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March 2026

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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

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Defence & security

Dunagiri delivered to the Navy

30 March | report 31 March | PIB

GRSE, Kolkata, delivered Dunagiri, the fifth Nilgiri-class Project 17A stealth frigate and the second built at GRSE.

• The Warship Design Bureau designed the class; the project has about 75% indigenous content.

• Its systems include BrahMos, the MFSTAR-MRSAM complex and Combined Diesel or Gas propulsion.

Remember: Delivery is the shipbuilder-to-Navy handover. Commissioning is the later formal entry into service.

Open visual explainer



Dunagiri at sea. Indian Navy / Ministry of Defence / PIB.

Sanshodhak completes the four-ship SVL project

30 March | report 31 March | PIB

The fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large), Sanshodhak, was delivered at GRSE, Kolkata.

• The approximately 3,400-tonne, 110-metre ship supports coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys.

• It has over 80% indigenous content by cost and can collect oceanographic and geophysical data.

Remember: Pair Sanshodhak with surveying. Its sister ships are Sandhayak, Nirdeshak and Ikshak.

Shachi: first next-generation offshore patrol vessel

31 March | Goa | PIB

Goa Shipyard launched Shachi, the first of eleven Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels for the Navy.

• The programme is being built concurrently at Goa Shipyard and GRSE, Kolkata.

• Roles include surveillance, anti-piracy, search and rescue, offshore-asset protection and disaster relief.

Remember: Launching puts a hull into water; it does not mean the vessel has completed trials or entered operational service.

Open visual explainer

DAC clears proposals worth Rs. 2.38 lakh crore

27 March | PIB

The Defence Acquisition Council granted Acceptance of Necessity for major Army, Air Force and Coast Guard proposals.

• Army proposals include Dhanush guns, tracked air-defence systems, tank ammunition and runway-independent surveillance.

• IAF proposals include medium transport aircraft, S-400 systems, remotely piloted strike aircraft and Su-30 engine overhaul; the Coast Guard proposal covers heavy air-cushion vehicles.

Remember: AoN approves the need for procurement. It is distinct from a signed contract, delivery or induction.

Open visual explainer

ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil contracts

3 March | PIB

The Defence Ministry signed two contracts totalling Rs. 5,083 crore for maritime aviation and shipborne air defence.

• Six ALH Mk-III Maritime Role helicopters for the Coast Guard will come from HAL under a Rs. 2,901 crore contract.

• The Rs. 2,182 crore VL-Shtil missile contract was signed with Russia's Rosoboronexport for the Navy.

Remember: ALH is a helicopter; VL-Shtil is a vertically launched surface-to-air missile. Match each with its user service.

Tunguska purchase and P8I maintenance

27 March | PIB

Contracts worth Rs. 858 crore covered the Army's Tunguska air-defence systems and the Navy's P8I aircraft maintenance.

• The Tunguska contract with Rosoboronexport is worth Rs. 445 crore.

• Boeing India Defense received the Rs. 413 crore depot-level inspection contract for P8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft.

Remember: Distinguish a weapons purchase from maintenance of an existing aircraft fleet.

ADC-150 air-droppable container trials

10 March report | trials 21 February-1 March | PIB

DRDO and the Navy completed four release trials of ADC-150 from a P8I aircraft off Goa.

• The system delivers a 150 kg payload of critical stores, equipment or medical supplies to ships far from shore.

• NSTL, Visakhapatnam, is the nodal laboratory; ADRDE, Agra, developed the parachute system.

Remember: ADC-150 supports logistics and assistance at sea. It is a supply container, rather than an air-launched weapon.

Open visual explainer



ADC-150 carried by the P8I aircraft. DRDO / PIB.

LAMITIYE-2026 becomes tri-service

9-20 March | Seychelles | PIB / PIB

The eleventh India-Seychelles exercise included all three Indian armed services for the first time.

• The contingent included Assam Regiment personnel, INS Trikand and an Air Force C-130 aircraft.

• Training at Seychelles Defence Academy focused on semi-urban operations and peacekeeping interoperability.

Remember: LAMITIYE means friendship in Creole. This biennial exercise is associated with Seychelles.



Indian contingent for LAMITIYE-2026. Ministry of Defence / PIB.

VAJRA PRAHAR: India-US special forces

24 February-16 March | Bakloh | PIB

The sixteenth VAJRA PRAHAR exercise ran into March at the Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh.

• It brought together Indian and US special-forces personnel.

• Training focused on interoperability and coordinated special operations in challenging terrain.

Remember: VAJRA PRAHAR pairs India with the USA; distinguish it from the tri-service LAMITIYE with Seychelles.

IMEX tabletop exercise at Kochi

27 March | report 29 March | PIB

The Navy hosted IONS Maritime Exercise TTX-2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command.

• The simulated exercise examined non-traditional maritime security, information sharing and coordinated decisions.

• India holds the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium chairmanship for the 2026-28 cycle.

Remember: TTX means tabletop exercise: scenarios are simulated rather than fought by deployed forces.

IOS SAGAR harbour training completed

27 March report | PIB / PIB

Personnel from sixteen friendly foreign countries completed the harbour-training phase at Kochi.

• Training covered seamanship, navigation, communication, firefighting, damage control and boarding operations.

• The initiative was to progress to operational deployment and regional port engagements.

Remember: IOS SAGAR builds maritime cooperation and practical interoperability under the broader MAHASAGAR vision.

Four self-propelled fuel barges contracted

2 March | report 3 March | PIB

The Navy contracted Shoft Shipyard, Thane, for four 500-tonne self-propelled fuel barges.

• They will replenish ships and submarines in harbour and at anchorage.

• Construction is to follow Indian Register of Shipping classification rules.

Remember: A fuel barge provides harbour logistics; its role differs from a frigate or an offshore patrol vessel.

INS Sudarshini reaches Malta

14 March report | PIB

The sail-training ship INS Sudarshini arrived at Valletta, Malta, during its Lokayan-26 deployment.

• The visit supported maritime engagement and cultural exchange in the Mediterranean region.

• Sail training develops seamanship and navigation skills.

Remember: Valletta is Malta's capital. Malta is an island country in the Mediterranean Sea.

Niche Technology Nexus: spectrum and quantum

16 March | report 17 March | PIB

HQ Integrated Defence Staff held its second Niche Technology Nexus seminar in New Delhi.

• The theme was Cognitive Spectrum Operations and Quantum Technologies.

• Discussions covered adaptive communications, electronic warfare, secure communications, sensing and navigation.

Remember: Cognitive spectrum systems adapt radio use using information and analytics; quantum technologies cover several distinct applications.

B. P. Singh becomes DG Naval Armament

2 March | PIB

B. P. Singh assumed charge as Director General of Naval Armament.

• The appointment concerns the naval armament organisation and its technical responsibilities.

• Naval armament supports the availability and management of the fleet's weapons and related equipment.

Remember: Keep this technical appointment distinct from Chief of the Naval Staff and fleet-command appointments.

Navy assists search for IRIS Dena personnel

4 March operations | report 5 March | PIB

The Indian Navy supported Sri Lanka-led search and rescue after a distress report concerning IRIS Dena west of Galle.

• A maritime patrol aircraft and INS Tarangini were deployed; INS Ikshak sailed from Kochi to assist.

• Coordination was conducted in the search-and-rescue region under Sri Lanka's responsibility.

Remember: SAR means search and rescue. Galle lies on Sri Lanka