maintained at a Chandigarh branch of IDFC First Bank has been uncovered. Investigations suggest forged cheques, diversion of funds, and involvement of bank officials along with private entities.
- The case refers to an alleged large-scale financial scam in which funds belonging to Haryana government departments were illegally withdrawn and diverted from accounts held in IDFC First Bank.
- Diversion of Funds: Money withdrawn from government accounts was reportedly transferred to private entities.
- Manipulation of Bank Records: Falsified bank statements were used to mislead government

departments.

RBI Proposes Relief for Small Digital Fraud Victims

6 & 7 March 2026

- Customers losing up to ₹50,000 in digital fraud may receive compensation.
- Maximum compensation: ₹25,000.
- RBI share: around 65%–76% of the compensation
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a new measure to provide quick financial relief to victims of small digital frauds. Under the proposal, customers who lose money in online frauds may receive compensation within five days of reporting the incident.

Crypto and Digital Money Brought Under Tax Reporting Framework

6 & 7 March 2026

- An OECD framework specifically designed to track and report crypto-asset transactions across borders.
- The changes were notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) through the Income-tax (Amendment) Rules, 2026.
- A U.S. law requiring disclosure of financial accounts held by U.S. taxpayers abroad.
- Electronic money accounts with a balance below \$10,000 (rolling 90-day average) may not require reporting.

SEBI Introduces Debit Freeze Facility for Mutual Fund Folios

6 & 7 March 2026

- Investors can activate a lock on their mutual fund folio.
- Registrar and Transfer Agents (RTAs) will enable this facility for investors.
- Voluntary option available to investors.

SWIFT to Introduce New Framework for Cross-Border Payments

6 & 7 March 2026

- Used by over 11,000 financial institutions worldwide
- Support small businesses and individual remittance senders

MSMEs to Receive Credit Support for E-Commerce Exports

6 & 7 March 2026

- The Government of India has announced credit assistance for MSMEs involved in e-commerce exports under the ₹25,060 crore Export Promotion Mission (EPM). The initiative aims to boost small

exporters' participation in global online markets.

- Must maintain inventory in overseas warehouses for e-commerce fulfilment.

India–UAE Plan Digital Currency Bridge for Instant Cross-Border Transfers

6 & 7 March 2026

- The UAE contributes about 19.2% of India's inward remittances.
- The UAE hosts more than 4 million Indians.
- Used by individuals for payments to other users or merchants.
- Remittances (person-to-person transfers)

RBI Waives NOFHC Condition for AU Small Finance Bank

8 & 9 March 2026

- Earlier, AU SFB was required to create a NOFHC to hold promoter shareholding before becoming a universal bank.
- In-principle approval: August 7, 2025
- The bank must apply for the final universal banking licence within this period.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has relaxed the requirement of creating a Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC) for AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB) as it transitions to a universal bank.

NBFCs Seek Risk-Weight Rejig Amid Rising RBI Scrutiny

8 & 9 March 2026

- Retail loans account for about 90% of NBFC industry Assets Under Management (AUM).
- RBI supervision of large NBFCs is now almost at par with universal banks.
- Institutional investors like EPFO and PFRDA mainly invest in government securities.
- Similar to the National Housing Bank (NHB) facility for Housing Finance Companies.

Institution	Risk Weight
Banks	75%
NBFCs	100%

RBI Tightens Banks' Dividend Payout Norms

10 & 11 March 2026

- Banks can distribute a maximum of 75% of their net profit as dividends in a financial year.
- Adjusted PAT will be calculated by deducting 50% of net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) from the net profit.
- Earlier proposals suggested deducting 100% of NPAs, which has now been relaxed.
- Maintain required regulatory capital levels, including

Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1) ratio.

RBI Allows NBFCs and ARCs to Include Quarterly Profits in Capital Base

10 & 11 March 2026

- Tier-1 capital
- Quarterly profits can now be recognised as part of net worth and Tier-1 capital.
- Quarterly financial statements must undergo audit or limited review by statutory auditors.
- The calculation requires deducting the average dividend paid during the previous three financial years.

RBI Conducts ₹50,000 Crore OMO Purchase

10 & 11 March 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted Open Market Operations (OMO) to purchase ₹50,000 crore worth of Government Securities (G-Secs) to ease liquidity in the banking system amid global economic uncertainty and rising oil prices.

Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through Green Infrastructure Bonds

10 & 11 March 2026

- In March 2026, Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore through Series-I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds, becoming the first bank in India to issue domestic green bonds specifically for infrastructure financing.
- The annual cut-off coupon rate was fixed at 7.1%.
- The bonds have a tenure of 7 years.
- The base issue size was ₹5,000 crore, with an additional greenshoe option of ₹5,000 crore.

No Minimum Balance Penalty for Jan Dhan Accounts

10 & 11 March 2026

- Around 720 million Basic Savings Bank Deposit Accounts (BSBDAs) are currently operational in India.
- Such accounts are designed as zero-balance savings accounts, meaning account holders are not required to maintain a minimum balance.
- Ensure universal access to banking services.
- Provide financial services to unbanked and vulnerable populations, including low-income households and small depositors.

FDI Policy Relaxation under Press Note 3

10 & 11 March 2026

- Introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic (2020) to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies when valuations were depressed.
- Press Note 3, issued in April 2020 by the Department

for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, mandates that FDI from countries sharing land borders with India must receive prior government approval, irrespective of sector or investment size.

- Investments from land-bordering countries below 10% ownership and without controlling interest can now be allowed through the automatic route.
- The revised policy introduces a clear threshold of at least 10% ownership to determine beneficial ownership.

RBI Caps Bank Dividend Payout at 75% of Profit After Tax

10 & 11 March 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India has issued revised guidelines on dividend declaration by banks, linking payouts to capital adequacy and asset quality. The new framework caps dividend payouts at 75% of Profit After Tax (PAT) and will come into effect from FY27.
- Banks can distribute dividends up to 75% of PAT for the relevant financial year.
- Banks with stronger capital buffers may distribute up to 100% of adjusted PAT, but still within the overall 75% PAT cap.
- Dividend eligibility depends on the Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1) ratio, a key measure of a bank's capital strength.

RBI Seeks Data on Banks' Exposure to the Middle East

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- 16.18% of India's imports come from the region (Apr–Dec 2025).
- 13.06% of India's exports go to GCC countries.
- 2.03% of exports
- 3.94% of imports

RBI May Maintain Prolonged Policy Pause

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- In the February 2026 monetary policy review, the RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%.
- Sharp fluctuations in crude oil prices—from around \$120 per barrel to nearly \$81—have increased uncertainty for policymakers.
- Conducted Open Market Operations (OMO) worth ₹50,000 crore on March 9.
- Scheduled another ₹50,000 crore OMO purchase to stabilize bond markets and ease liquidity pressures.

Central Bank of India Partners with IIFL Finance for Co-Lending

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Central Bank of India has entered into a co-lending partnership with IIFL Finance to expand credit

access and offer loans at competitive interest rates under the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India.

- This framework operates under the Co-Lending Arrangements (CLA) guidelines issued by RBI, revised in November 2025.
- Joint Credit Assessment: Both lenders will evaluate loan applications based on jointly defined credit parameters.
- Blended Interest Rate: Borrowers will receive loans at competitive blended rates due to combined lending.

Fixed Tenures May Be Introduced for Upper-Layer NBFC Chiefs

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- In April 2021, the RBI capped the tenure of MDs and CEOs of private banks at 15 years, with a maximum age limit of 70 years.
- Base Layer: NBFCs with assets up to ₹1,000 crore
- Middle Layer: NBFCs with assets above ₹1,000 crore
- Fixed Tenure for Leadership

Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 2026

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The earlier Paragraph 11(4) of the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 allowed employees and employers to opt for pension contributions on wages exceeding the ₹15,000 monthly wage ceiling.
- Launched: 1995
- The option had to be exercised within one year of the 2014 amendment to the scheme.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation has approved the Employees' Pension Scheme (EPS), 2026, which removes the earlier provision allowing employees to opt for pension on higher salary beyond the wage ceiling.

SEBI Sets Rules for Intraday Borrowings by Mutual Funds

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India has introduced new conditions governing intraday borrowings by mutual funds, effective April 1, 2026.
- Redemption payouts to investors
- Payment of interest or income distribution to unitholders
- Exchange Traded Fund and equity-oriented index funds may borrow funds if sell trades remain under-executed during the closing auction session on stock exchanges.

RBI Launches "Awareness Program on Digital Payments"

15 & 16 March 2026

- In March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a pilot initiative titled "Awareness Program

on Digital Payments" to promote safe and widespread adoption of digital payment systems across India.

- Observed from: 9–13 March 2026
- The initiative is part of the 6th edition of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW).
- Objective: Promote secure digital transactions and financial literacy among citizens.

Mis-selling in Bancassurance and the Goal of "Insurance for All by 2047"

15 & 16 March 2026

- Support the national objective of "Insurance for All by 2047."
- Bancassurance is a partnership where banks sell insurance products of insurance companies to their customers through bank branches.
- Easy access for customers
- Over 26,000 complaints of unfair insurance practices were recorded in FY25.

RBI Likely to Increase Liquidity to Control Short-Term Interest Rates

15 & 16 March 2026

- The call money rate should remain near the policy repo rate, which is currently 5.25%.
- The RBI has been selling dollars in the foreign exchange market to prevent a sharp fall in the rupee. Since the beginning of the Iran–West Asia conflict, the RBI has reportedly sold about \$12 billion.
- RBI buys dollars now and sells them later.

SEBI Announces Measures to Strengthen India's Investment Advisory Ecosystem

17 March 2026

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has announced several initiatives to strengthen and streamline India's investment advisory ecosystem. The measures were outlined by SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey at the ARIA Aspire 2026 conclave of investment advisers.
- SEBI has set up a working group to review the regulatory framework governing Mutual Fund Distributors (MFDs).
- The objective is to identify and address overlaps between Mutual Fund Distributors and Investment Advisers (IAs), ensuring clearer regulatory boundaries.
- Compliance support for investment advisers

IRDAI Proposes Public Insurance Registry (PIR)

18 March 2026

- Data-Driven Regulation Enable better regulatory oversight and policy analysis.
- Improve Customer Experience Provide easier access

to insurance information for policyholders.

RBI Wins “Initiative of the Year” Award for .bank.in Domain

18 March 2026

- Enhance cybersecurity in digital banking

RBI Imposes ₹2.7 Lakh Penalty on Manappuram Finance for KMP Compensation Guideline Violation

18 March 2026

- The RBI levied the penalty under provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹2.70 lakh on Manappuram Finance Limited, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC), for non-compliance with guidelines related to Key Managerial Personnel (KMP) compensation.
- The inspection was based on the company's financial position as of 31 March 2025.
- The violation relates to non-adherence to compensation guidelines for Key Managerial Personnel (KMPs) applicable to NBFCs.

Fitch Raises India's GDP Growth Forecast to 7.5% for FY26

18 March 2026

- For FY2026–27 (FY27), the agency revised its growth projection upward to 6.7%, compared with 6.4% estimated earlier in December 2025.
- In March 2026, Fitch Ratings released its Global Economic Outlook – March 2026, projecting India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth at 7.5% for FY2025–26 (FY26). The upward outlook is driven by strong domestic demand and stable macroeconomic indicators.
- Fitch expects India's GDP to grow at 7.5% in FY26, reflecting continued economic momentum supported by consumption and investment.
- Growth is expected to moderate slightly but remain strong at around 6.5% in FY28, indicating sustained economic expansion.

NBFCs Delay External Commercial Borrowings as Hedging Costs Rise

18 March 2026

- Buyers' credit
- Suppliers' credit
- Companies in manufacturing and services sectors
- Diversify funding sources

RBI's New Rules Deepen India's Acquisition Finance Market

18 March 2026

- Compliance with 30% per-bank shareholding limit
- Net worth: at least ₹500 crore
- Positive net profit: in each of the last 3 years
- Minimum maturity standardized at 3 years

Rule	Requirement
Maximum bank financing	75% of acquisition value
Minimum equity contribution	25% from acquirer
Post-acquisition debt-equity ratio	Max 3:1

SEBI Proposes Changes to Simplify Nomination Rules for Demat Accounts and Mutual Funds

18 March 2026

- The proposals modify the nomination framework introduced in January 2025 after industry feedback highlighted implementation challenges.
- Earlier SEBI rules (January 2025 circular):
- Allowed up to 10 nominees.
- Limit reduced to 4 nominees.

Bima Sugam to Launch Standardised Insurance Products in 2026

18 March 2026

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is preparing to roll out standardised insurance products on the digital platform Bima Sugam during 2026.
- Motor Insurance – expected by July 2026
- Health Insurance – expected by August 2026
- Life Insurance – expected by September 2026

RBI Reassures on HDFC Bank: Understanding Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) in India

19 March 2026

- Introduced by RBI in 2014
- Common Equity Tier-1 (CET1)
- State Bank of India

RBI Injects ₹25,101 Crore via VRR Auction

20 March 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India injected ₹25,101 crore into the banking system through a 3-day Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction on March 20, 2026, to manage short-term liquidity conditions.

Rupee Falls to Record Low of ₹93.72/\$

20 March 2026

- Record low: ₹93.72/\$ (intraday: ₹93.77)
- FY26 depreciation: 8.8% (worst since FY14)
- March decline: 2.92%
- Prices have risen 120% since the West Asia crisis

RBI Reviews Geopolitical Impact on Financial Markets Amid Rupee Pressure and Oil Price Surge

21 & 22 March 2026

- Depreciated 2.92% in March 2026
- Indian Rupee hit an all-time low of ₹93.72 per US dollar
- Current repo rate stands at 5.25%
- The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently convened its 622nd meeting to assess the impact of escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia on global and domestic financial markets. This marks the first board-level review since the conflict intensified in late February 2026.

SEBI Board Meet 2026

23 March 2026

- Buy ₹100 crore worth of shares
- Sell ₹80 crore worth of shares
- Current system → Pay ₹100 crore
- Proposed system → Pay only ₹20 crore (net amount)

Bank of Baroda Launches UPI-Linked Credit Line for Women SHGs

23 March 2026

- Eligible beneficiaries can avail up to ₹5,000 overdraft
- In March 2026, Bank of Baroda introduced a UPI-linked overdraft (OD) facility for verified women Self-Help Group (SHG) members holding accounts under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. This makes BoB the first bank in India to roll out such a digital micro-credit solution integrated with UPI.
- Women SHG members can access instant credit via UPI
- Verified women SHG members

RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on HSBC India for Deposit Norm Violations

23 March 2026

- In March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹31.80 lakh on HSBC India for non-compliance with regulatory guidelines related to inoperative accounts and unclaimed deposits.
- Violation of provisions under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (Section 26A)
- Ensures transparency and ease of retrieval for depositors

RBI Central Board Approves Budget 2026–27 and Utkarsh 3.0

23 March 2026

- The Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the Bank's budget for FY

2026–27 and its Medium-Term Strategy Framework – Utkarsh 3.0 (2026–29) during its 622nd meeting held in Patna under the chairmanship of Sanjay Malhotra.

- Utkarsh 3.0 is the Medium-Term Strategy Framework (MTSF) of the Reserve Bank of India for the period 2026–2029. It outlines the RBI's strategic priorities, reform agenda, and institutional goals to strengthen India's financial system over the next three years.
- Utkarsh 3.0 (2026–29) – the next phase of RBI's strategic roadmap
- Annual Budget for 2026–27

Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions–2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0)

24 March 2026

- The Government of India launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions–2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) in March 2026 to inject ₹20,000 crore liquidity into the microfinance sector and support financial inclusion.
- 80% – Small MFIs
- 75% – Medium MFIs
- 70% – Large MFIs

Net FDI Negative for Fifth Straight Month

24 March 2026

- Increased by 5.4% to \$2.1 billion (YoY)
- Jumped 97.3% to \$4.9 billion
- India's Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) remained negative for the fifth consecutive month in January 2026, as per data released by the Reserve Bank of India. Outflows exceeded inflows by nearly \$1.4 billion, indicating pressure on India's external sector.
- Net FDI: –\$1.4 billion (January 2026)

SEBI Approves Conflict of Interest Panel Recommendations

24 March 2026

- From ₹2 lakh → ₹1,000
- Oversight Committee on Ethics
- SEBI Chairperson and Whole-Time Members will now be classified as 'insiders'.
- Supervise conduct of board members

RBI in Talks with 4–5 Countries on Cross-Border CBDC

24 March 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is in discussions with 4–5 countries, including Asian and European economies, to develop cross-border transaction systems using Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).
- Multiple banking layers
- A digital form of central bank-issued currency

- Legal tender, backed by the central bank

SEBI Proposal – Gift Cards for Mutual Fund Investments

25 March 2026

- Investment Cap: ₹50,000 per investor per financial year
- Investment Cap: ₹50,000/year
- Why in News: Consultation paper released (March 2026)
- [1] ₹10,000[2] ₹25,000[3] ₹50,000[4] ₹1,00,000[5] No limit

RBI Push for Unified View of Payment Mandates

25 March 2026

- 87 crore mandates created on UPI (Feb 2026)
- Payment aggregators
- Covers multiple platforms (UPI, cards, aggregators)
- Regulator: Reserve Bank of India

RBI Cancels Treasury Bill Auction to Manage Liquidity

26 March 2026

- [1] 1–2 years[2] 5–10 years[3] 91, 182, 364 days[4] 30 years
- Aim: Support liquidity before financial year-end
- Inverse relation:

SEBI–Google Partnership to Curb Finfluencer Violations

26 March 2026

- Over 1 lakh misleading links removed by SEBI
- Objective: Control misleading financial content on social media
- Verified app labelling launched to protect investors
- Can mislead retail investors

Collateral-Free Loans for MSMEs – RBI Proposal and Concerns

26 March 2026

- Reserve Bank of India proposes collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh for MSMEs
- No mandatory collateral for loans up to ₹20 lakh
- [1] Risk before loan[2] Risk after loan disbursement[3] Tax evasion[4] Inflation rise
- Objective: promote cash-flow-based lending and improve MSME credit access

Finance Bill 2026

26 March 2026

- 12% surcharge on buyback-related capital gains for promoters

- Startup tax holiday threshold increased to ₹300 crore
- New rule: 12% surcharge on promoter buyback gains
- 100% profit deduction for 3 years

SEBI ‘Verified App Label’ Initiative 2026

27 March 2026

- Objective: Protect investors from fraudulent investment apps
- Over 1.3 lakh fraudulent apps removed
- Securities and Exchange Board of India launches ‘Verified App Label’ initiative (March 2026)
- Key message: “First verify. Then invest.”

Record FPI Selling in Indian Equity Markets Amid Oil Price Uncertainty

27 March 2026

- Total selling: ₹1.1 lakh crore in March 2026
- Q1. What do Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) primarily invest in?[1] Physical infrastructure assets[2] Financial assets like stocks and bonds[3] Agricultural land only[4] Real estate projects only[5] Government subsidies
- FIIs (Foreign Institutional Investors)
- Q3. What is the Sensex in the Indian financial system?[1] A type of currency[2] A benchmark stock market index[3] A banking institution[4] A government welfare scheme[5] A commodity exchange

Bankers Propose COVID-like Moratorium for MSMEs Amid West Asia Conflict

27 March 2026

- Around 30% contribution to GDP
- Q1. What is meant by a loan moratorium in the banking system?[1] Complete waiver of loan[2] Temporary suspension of loan repayments[3] Increase in loan amount[4] Permanent reduction in interest rate[5] Conversion of loan into equity
- Q2. What is the primary objective of providing a loan moratorium to borrowers?[1] Increase government revenue[2] Provide liquidity relief during crises[3] Reduce interest rates permanently[4] Promote exports[5] Control inflation
- Q4. What approximate share do MSMEs contribute to India's GDP?[1] 10%[2] 20%[3] 30%[4] 40%[5] 50%

Income Tax Rules 2026

27 March 2026

- Credit card spending above ₹10 lakh annually
- Cash payments above ₹1 lakh
- High-Value Spending MonitoringAnnual spending above ₹10 lakh is flagged, including overseas transactions.
- Cash Payment MonitoringCash payments above ₹1

lakh are tracked with stricter enforcement.

Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026

27 March 2026

- CSR Threshold Relaxation Threshold increased to ₹10 crore net profit to reduce compliance burden on smaller companies.
- Q3. What is the proposed CSR applicability threshold under the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026? [1] ₹5 crore [2] ₹7 crore [3] ₹10 crore [4] ₹15 crore [5] ₹20 crore
- Q4. What is the primary role of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)? [1] Regulating banks [2] Overseeing auditors and audit standards [3] Managing fiscal policy [4] Supervising stock exchanges [5] Regulating insurance sector
- Q5. What restriction is proposed under the audit reforms in the bill? [1] Restriction on tax filings [2] Ban on non-audit services by auditors [3] Limit on bank lending [4] Control on imports [5] Restriction on exports

Gruh Sugam Portal

28 March 2026

- Q4. What is a key feature of the portal? [1] Manual processing [2] Comparison of multiple loan offers [3] Offline applications only [4] No bank involvement [5] Limited access
- Q2. The Gruh Sugam Portal is primarily designed for: [1] Farmers [2] Defence and government personnel [3] Private companies [4] Students [5] Foreign investors
- The National Housing Bank has launched the Gruh Sugam Portal, a specialized digital lending platform for Defence, paramilitary, and government personnel.
- Facilitate affordable home ownership

RBI OMOs Help Banks Cut Treasury Losses in Q4FY26

28 March 2026

- In Q4FY26, the Reserve Bank of India conducted large-scale Open Market Operations (OMOs), purchasing around ₹3.5 trillion worth of government bonds. This move came amid rising bond yields triggered by global and domestic factors, including the West Asia geopolitical crisis.
- Q1. Open Market Operations (OMOs) are conducted by which institution in India? [1] Ministry of Finance [2] Reserve Bank of India [3] SEBI [4] NABARD

RBI's Dollar Unwind Directive to Stabilize Rupee

29 & 30 March 2026

- Objective: Prevent rupee depreciation towards ₹95/\$
- 25% of bank's net worth

- ₹83/\$ → ₹95/\$ (rupee weakens)
- Deadline: April 10, 2026

RBI Imposes Penalties on Banks and Fintech Firm

29 & 30 March 2026

- Union Bank of India: ₹95.40 lakh
- Central Bank of India: ₹63.60 lakh
- Bank of India: ₹58.50 lakh
- Pine Labs: ₹3.10 lakh

IIP Growth at 5.2% in February 2026

31 March 2026

- Manufacturing: 6.0% (Jan: 5.3% | Feb 2025: 2.8%) — accelerated
- Manufacturing acceleration (6.0%) is the backbone of this uptick, significantly better than Feb 2025's 2.8%
- Mining slowdown (3.1%) is a concern but still faster than Feb 2025 (1.6%) — year-on-year trajectory is improving
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) A composite indicator measuring short-term changes in the volume of industrial output. Base year: 2011-12 = 100. Released monthly by MoSPI.

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
RBI Grade B	Very High	IIP composition, use-based classification, growth drivers
NABARD Grade A	High	Industrial credit, capex cycle, agri-industry linkage
SEBI Grade A	Moderate	Industrial output as equity market leading indicator

IRDAI Approves Ind AS Framework for Insurers

31 March 2026

- Ind AS implementation for insurers is effective from April 1, 2026 — making it a current affairs event of immediate exam relevance
- IRDAI The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India — the statutory body established under the IRDAI Act, 1999 to regulate and develop the insurance industry in India. Headquartered in Hyderabad.
- Financial Reporting Framework for Insurers (Pre-Ind AS) Insurers previously followed accounting norms under the Insurance Act, 1938 and the IRDA (Preparation of Financial Statements) Regulations, 2002 — these were not fully aligned with global standards, limiting comparability.
- Key Ind AS standards relevant to insurers include Ind AS 117 (insurance contracts, equivalent to IFRS 17) and Ind AS 109 (financial instruments, equivalent to IFRS 9)

4Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
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4Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
IRDAI Assistant Manager	Very High	Ind AS framework, insurance regulation, financial reporting
RBI Grade B	High	Financial sector regulation, accounting standards, IFRS convergence

Why RBI's Forex Cap Has Not Worked

31 March 2026

- Earlier NOP limit: 25% of bank's capital (board-set internal cap)
- RBI dollar sales from reserves: over \$15 billion in first three weeks of March
- The NOP cap was an administrative/regulatory tool — it addresses bank positioning but not the fundamental drivers of rupee weakness
- RBI's forward book exposure: estimated at ~\$100 billion by March

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
RBI Grade B	Very High	Forex market intervention, NOP norms, BoP, forward book management
SEBI Grade B	High	Currency markets, derivative instruments, NDF market structure

SEBI's Conflict of Interest Framework

31 March 2026

- SEBI Code on Conflict of Interests for Members of Board, 2008 The existing code governing conflict of interest for SEBI board members. Key weakness: it is voluntary and lacks penalties for non-compliance — making it largely unenforceable.

- Q4. When was SEBI established and under which Act does it derive its statutory powers?A) 1988 under the Capital Markets ActB) 1990 under the Securities ActC) 1992 under the SEBI ActD) 1995 under the Financial Regulation ActE) 2000 under the IT Act
- Q4 — C. SEBI was established in 1992 under the SEBI Act, 1992. It was initially set up as a non-statutory body in 1988 but acquired statutory powers through the SEBI Act, 1992. It is headquartered in Mumbai and is India's apex securities market regulator.
- SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India) The statutory regulator of India's securities markets, established under the SEBI Act, 1992. Headquartered in Mumbai. Regulates stock exchanges, listed companies, intermediaries, and investor protection.

Inflation Dynamics and RBI's Monetary Policy Framework

31 March 2026

- Current inflation (February 2026): 3.21%
- OECD projection for India (2026): 5.1% — revised upward by 1.7 percentage points
- OECD projection for G20 (2026): 4% — revised upward by 1.2 percentage points
- Stagflation risk is real — OECD has revised India's 2026 inflation projection up by 1.7 percentage points to 5.1% from current 3.21%

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
RBI Grade B	Very High	FIT framework, MPC mandate, inflation targeting, monetary policy tools
NABARD Grade A	High	Food inflation, fertiliser prices, rural credit implications of inflation

TEST YOURSELF · BANKING AND FINANCE

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. The earlier _____ of the Employees' Pension Scheme 1995 allowed employees and employers to opt for pension contributions on wages exceeding the ₹15,000 monthly wage ceiling.
2. In February 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of _____ on Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited (MMFSL) for regulatory non-compliances observed during its annual inspection.
3. _____: 7.8% (later revised upward to 8%)
4. In _____, Bank of Baroda raised ₹10,000 crore through Series-I long-term Green Infrastructure Bonds, becoming the first bank in India to issue domestic green bonds specifically for infrastructure financing.
5. Introduced during the _____ to prevent opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies when valuations were depressed.

Answers 1 Paragraph 11(4) · 2 ₹11.50 lakh · 3 Previous Month (December 2025) · 4 March 2026 · 5 COVID-19 pandemic (2020)

AGRICULTURE · 20**Women's Role in Agriculture Shifting from Drudgery to Systematic Work**

28 February 2026

- Women constitute nearly 50% of the rural agricultural workforce.
- Around 50–70% of women farmers do not hold land titles in their names.
- At the 5th Agri and Commodity Summit in New Delhi, the Agriculture Secretary highlighted that women's role in agriculture is evolving from manual labour to more organised and systematic participation.
- Changes in land ownership laws across many states have enabled more women to own agricultural land.

Suspension of Fortified Rice Rollout

1 & 2 March 2026

- Achieve nationwide coverage of fortified rice distribution by 2024
- Phased rollout began in 2021
- Blending FRKs are mixed with regular rice, usually in a 1:100 ratio.
- Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)

Global Agricultural Subsidies Linked to Deforestation

1 & 2 March 2026

- Around 14% of these subsidies are directly linked to deforestation.
- 10% rise in fertilizer use → only 2% productivity gain
- But also → 3% increase in respiratory illness
- India has allocated ₹1.71 trillion for fertilizer subsidies (FY27) to cushion farmers from global price shocks.

New Seed Act 2026 and Revised Pesticide Act 2026

4 & 5 March 2026

- On 1 March 2026, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, announced two major agricultural reforms in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand:
- New Seed Act 2026
- Revised Pesticide Act 2026
- Maximum penalty increased to ₹30 lakh.

National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge

8 & 9 March 2026

- Established: 12 July 1982
- Legal Basis: NABARD Act, 1981
- 1st Prize: ₹15 lakh
- 2nd Prize: ₹10 lakh

Gender, Agriculture and Climate Change

10 & 11 March 2026

- 30% reservation for women under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanisation
- Women constitute about 64% of India's agricultural workforce and perform nearly 70% of farm tasks.
- Around 80% of rural women are engaged in agriculture-related activities.
- 75% in crop production

Centre Approves Extension of Bhavantar Scheme to Mustard in Madhya Pradesh

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Madhya Pradesh first implemented BBY in 2017 for soybean during the tenure of Shivraj Singh Chouhan as Chief Minister.
- The scheme was revived in 2025 with revised norms under the current state government.
- The central government has approved a proposal from the Madhya Pradesh to extend the Bhavantar Bhugtan Yojana to mustard procurement, aiming to protect farmers from falling market prices.
- It compensates farmers when market prices fall below government benchmark prices (MSP).

GI-Tagged Joha Rice

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- It received Geographical Indication status in 2017, recognising its unique origin and traditional production in Assam.

Farmer Earnings May Decline if West Asia Crisis Affects Exports

15 & 16 March 2026

- Agriculture contributed about 18% of India's Gross Value Added (GVA) in FY26.
- India exported \$11.8 billion worth of agricultural products to West Asia in 2025.
- Some agricultural products have over 70% of exports going to West Asia, making them particularly vulnerable:
- The sector supports millions of farmers and agro-based industries.

Product	Share of Exports to West Asia
Sheep and goat meat	98.9%
Copra (dried coconut kernel)	83.9%
Beer	81%
Bananas and plantains	79.6%
Nutmeg, mace and cardamom	70.5%

Powerful Challengers to Crops: Rise of Allied Sectors in Indian Agriculture

15 & 16 March 2026

- GVA increased by 195% between 2014-15 and 2023-24.
- Growth rate: 12.77% CAGR.
- Support for small farmers – over 85% of Indian farmers are small or marginal.
- Total horticulture production (2024-25): over 360 million tonnes

Sector	Average Annual Growth (Decade ending 2024-25)
Crop sector	3.5%
Livestock	7.1%
Fisheries	8.8%

ICRIER Paper: Use West Asia Crisis to Push Fertiliser Reforms in India

18 March 2026

- The report notes that 68.6% of India's fertiliser value chain depends on imports, making the sector vulnerable to geopolitical shocks.
- 44.5% – Imported feedstock (mainly natural gas and raw materials)
- 24.1% – Imported finished fertilisers
- 5.8% – Domestic feedstock

Asia-Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA)

18 March 2026

- Asia and Africa together account for over 40% of global agricultural production.
- Holds 65% of the world's remaining arable land
- Agricultural sector projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2030
- The initiative was launched with participation from ambassadors, policymakers, agribusiness leaders, and representatives from more than 10 countries.

Budget 2026 Carbon Credit Programme

19 March 2026

- A ₹20,000 crore allocation in Union Budget 2026 for a "carbon credit programme" has triggered confusion over its actual intent—whether it targets industrial decarbonisation through CCUS or aims to create carbon income opportunities for farmers.
- Agriculture-focused carbon credit income for farmers

Coconut Promotion Scheme 2026

19 March 2026

- The Government of India has announced the Coconut Promotion Scheme in the Union Budget 2026-27 to strengthen the coconut sector, where

India is the world's largest producer (30.37% share).

- Part of a broader ₹350 crore allocation for high-value crops:
- Climate-resilient cultivars
- A Central Sector Scheme aimed at:

Parameter	Data
Global Rank	1st
Share in Global Production	30.37%
Annual Production	21,373.62 million nuts

West Asia War Impact on Indian Agriculture

20 March 2026

- \$53.1 bn (2022-23) → \$51.1 bn (2024-25)
- Farmers (income uncertainty)
- Consumers (cost of living)

Real-Time Crop Monitoring & AI in Agriculture

23 March 2026

- IoT-based sensors
- Consumers rely heavily on brand claims rather than verified data
- Quality indicators
- Improving decision-making for farmers and agri-businesses

Agri-Photovoltaics (AgriPV)

24 March 2026

- The Union Budget 2026-27 increased allocation for PM-KUSUM Scheme to ₹5,000 crore, reinforcing farmer-centric solarisation.
- Panels mounted several meters above ground

Women Farmers in Agriculture (International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026)

25 March 2026

- 2.58 crore women trained (2022-2025)
- 80% of economically active rural women in agriculture
- 33% agricultural labourers
- 48% self-employed farmers

Agriculture Ministry Sets Up Special Cell to Monitor Farm Inputs

26 March 2026

- [1] Bank account[2] Digital identity for farmers[3] Loan scheme[4] Insurance
- [1] Machines[2] Fertilizers, seeds, pesticides[3] Roads[4] Buildings
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare sets up Special Cell amid global supply disruption
- Focus: Fertilizers, seeds, pesticides availability

Grameen Credit Score (GCS)

27 March 2026

- Q1. What is the primary purpose of the Grameen Credit Score (GCS)?[1] Urban infrastructure financing[2] Rural credit assessment for borrowers without formal history[3] Tax calculation for

farmers[4] Export promotion[5] Inflation control

- Q2. Which group is the main beneficiary of the Grameen Credit Score system?[1] Large corporates[2] Rural borrowers including farmers and SHGs[3] Foreign investors[4] Government departments only[5] Urban salaried class
- Enables assessment of "new-to-credit" borrowers

TEST YOURSELF · AGRICULTURE

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. On _____, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, announced two major agricultural reforms in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand:
2. The Government of India has announced the Coconut Promotion Scheme in the Union Budget 2026–27 to strengthen the coconut sector, where India is the _____.
3. The scheme was _____ under the current state government.
4. Women constitute about _____ and perform nearly 70% of farm tasks.
5. _____ – Imported feedstock (mainly natural gas and raw materials)

Answers 11 March 2026 · 2 world's largest producer (30.37% share) · 3 revived in 2025 with revised norms · 4 64% of India's agricultural workforce · 5 44.5%

FACTS TO REMEMBER · 148

Fiscal deficit at 63% of full-year target: CGA

28 February 2026

- The Centre's fiscal deficit at the end of January stood at ₹9.8 lakh crore, or 63% of the annual budget target for 2025–26, compared with 74.5% in the year-ago period, government data released on Friday showed.

India's First State Innovation Mission Launched in Tripura

28 February 2026

- Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched India's first State Innovation Mission (SIM) in Tripura under Atal Innovation Mission 2.0. The mission aims to build inclusive and state-specific innovation ecosystems across states and UTs. It will support startups, grassroots innovators, and research-driven development. The initiative also aligns with strengthening innovation capacity in the Northeast region.

NSIC Upgraded to Schedule 'A' CPSE by MoMSME

28 February 2026

- The Ministry of MSME upgraded National Small Industries Corporation from Schedule 'B' to Schedule 'A' CPSE status in February 2026. The upgrade provides greater financial and operational autonomy to support MSMEs. NSIC plays a key role in credit facilitation, marketing support, and enterprise development. The move recognises its strong performance and contribution to the MSME ecosystem.

India–Sweden Sign Sol to Strengthen AI and Digital Cooperation

28 February 2026

- India AI Mission signed a Statement of Intent with Business Sweden at the India AI Impact Summit 2026. The partnership will promote responsible AI development and deployment. Both countries will launch the Sweden–India Technology and AI Corridor (SITAC) programme. It will enhance collaboration among governments, startups, academia, and industries.

India's Young Adults Rank 60th in Global Mind Health Report 2025

28 February 2026

- Sapient Labs' Global Mind Health Report 2025 ranked India's young adults (18–34) 60th out of 84 countries. India recorded a Mind Health Quotient

(MHQ) score of 33 among youth. Older adults (55+) performed better with a higher global ranking. The report highlights growing mental health challenges among young populations worldwide.

RBI Approves SBI MF to Acquire Up to 9.99% Stake in RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank

28 February 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India approved SBI Mutual Fund to acquire up to 9.99% stake in RBL Bank and Bandhan Bank. The acquisition must be completed within one year and comply with regulatory norms. Fresh approval will be required if the stake falls below 5% and is raised again. The move ensures transparent ownership and financial stability in the banking sector.

World NGO Day 2026 Observed on 27 February

28 February 2026

- World NGO Day is observed globally on 27 February to recognise the role of NGOs in social welfare and development. The 2026 observance marked the 13th edition of the global event. It highlights contributions of non-profits in human rights, inclusion, and sustainability. The day was founded in 2009 and first celebrated globally in 2014.

Rare Disease Day 2026 Observed on 28 February

28 February 2026

- Rare Disease Day is observed annually on the last day of February to raise awareness about rare conditions. The 2026 theme is "More than you can imagine: the realities behind rare diseases". The campaign promotes research, healthcare access, and policy support. It was first launched in 2008 by EURORDIS and is now observed in over 100 countries.

PM's Tamil Nadu Visit

1 & 2 March 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and launch development projects worth over ₹4,000–₹4,400 crore during his two-day visit to Tamil Nadu, covering Chennai and Madurai, along with a stop in Puducherry.

IIFL Home Finance Secures USD 300 Million ADB Loan

1 & 2 March 2026

- IIFL Home Finance secured a USD 300 million loan from the Asian Development Bank to expand affordable housing. At least 25% of funds will support

green-certified homes. The loan includes parallel funding from global financial institutions. The initiative mainly targets women borrowers and low-income households.

President Droupadi Murmu Dedicates Four Schemes for Women in Delhi

1 & 2 March 2026

- President Droupadi Murmu today dedicated four schemes to the women of Delhi. The schemes include the Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme, Saheli Pink Smart Card, Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar, and the Free LPG Cylinder Scheme.

PM Modi launches nationwide HPV Vaccination Programme for girls aged 14 years

1 & 2 March 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a nationwide campaign for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination for girls aged 14 years in Ajmer, Rajasthan.

National Arogya Fair 2026 Held in Maharashtra

3 March 2026

- The National Arogya Fair 2026 was organised in Shigaon, Maharashtra by the Ministry of AYUSH and AIAC. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the event promoting integrated healthcare systems. It showcased Allopathy and AYUSH services with free medical outreach. Six senior Vaidyas were honoured for contributions to traditional medicine.

Nagaland Signs MoU with IMD for Weather Forecasting

3 March 2026

- Nagaland's Higher Education Department signed an MoU with the India Meteorological Department. An X-band Doppler Weather Radar will be installed under Mission Mausam. The 20-year partnership strengthens atmospheric research and disaster preparedness. It enhances high-resolution forecasting in the Northeast region.

Jammu & Kashmir Wins First Ranji Trophy Title

3 March 2026

- Jammu & Kashmir clinched its maiden Ranji Trophy 2025–26 title. They defeated Karnataka on first-innings lead in the final at Hubballi. Auqib Nabi was named Player of the Tournament with 62 wickets. J&K became the 19th team to win India's premier domestic cricket title.

Zero Discrimination Day 2026 – 1 March

3 March 2026

- Zero Discrimination Day was observed globally on 1 March 2026. The 2026 theme was "People First." Launched by UNAIDS in 2014, it promotes equality and inclusion. The butterfly symbol represents transformation and dignity for all.

World Civil Defence Day 2026 – 1 March

3 March 2026

- World Civil Defence Day was observed on 1 March 2026. The theme was "Managing Environmental Risks for a Resilient and Sustainable Future." It marks the enforcement of the ICDO Constitution in 1972. The day honours civil defence personnel worldwide.

BEE Celebrates 25th Foundation Day in New Delhi

4 & 5 March 2026

- The event was held on 1 March 2026 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, under the Ministry of Power. A special BEE@25 logo was unveiled to mark the silver jubilee year. The Renewable Consumption Obligation (RCO) Portal and the BEE Star Label Mobile App were also launched to strengthen monitoring and help consumers verify the energy performance of appliances.

RBI and Bank of Japan Renew USD 75 Billion Bilateral Swap Arrangement

4 & 5 March 2026

- The agreement became effective on 28 February 2026 to strengthen financial cooperation between India and Japan. The arrangement allows both countries to exchange local currencies and US dollars to manage financial stress. It enhances macroeconomic stability and provides a financial safety net during currency or liquidity pressures.

India INX GA Partners HSBC IBU to Expand Overseas Investment Access

4 & 5 March 2026

- The partnership allows eligible investors to access global equities, ETFs, and other securities through the India INX GA platform. Investments will be made within the RBI's Liberalised Remittance Scheme limit of USD 250,000 per financial year. The initiative strengthens GIFT City as a global financial hub and promotes regulated international investments.

World Seagrass Day 2026 – March 1

4 & 5 March 2026

- The day aims to raise awareness about the role of seagrass in marine biodiversity, coastal protection, and climate change mitigation. The United Nations General Assembly declared the observance in 2022. The first World Seagrass Day was celebrated globally

in 2023.

Civil Accounts Day 2026 – March 1

4 & 5 March 2026

- The day commemorates the establishment of ICAS in 1976 as part of reforms in public financial management. ICAS functions under the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance. The service manages government accounts and strengthens transparency in public finance administration.

Project HANUMAN

6 & 7 March 2026

- The Government of Andhra Pradesh launched Project HANUMAN on World Wildlife Day (3 March) 2026 to address the increasing human–wildlife conflict in the state.

Tamil Nadu Women Entrepreneur Empowerment Scheme (TWEES)

6 & 7 March 2026

- Target to encourage 1 lakh women to become entrepreneurs within the next 5 years.
- To promote women entrepreneurship in Tamil Nadu.
- Aims to strengthen women-led MSMEs, economic independence, and employment generation.

Ministry of Culture Launches Upgraded Indian Culture Portal 2.0

6 & 7 March 2026

- The Ministry of Culture launched Version 2.0 of the Indian Culture Portal in New Delhi. The portal provides digital access to India's cultural heritage, literature, and traditions. The upgraded platform features an AI chatbot "Bharti" integrated with the Bhashini language platform supporting 22 Indian languages. It also offers immersive features such as 3D monument walkthroughs and virtual tours.

Hurun Global Rich List 2026 Released

6 & 7 March 2026

- The Hurun Research Institute released the Hurun Global Rich List 2026 covering 4,020 billionaires from 73 countries. Elon Musk remained the world's richest person with a net worth of USD 792 billion. Mukesh Ambani ranked as the richest person in India and Asia. India ranked third globally with 308 billionaires in the list.

Chile Becomes First Country in the Americas to Eliminate Leprosy

6 & 7 March 2026

- The World Health Organization verified that Chile has eliminated leprosy as a public health problem. Chile

became the first country in the Americas and the second globally after Jordan to achieve this milestone. The WHO defines elimination as less than one case per 10,000 population. The achievement supports PAHO's Disease Elimination Initiative targeting multiple communicable diseases by 2030.

KV Subramanian Wins University of Chicago Alumni Award

6 & 7 March 2026

- Indian economist K. V. Subramanian received the Alumni Award for Professional Achievement from the University of Chicago. He became the first Indian economist to receive the honour since its establishment in 1941. Subramanian earlier served as Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India. He is currently a Professor of Finance at the Indian School of Business.

Cheetahs Moving from Kuno to Rajasthan

8 & 9 March 2026

- Two cheetahs from Kuno National Park (Madhya Pradesh) have moved into Baran district of Rajasthan, travelling about 60–70 km. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) clarified that this movement represents natural territorial behaviour of cheetahs.

Maharashtra Presents ₹7.69 Lakh Crore Budget for FY27

8 & 9 March 2026

- Devendra Fadnavis presented the Maharashtra Budget for FY2026–27 with a total outlay of ₹7.69 lakh crore. The budget focuses on welfare programmes, infrastructure and economic growth. It proposes a capital outlay of ₹1.12 lakh crore and a fiscal deficit of 2.7% of GSDP. The budget also includes the Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme for crop loans up to ₹2 lakh.

India crowned T20 World Champions after thumping New Zealand in final

8 & 9 March 2026

- India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs to clinch the T20 World Cup 2026 title in a thrilling final. India posted a formidable 255 for 5 in 20 overs, while New Zealand was restricted to 159 all out in 19 overs.

Second Phase of Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme to Launch in Delhi Today

8 & 9 March 2026

- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will launch the second phase of the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme in Delhi today.

Sports competitions held at 250 locations across India under ASMITA project on Women's Day

8 & 9 March 2026

- On the occasion of International Women's Day, sports competitions were organised simultaneously at 250 locations across the country under the ASMITA project of the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

Ministry of Home Affairs Holds Seminar on Integration with State Emergency Operation Centres in New Delhi

8 & 9 March 2026

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has conducted the third seminar on integration with State Emergency Operation Centres today in New Delhi.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to Organise Nationwide ASMITA Athletics League on International Women's Day

8 & 9 March 2026

- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organising a nationwide athletics league – ASMITA across the nation, including Punjab, to celebrate women in sports on the occasion of International Women's Day.

PM Inaugurates Infrastructure Projects Worth ₹33,500 Crore in New Delhi

10 & 11 March 2026

- In March 2026, Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure projects worth ₹33,500 crore in New Delhi, including metro expansion and housing redevelopment initiatives.

Finland President Alexander Stubb Visits India

10 & 11 March 2026

- Alexander Stubb, President of Finland, paid a state visit to India from 4–7 March 2026 at the invitation of Narendra Modi. The visit elevated bilateral ties to a Strategic Partnership for Digitalisation and Sustainability. He held meetings with Droupadi Murmu and C. P. Radhakrishnan during the visit. Stubb also attended the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi as the Chief Guest.

Romania Ratifies Framework Agreement of International Solar Alliance

10 & 11 March 2026

- Romania ratified the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance by submitting its instrument of ratification to India's Ministry of

External Affairs. Romania had earlier signed the agreement in December 2023. With this step, Romania officially became a member of the solar alliance. The move strengthens global cooperation in solar energy development.

Bank of Baroda Raises ₹10,000 Crore Through Green Infrastructure Bonds

10 & 11 March 2026

- Bank of Baroda became the first Indian bank to raise ₹10,000 crore through domestic green infrastructure bonds. The seven-year bonds were issued on the National Stock Exchange of India platform. The issuance received bids worth ₹16,415 crore showing strong investor demand. The funds will be used to finance renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure projects.

International Women's Day 2026 – March 8

10 & 11 March 2026

- United Nations observes International Women's Day every year on 8 March. The theme for 2026 was "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls." The UN first observed the day in 1975 during International Women's Year. The global celebration highlights women's achievements and promotes gender equality.

11th Raisina Dialogue Held in New Delhi

10 & 11 March 2026

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi from 5–7 March 2026. Alexander Stubb, President of Finland, attended as the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. The conference was organised by Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs. The theme of the event was "Saṁskāra – Assertion, Accommodation, Advancement."

Jal Mahotsav 2026 Launched in Gujarat

10 & 11 March 2026

- C. R. Patil launched Jal Mahotsav 2026 in Navsari district of Gujarat. The campaign is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to promote community participation in rural water management. It is observed from 8 March to 22 March, concluding on World Water Day. The initiative supports sustainability of water infrastructure under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

India and Uzbekistan Launch Pharma–Nutraceutical Corridor

10 & 11 March 2026

- India and Uzbekistan launched a

pharma–nutraceutical corridor to expand access to the CIS and Eurasian healthcare markets. The partnership involves Uzbekistan's Ministry of Health, Nutrify Today and Pharma Eurasia. The corridor aims to promote regulatory alignment, trade facilitation and joint ventures. It will be commercially launched at Pharma Eurasia 2026 in Tashkent.

India–Seychelles Joint Military Exercise LAMITIYE 2026 Begins

10 & 11 March 2026

- India and Seychelles commenced the 11th edition of the joint military exercise LAMITIYE–2026 at the Seychelles Defence Academy in Victoria. The 12-day exercise includes participation from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, marking India's first tri-service participation. Indian naval ship INS Trikanth and an IAF C-130 aircraft are deployed for the drills. The exercise focuses on sub-conventional operations in semi-urban environments and UN peacekeeping interoperability.

IRDAI Approves Allianz Jio Reinsurance and Kiwi General Insurance

10 & 11 March 2026

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India granted certificates of registration to Allianz Jio Reinsurance Limited and Kiwi General Insurance Limited to start operations in India. Allianz Jio Reinsurance is a joint venture between Allianz Group and Jio Financial Services. Kiwi General Insurance is backed by WestBridge Capital and industry veteran Neelesh Garg. The approvals expand India's insurance sector and increase the number of general insurers to 35.

Retail Inflation Rises to 3.21% in February

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- India's retail inflation, measured by the Consumer Price Index, increased to 3.21% in February from 2.74% in January, according to data released by the National Statistics Office.

NABARD, REC Withdraw ₹11,000 Crore Bond Issuances

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Two state-owned financial institutions—National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and REC Limited—withdraw planned bond issuances worth ₹11,000 crore after receiving limited investor interest and bids at yields higher than acceptable levels.

PM Narendra Modi Visits Kerala and Tamil Nadu, Launches Projects Worth ₹16,450 Crore

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Narendra Modi visited Ernakulam in Kerala and Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu on 11 March 2026 to inaugurate and lay the foundation for development projects worth about ₹16,450 crore. In Kerala, projects worth ₹10,800 crore were launched including a polypropylene unit at the Kochi Refinery of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. In Tamil Nadu, projects worth ₹5,650 crore were announced. These included the City Gas Distribution network to provide piped natural gas connections to households and commercial establishments.

Bharat Tex 2026 Launched as India's Global Textile Event

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Giriraj Singh launched Bharat Tex 2026, India's flagship global textile event. The event will be held from 14–17 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. It is organised by the Bharat Tex Trade Federation with support from the Ministry of Textiles. The initiative aligns with the Prime Minister's 5F vision—Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign markets.

NITI Aayog Releases Fiscal Health Index 2026; Odisha Tops

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- NITI Aayog released the second edition of the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) 2026 assessing the fiscal performance of Indian states. Odisha ranked first with a score of 73.1, followed by Goa and Jharkhand. The index evaluates financial management based on data from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. States were categorised into Front-Runners, Performers and Aspirational groups.

Agriculture Ministry Releases 2nd Advance Estimates of Crop Production 2025–26

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Shivraj Singh Chouhan released the second advance estimates of major agricultural crop production for 2025–26. Kharif foodgrain production is estimated at 1741.44 LMT while Rabi production is projected at 1745.13 LMT. Rice production for Kharif is estimated at 1239.28 LMT. The estimates were released by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

RBI Cancels Licences of 36 NBFCs

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India cancelled the certificates of registration of 36 Non-Banking Financial Companies. These entities can no longer conduct NBFC business under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. Additionally, nine NBFCs voluntarily surrendered their licences due to business exits or mergers. The move is part of RBI's regulatory action to strengthen

financial sector supervision.

RBI Authorises CRED as Payment Aggregator

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- Reserve Bank of India granted authorisation to CRED to operate as a Payment Aggregator. The licence was issued under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007. It will allow the fintech platform to onboard merchants directly and manage payment flows. The company already holds licences from IRDAI, SEBI and NPCI for other financial services.

CRISIL Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.1% for FY27

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- CRISIL Limited projected India's GDP growth at 7.1% for FY27 in its report "India Outlook: Wading through Squally Waters." The forecast indicates a slight moderation from 7.6% growth estimated for FY26. Retail inflation is expected to rise to around 4.3%. Industrial capital expenditure is projected to increase significantly over the next five years.

Parthanil Ghosh Appointed MD and CEO of HDFC ERGO

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- HDFC ERGO General Insurance appointed Parthanil Ghosh as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. He will succeed Anuj Tyagi and assume charge from 16 April 2026 subject to regulatory approval. Ghosh has over 30 years of experience in financial services and insurance. He previously served as Executive Director of the company.

India to Host Asia Cup Archery 2027 Second Leg in Delhi

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- New Delhi will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery 2027. It will be India's first international archery event in 22 years since the Asian Archery Championships held in 2005. The decision was announced by World Archery Asia. The event will strengthen India's presence in international archery competitions.

World Kidney Day 2026 – March 12

12 13 & 14 March 2026

- World Kidney Day is observed annually on the second Thursday of March to raise awareness about kidney health. In 2026 it is observed on 12 March and marks the 20th anniversary of the campaign. The theme for 2026 is "Kidney Health for All – Caring for People, Protecting the Planet." The initiative was started by the International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney

Foundations.

Sonam Wangchuk Released After 170 Days of Detention under NSA

15 & 16 March 2026

- Ladakhi environmentalist and activist Sonam Wangchuk has been released from Jodhpur Central Jail after spending 170 days in detention under the National Security Act (NSA), 1980. The Union Home Ministry revoked his detention order with immediate effect.

41 of 166 Tiger Deaths in India Reported in Maharashtra (2025)

15 & 16 March 2026

- According to data from the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 166 tiger deaths were recorded in India in 2025, out of which 41 occurred in Maharashtra. The information was shared by Maharashtra Forest Minister Ganesh Naik during the State Legislative Council's Budget session.

Mayank becomes India's 94th GM and the first from Assam

15 & 16 March 2026

- Mayank Chakraborty has become India's 94th Grandmaster and the first from Assam. The 16-year-old achieved the title at the Hotel Stockholm North by First Hotels Chess Talents tournament, which he won (with seven points from nine rounds).

Government Adds Seven Districts in Phase VI of Gold Hallmarking

15 & 16 March 2026

- The Government of India implemented the sixth phase of mandatory gold hallmarking under the Bureau of Indian Standards regime. Seven districts including Katihar (Bihar) and Banda (Uttar Pradesh) were added from 2 March 2026. Hallmarking ensures the purity and authenticity of gold jewellery sold in India. With Phase VI, the system now covers 380 districts nationwide.

MSDE Signs MoU with GATI Foundation for Global Skill Mobility

15 & 16 March 2026

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed an MoU with the GATI Foundation to enhance overseas employment opportunities for skilled Indians. The agreement aims to position India as a global skills capital by 2047. It includes foreign language training, documentation support and cultural orientation. The initiative will also strengthen Skill India International Centres.

IIT-Guwahati and Japan's Gifu University Form Academic Consortium

15 & 16 March 2026

- Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati and Gifu University signed a Letter of Intent to establish the North East Region–Japan International Academic and Research Consortium. The partnership includes 22 institutions from Northeast India. It aims to promote research collaboration, academic exchange and technology development. The agreement was signed during the Japan–North East Academic Industry Cooperation Symposium 2026.

KV Ramana Murty Appointed Whole-Time Member of SEBI

15 & 16 March 2026

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of K. V. Ramana Murty as Whole-Time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. He will serve for a three-year term from the date of assuming charge. Murty is a 1991-batch officer of the Indian Defence Accounts Service. His appointment increases the number of whole-time members on the SEBI board to four.

World Rotaract Day 2026 – March 13

15 & 16 March 2026

- Rotary International observes World Rotaract Day annually on 13 March. The day recognises the contribution of Rotaractors in community service and leadership development. In 2026, it marks the 58th anniversary of the first Rotaract Club established in North Carolina in 1968. World Rotaract Week 2026 is observed from 9–15 March.

PM Narendra Modi Visits Assam and West Bengal; Launches Projects Worth ₹66,280 Crore

17 March 2026

- Narendra Modi visited Assam and West Bengal on 13–14 March 2026 to inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for development projects worth over ₹66,280 crore. In Assam, projects worth ₹47,600 crore were launched across Kokrajhar, Guwahati and Silchar, including the Assam Mala 3.0 road programme. In West Bengal, projects worth ₹18,680 crore were inaugurated mainly in road, rail and port infrastructure. The visit focused on improving connectivity, logistics and regional development in eastern India.

Government Revises Minimum Public Shareholding Norms for Listed Companies

17 March 2026

- The Ministry of Finance revised rules related to Minimum Public Shareholding under the Securities

Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. The amendment allows large companies to offer only 2.5% public shareholding at the time of listing instead of 5%. The revised framework introduces six categories based on post-issue market capitalisation. The reform aims to make IPOs easier for large companies while ensuring gradual compliance with the 25% public shareholding requirement.

'One Battle After Another' Dominates Oscars 2026 with Six Awards

17 March 2026

- The 98th edition of the Academy Awards was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. The film *One Battle After Another* directed by Paul Thomas Anderson won six Oscars including Best Picture and Best Director. Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor for the film "Sinners" while Jessie Buckley won Best Actress for "Hamnet". Priyanka Chopra also presented an award at the ceremony.

Tamil Poet Vairamuthu Selected for 2025 Jnanpith Award

17 March 2026

- Vairamuthu was selected for the 60th Jnanpith Award for the year 2025. He became the third Tamil writer to receive the honour after Akilan and Jayakanthan. The award is presented by Bharatiya Jnanpith for outstanding contributions to Indian literature. It carries a cash prize of ₹11 lakh along with a citation and a bronze statue of Goddess Saraswati.

International Day of Action for Rivers 2026 – March 14

17 March 2026

- International Day of Action for Rivers is observed annually on 14 March to raise awareness about the protection of rivers and water ecosystems. The 2026 theme is "Protect Rivers, Protect People". The observance originated from the International Meeting of People Affected by Dams held in Brazil in 1997. It highlights the importance of rivers for biodiversity, livelihoods and water security.

Chhattisgarh Launches Gaudham Yojana to Establish 1,460 Cattle Shelters

17 March 2026

- Vishnu Deo Sai launched the Gaudham Yojana in Chhattisgarh to establish 1,460 cattle shelters across the state. Each development block will have around 10 shelters with capacity for about 200 cattle. The shelters will also function as training centres for animal husbandry and value-added products from cow dung. The scheme aims to manage stray cattle and support rural livelihoods.

China Overtakes Netherlands as India's 3rd Largest Export Market (Feb 2026)

18 March 2026

- According to data from India's commerce department, China has overtaken Netherlands to become India's third-largest export destination in February 2026.

Government Approves Food Safety Reforms to Improve Ease of Doing Business

18 March 2026

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare approved major regulatory reforms in the food safety sector effective from April 2026. Licences issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India will now have perpetual validity, eliminating renewal requirements. The turnover threshold for basic registration has been raised from ₹12 lakh to ₹1.5 crore. Street vendors registered under the Street Vendors Act, 2014 will be automatically considered registered under FSSAI.

Indian Navy Participates in Exercise Sea Dragon 2026

18 March 2026

- The Indian Navy participated in the multinational anti-submarine warfare exercise Exercise Sea Dragon 2026 hosted by the United States Navy at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam. The exercise focuses on advanced maritime surveillance and submarine detection operations. Other participants included Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It aims to enhance coordination among Indo-Pacific maritime forces.

World Bank Approves USD 300 Million Loan for Clean Air Plan in Uttar Pradesh

18 March 2026

- The World Bank approved a loan of USD 300 million to support clean air initiatives in Uttar Pradesh. The programme will strengthen air quality management and pollution monitoring systems. The loan has a maturity period of 10 years including a two-year grace period. The initiative forms part of the regional air quality programme in the Indo-Gangetic Plains.

Reliance Signs USD 3 Billion Green Ammonia Deal with Samsung C&T

18 March 2026

- Reliance Industries Limited signed a long-term supply agreement with Samsung C&T Corporation of South Korea for green ammonia supply. The agreement valued at over USD 3 billion will run for 15 years starting from FY 2028-29. The green ammonia will be produced through Reliance's clean energy

ecosystem in India. The deal supports the goals of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

Sahitya Akademi Announces Awards for 2025

18 March 2026

- The Sahitya Akademi announced the winners of the Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2025 across 24 Indian languages. Navtej Sarna won the award in English for the novel "Crimson Spring". Mamta Kalia received the Hindi award for her memoir "Jeete Jee Allahabad". Each winner receives a plaque, shawl and a cash prize of ₹1 lakh.

Kimi Antonelli Wins Formula One Chinese Grand Prix 2026

18 March 2026

- Andrea Kimi Antonelli of Mercedes-AMG Petronas won the Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix 2026 held at the Shanghai International Circuit in China. George Russell finished second while Lewis Hamilton secured third place. The race was the second round of the 2026 Formula One World Championship. It was Antonelli's first Grand Prix victory.

World Sleep Day 2026 – March 13

18 March 2026

- World Sleep Day was observed on 13 March 2026 to raise awareness about the importance of healthy sleep. The campaign is organised annually by the World Sleep Society. It promotes better prevention and management of sleep disorders worldwide. The first World Sleep Day was observed in 2008.

Lok Sabha Extends Tenure of JPC on 'One Nation, One Election' Bills Till Monsoon Session 2026

18 March 2026

- The Lok Sabha has extended the tenure of the Joint Parliamentary Committee examining the legislation related to one nation, one election, until the first day of the last week of the Monsoon session, 2026.

Parliament passes Appropriation Bill 2026

18 March 2026

- Parliament has passed the Appropriation Bill 2026 with the Rajya Sabha returning it to the Lower House after discussion.

Govt increases Budget for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare by 2025-26

18 March 2026

- The Government has enhanced the Budget allocation of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare from 21,933 crore during 2013-14 to

127,290 crore during 2025–26.

India's Unemployment Rate Declines to 4.9% in February 2026

19 March 2026

- The National Statistical Office reported a marginal drop in unemployment under the PLFS February 2026 bulletin. Urban unemployment declined to 6.6%, while rural unemployment remained stable at 4.2%. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) stood at 55.9%, showing steady workforce engagement. The data reflects gradual improvement in urban job markets and stability in rural employment.

Government Approves 23 Quantum Labs under National Quantum Mission

19 March 2026

- The Government approved quantum labs in 23 institutions under the National Quantum Mission. The initiative focuses on quantum computing, communication, and sensing technologies. The decision was reviewed under the leadership of Jitendra Singh. It aims to strengthen India's research ecosystem and build a skilled quantum workforce.

Horticulture Production Records Growth in 2024–25 and 2025–26

19 March 2026

- The Ministry of Agriculture released FE 2024–25 and FAE 2025–26 estimates showing growth in horticulture output. Production reached 3707.38 lakh tonnes in 2024–25 with further increase projected for 2025–26. The total area under cultivation expanded to over 301 lakh hectares. This reflects rising importance of high-value crops in India's agricultural sector.

ALMM Framework Expanded to Include Solar Ingots and Wafers

19 March 2026

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy extended ALMM to cover solar ingots and wafers from June 2028. The move aims to boost domestic solar manufacturing and reduce import dependence. It introduces upstream integration requirements for manufacturers. This step strengthens India's renewable energy supply chain and self-reliance.

Kushal Das, Former AIFF General Secretary, Passes Away

19 March 2026

- All India Football Federation former General Secretary Kushal Das passed away at 66. He served from 2010 to 2022 and played a key role in football development. He contributed to hosting FIFA U-17

World Cup 2017 in India. His leadership strengthened Indian football administration and infrastructure.

World Consumer Rights Day 2026 Observed on March 15

19 March 2026

- World Consumer Rights Day promotes awareness of consumer protection and rights globally. The 2026 theme is "Safe products, confident consumers." It highlights the importance of ethical business practices and informed choices. The day is supported by global organisations including the United Nations.

International Day to Combat Islamophobia Observed on March 15

19 March 2026

- The United Nations observes this day to address anti-Muslim hate and discrimination. The 2026 theme is "Respect Every Person's Dignity." It commemorates the Christchurch attacks in New Zealand in 2019. The day promotes tolerance, inclusion, and human rights worldwide.

National Vaccination Day 2026 Observed on March 16

19 March 2026

- National Vaccination Day marks India's first Oral Polio Vaccine dose in 1995. It highlights the importance of immunisation in disease prevention. India achieved polio-free status in 2014. The day promotes awareness about timely vaccination and public health.

Indian educator and Alakh Pandey makes Forbes World's Billionaires List 2026

19 March 2026

- Indian educator and Edtech entrepreneur Alakh Pandey has made it to the Forbes World's Billionaire's List 2026.

India sets up Bharat Pavilion at FILMART 2026 in Hong Kong

19 March 2026

- India has set up a Bharat Pavilion at the Hong Kong International Film and TV Market – FILMART 2026 which serves as a strategic platform for international engagement, business exchange, and industry collaboration.

Cabinet approves New Era of Industrial Development through Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna

19 March 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks with an allocation of 33 thousand 660 crore rupees.

Bhubaneswar to host World indoor athletics in 2028

20 March 2026

- The Kalinga Indoor Stadium in Bhubaneswar will host the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships, the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) announced on Thursday.

HDFC Bank CEO Reappointment: Board to Consider Sashidhar Jagdishan's Next Term

20 March 2026

- The board of HDFC Bank is set to review the reappointment of its Managing Director and CEO, Sashidhar Jagdishan, whose current term ends in October 2026. The proposal will first be evaluated by the Nomination and Remuneration Committee (NRC) and then sent to the Reserve Bank of India for final approval.
- The reappointment process is therefore expected to conclude well before October 2026
- As per RBI norms, banks must submit board-approved recommendations 5–6 months before the CEO's term ends

Cabinet Approves ₹2,584.60 Cr Small Hydro Power Scheme to Boost Renewable Energy

20 March 2026

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Narendra Modi approved the Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme (FY27–FY31) with ₹2,584.60 crore outlay. It targets installation of 1,500 MW capacity through projects of 1–25 MW. Implemented by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, it provides up to ₹3.6 crore/MW support in NE/border areas and ₹2.4 crore/MW for other states. The scheme aims to enhance clean energy generation and regional energy security.

CCEA Approves ₹1,718 Cr MSP Support for Cotton and ₹6,969 Cr NH-927 Project

20 March 2026

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs led by Narendra Modi approved ₹1,718.56 crore MSP support for cotton farmers via Cotton Corporation of India. It also sanctioned the ₹6,969.04 crore NH-927 (Barabanki–Bahraich) project in Uttar Pradesh under Hybrid Annuity Mode. The decisions aim to stabilise farmer income and boost road connectivity and logistics efficiency.

Edelweiss AMC Launches India's First Hybrid Passive Index Fund

20 March 2026

- Edelweiss Asset Management Company launched India's first hybrid passive index fund combining equity and G-Secs. The fund follows a 70:30 allocation with automatic monthly rebalancing. It tracks the Nifty LargeMidcap250 Plus 8–13 year G-Sec index. The innovation aims to offer diversified low-cost investment options.

RBI Approves Bain Capital Investment in Manappuram Finance

20 March 2026

- Reserve Bank of India approved ₹4,385 crore investment by Bain Capital in Manappuram Finance. The deal includes joint control and potential stake up to 41.66%. It involves subsidiaries Asirvad Micro Finance and Manappuram Home Finance. The investment aims to strengthen capital base and expand lending operations.

Ordnance Factory Day 2026 Observed on March 18

20 March 2026

- Ordnance Factory Day marks the establishment of India's first ordnance factory in 1801 at Cossipore. It highlights the role of defence manufacturing under the Ministry of Defence. The sector was restructured into seven DPSUs in 2021. The day recognises contributions to national security and defence production.

Punjab Launches 'Sikhya Kranti 2.0' with World Bank Support

20 March 2026

- The Government of Punjab, with support from the World Bank, launched Sikhya Kranti 2.0 with ₹3,500 crore investment. It focuses on foundational learning, vocational training, and digital career guidance. The programme includes a ₹2,500 crore WB loan component. It aims to improve education quality and employability outcomes.

CM launches 300 e-buses, portal to disburse pending EV subsidies

21 & 22 March 2026

- Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Friday flagged off 300 electric buses and restarted the EV incentive portal, which had remained closed since 2023. The Chief Minister said ₹24 crore in pending subsidies will now be disbursed to 12,877 beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer (DBT).

Forbes Billionaires List 2026: Elon Musk Tops, Mukesh Ambani Leads India

21 & 22 March 2026

- Elon Musk topped the Forbes Billionaires List 2026, while Mukesh Ambani remained India's richest. The list features 3,428 billionaires with a combined net worth of USD 20.1 trillion. The USA leads in count, followed by China and India. Women account for 14% of the global billionaire population.

WTO Projects Global Trade Growth to Slow to 1.9% in 2026

21 & 22 March 2026

- The World Trade Organization projected global merchandise trade growth to slow to 1.9% in 2026. The slowdown is attributed to geopolitical tensions, tariff impacts, and demand normalization. Services trade growth is expected at 4.8% in 2026. Global GDP growth is forecast to remain stable at around 2.8%.

AIC Launches 'Krishi Sakhi' to Empower Women Farmers

21 & 22 March 2026

- Agriculture Insurance Company of India launched 'Krishi Sakhi' to empower women farmers through awareness and participation in crop insurance. The initiative aligns with FAO's International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026. It includes training, outreach campaigns, and rural awareness programs. The scheme aims to strengthen women's role in agriculture and risk management.

Kaveh Madani Wins Stockholm Water Prize 2026

21 & 22 March 2026

- Kaveh Madani received the Stockholm Water Prize 2026 for contributions to water governance. He is the youngest recipient and first UN official to win the award. His work emphasises governance reforms over infrastructure solutions. The recognition highlights global efforts to address water crises sustainably.

India to Host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028

21 & 22 March 2026

- World Athletics awarded India the hosting rights for WIAC 2028 in Bhubaneswar. It will be India's first time hosting the event. The championship is a major global indoor track and field competition. It supports India's ambitions for hosting Olympics 2036.

International Day of Happiness 2026 Observed**on March 20**

21 & 22 March 2026

- The United Nations observes International Day of Happiness on March 20 with theme "Caring and Sharing". It promotes well-being as a policy priority. Finland ranked first in the World Happiness Report 2026. India ranked 116th, reflecting scope for improving quality of life.

French Language Day 2026 Promotes Multilingualism

21 & 22 March 2026

- The United Nations observes French Language Day on March 20 to promote linguistic diversity. It commemorates the creation of La Francophonie in 1970. It is part of UN Language Days celebrating six official languages. The initiative strengthens global cultural cooperation.

William Dalrymple Wins Mark Lynton History Prize 2026

23 March 2026

- William Dalrymple won the Mark Lynton History Prize 2026 for his book "The Golden Road". The award is administered by the Columbia University and Nieman Foundation. It carries a USD 10,000 prize for excellence in historical writing. The book highlights India's global historical influence.

Telangana Budget 2026-27 Focuses on Growth and Welfare

23 March 2026

- Telangana presented ₹3.24 lakh crore Budget for FY27 by Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. The budget targets 10.7% GSDP growth and aims for a \$1 trillion economy by 2034. It emphasises infrastructure, welfare, and urban expansion. Capital expenditure stands at ₹47,267 crore.

Government modifies Credit Guarantee Scheme to support MSME manufacturers and exporters

23 March 2026

- The Government has modified the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme to support Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in line with the Budget 2025-26.

Outward Remittances Under LRS Decline by 3.2% in Jan 2026

24 March 2026

- Outward remittances under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme of the Reserve Bank of India declined 3.19% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to \$2.68 billion in January 2026, indicating moderation in overseas spending by Indian residents.

Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 Held in New Delhi; Carbon Market Portal Launched

24 March 2026

- First edition of Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 was held at Yashobhoomi from March 19–22, 2026, inaugurated by Manohar Lal Khattar, organised by Bureau of Energy Efficiency, with theme “Electrifying Growth. Empowering Sustainability. Connecting Globally”, and featured launch of Indian Carbon Market Portal.

Government Launches CGSMFI 2.0 to Boost Microfinance Credit Flow

24 March 2026

- Government of India launched Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 to provide guarantee cover for loans to MFIs, benefiting 36 lakh borrowers, managed by National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company, effective from March 20, 2026.

Indian Navy Participates in Exercise Kakadu 2026 in Australia

24 March 2026

- Indian Navy deployed INS Nilgiri in Exercise Kakadu 2026 involving 19 nations, enhancing Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation, and won Kakadu Shield Trophy.

South Indian Bank Appoints Jose Joseph Kattoor as Chairman

24 March 2026

- South Indian Bank appointed Jose Joseph Kattoor as Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman for three years following RBI approval.

City Union Bank Appoints Ravindra Jadeja as Brand Ambassador

24 March 2026

- City Union Bank appointed Ravindra Jadeja as brand ambassador for two years to enhance outreach.

Kotak Mahindra to Divest Stake in Infina Finance

24 March 2026

- Kotak Mahindra Bank arm KMCC to sell 30.99% stake in Infina Finance for ₹1,293.91 crore, reducing shareholding to 19%.

World Day of Theatre for Children and Young People Observed on March 20

24 March 2026

- Observed globally on March 20 to promote children's

cultural rights, initiated by ASSITEJ International with 2026 theme on child rights in arts.

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination – March 21

24 March 2026

- Observed by United Nations on March 21 marking 61 years of ICERD to combat racial discrimination globally.

Himachal Pradesh Budget 2026–27 Presented

24 March 2026

- Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu presented ₹54,928 crore FY27 budget focusing on fiscal discipline, green energy, and social welfare.

Goldman Sachs Cuts India GDP Growth Forecast to 5.9% for CY26

25 March 2026

- Goldman Sachs revised India's GDP growth to 5.9% for CY26, projecting inflation at 4.6% and current account deficit at 2% of GDP amid global uncertainties.

Karnataka Grameena Bank Wins National Award for SHG Linkage

25 March 2026

- Karnataka Grameena Bank received National Award for SHG-Bank Linkage 2024–25 from MoRD for promoting financial inclusion and extending ₹2,835 crore credit to SHGs.

CA P.V. Narayana Rao Appointed to ICAI Sustainability Board

25 March 2026

- P V Narayana Rao appointed co-opted member of SRSB under Institute of Chartered Accountants of India for 2026–27 to strengthen sustainability reporting standards.

NITI Aayog Sanctions ₹1.55 Crore to RISE Centre for Women Entrepreneurship

25 March 2026

- NITI Aayog approved ₹1.55 crore for RISE Centre to boost AI-based skill development, women entrepreneurship, and rural enterprise growth, benefiting over 1,000 women and supporting 300+ families.

PMKVY 4.0 Launched

25 March 2026

- Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has said that Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

4.0 was launched for imparting skill development training through Short-Term Training and up-skilling and re-skilling to youth across the country

National Biodiversity Authority Launches 3-Month Internship Programme for Graduates and Postgraduates

25 March 2026

- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) launched a short-term Internship Programme of up to 3 months for students who are undergoing graduation or post-graduation programmes.

India's Growth to Remain Resilient at 7.1% in FY27 Despite Geopolitical Tensions: S&P Global

25 March 2026

- India's economic growth is expected to remain resilient at 7.1 per cent in the financial year 2026–27, despite ongoing geopolitical tensions, according to a report by S&P Global.

Indian archers win two bronze at Asia Cup Stage-1

26 March 2026

- Indian archers claimed two bronze and ensured at least five more medals at the Asia Cup Stage-1 archery tournament in Bangkok on Wednesday.

UP Launches 'Nivesh Mitra 3.0' to Boost Ease of Doing Business

26 March 2026

- Yogi Adityanath launched Nivesh Mitra 3.0, an upgraded digital single-window platform integrating services, AI support, and land bank systems to enhance investment and industrial growth.

BHASHINI-PFRDA sign MoUs making pension services more inclusive

26 March 2026

- Digital India BHASHINI Division and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority, PFRDA, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding under the initiative titled 'BHASHINI for Seva-Sanchalan', a BHASHINI Sahayogi programme.

BRICS CCI WE Summit 2026 Held in New Delhi Promoting Women Leadership

27 March 2026

- BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted the Women Empowerment Summit in New Delhi with theme WISE, highlighting innovation, entrepreneurship, and initiatives like Mission ShakthiSAT while honouring Shabana Azmi.

BHASHINI and PFRDA Sign MoU for Multilingual Pension Access

27 March 2026

- BHASHINI partnered with Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to enable multilingual pension services using AI-driven translation, improving accessibility across 22 languages.

CCI Approves MUFG Bank's 20% Stake Acquisition in Shriram Finance

27 March 2026

- Competition Commission of India approved MUFG Bank acquisition of 20% stake in Shriram Finance Limited, marking a major cross-border investment in India's financial sector.

OECD Lowers India's Growth Forecast to 6.1% for FY27

28 March 2026

- Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development projected India's GDP growth at 6.1% for FY27, citing global uncertainties while maintaining stable long-term outlook.

India Retains Inflation Target at 4% for 2026–31 Period

28 March 2026

- Government of India retained inflation target at 4% with a tolerance band of 2–6% under the Flexible Inflation Targeting framework in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

India's First Hydrogen Train Completes Successful Oscillation Trials

29 & 30 March 2026

- Ministry of Railways announced successful oscillation trials of India's first hydrogen-powered train conducted by Research Designs and Standards Organisation, covering 20 km at 70 kmph and set to run between Jind and Sonipat, developed by Integral Coach Factory.

MoD Signs ₹858 Crore Defence Contracts to Boost Military Strength

29 & 30 March 2026

- Ministry of Defence signed contracts with JSC Rosoboronexport and Boeing India Defense Private Limited for air defence systems and P-8I aircraft maintenance, enhancing capabilities of Indian Army and Indian Navy.

Meghalaya Signs MoU under JJM 2.0 for Rural

Water Reforms

29 & 30 March 2026

- Meghalaya became the 12th state to sign MoU under Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0, focusing on decentralized water management, sustainability, and rural tap water coverage expansion.

Hockey India Annual Awards 2025 Honour Top Players

29 & 30 March 2026

- Hockey India awarded Hardik Singh and Navneet Kaur as Players of the Year, while Zafar Iqbal received Lifetime Achievement Award.

World Piano Day 2026 Observed on March 29

29 & 30 March 2026

- World Piano Day celebrated on the 88th day of the year to honor the piano and promote global musical culture, initiated by Nils Frahm in 2015.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates ₹11,200 Crore Noida International Airport Phase I

31 March 2026

- Narendra Modi inaugurated Phase I of Noida International Airport at Jewar under PPP model with Zurich Airport, featuring 12 million capacity, single runway operations, and boosting connectivity under UDAN scheme.

PLFS 2025 Report Shows Stable Urban Employment Indicators

31 March 2026

- National Statistical Office reported stable LFPR

(59.3%) and WPR (57.4%) in urban areas with declining youth unemployment and rising share of salaried jobs in 2025.

World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 Held in Telangana

31 March 2026

- World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 held in Hyderabad and Buddhavanam highlighted Telangana Peace Declaration and plans to develop a global World Peace Centre.

Indian Navy Conducts IMEX TTX 2026 Maritime Exercise in Kochi

31 March 2026

- Indian Navy conducted IMEX TTX 2026 under IONS framework to address maritime security challenges and enhance cooperation among Indian Ocean nations.

Indian Army Signs First Capital Procurement Contract via GeM

31 March 2026

- Indian Army signed ₹25.90 crore contract with JCB India Limited via GeM portal to procure 93 telehandlers for enhanced logistics in difficult terrains.

International Day of Zero Waste 2026 Observed on March 30

31 March 2026

- International Day of Zero Waste observed globally to promote sustainable waste management with 2026 theme focusing on food waste reduction.

TEST YOURSELF · FACTS TO REMEMBER

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. In _____, Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple infrastructure projects worth ₹33,500 crore in New Delhi, including metro expansion and housing redevelopment initiatives.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and launch development projects worth _____ during his two-day visit to Tamil Nadu, covering Chennai and Madurai, along with a stop in Puducherry.
3. India's retail inflation, measured by the _____, increased to 3.21% in February from 2.74% in January, according to data released by the National Statistics Office.
4. The _____ launched Project HANUMAN on World Wildlife Day (3 March) 2026 to address the increasing human-wildlife conflict in the state.
5. Aims to strengthen _____, economic independence, and employment generation.

Answers 1 March 2026 · 2 over ₹4,000–₹4,400 crore · 3 Consumer Price Index · 4 Government of Andhra Pradesh · 5 women-led MSMEs

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS · 5

Pakistan–Afghanistan War

1 & 2 March 2026

- Reports indicate airstrikes extending towards Kabul

What is the Conflict?

3 March 2026

- Breakdown of nuclear negotiations in early 2026 contributed directly to military escalation.

Strait of Hormuz

4 & 5 March 2026

- 1973 Arab Oil Embargo
- Iran–Iraq War (1980–88), especially the “Tanker War”
- Repeated tensions involving tanker seizures and sanctions in 2012, 2019, and 2023–24
- Connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and then to the Arabian Sea, opening into the Indian Ocean.

Iran Grants Passage Through Strait of Hormuz to India and Other Nations

27 March 2026

- Handles ~20% of global oil trade
- [1] Red Sea and Mediterranean[2] Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman[3] Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal[4] Black Sea and Caspian Sea
- [1] Airspace rules[2] Maritime law[3] Trade tariffs[4] Climate change
- Between Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman

UNESCO GEM Report 2026

31 March 2026

- Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report An independent annual report produced by a team hosted by UNESCO. It monitors progress towards SDG 4 — the global education goal. Each edition focuses on a specific theme; the 2026 edition focuses on Access and Equity.
- Countdown to 2030 The GEM Report's framing of urgency — with only 4 years remaining to the SDG deadline and completion rates projected to reach 95% only by 2105, the report signals a catastrophic gap between ambition and reality.
- India's relevance: with a large school-age population, India's OOSC numbers and completion rates directly influence global statistics — schemes like PM POSHAN, RTE Act 2009, and NIPUN Bharat are India's structural responses
- Global enrolment (2024): 1.4 billion — up by 327 million (30%) since 2000

Exam	Relevance	Focus Area
UPSC CSE	Very High	GS-2 Governance — SDG 4, education policy, international organisations, India's education schemes
RBI Grade B	Moderate	Human development indicators, social sector policy awareness
NABARD Grade A	High	Rural education access, equity in education, human development in agriculture-dependent regions
SEBI Grade A	Low–Moderate	General awareness — UN reports, global development indicators
State PSCs	High	Education policy, SDGs, school completion data, government schemes

TEST YOURSELF · INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. _____: 1.4 billion — up by 327 million (30%) since 2000
2. Repeated tensions involving tanker seizures and sanctions in _____
3. Iran responded with _____, launching large-scale drone and missile attacks on Israel and US-allied Gulf states.
4. The conflict centres around the _____, a 2,640 km porous border between the two countries. Afghanistan has historically refused to formally recognise it as an international boundary.

Answers 1 Global enrolment (2024) · 2 2012, 2019, and 2023–24 · 3 Operation Truthful Promise 4 · 4 Durand Line

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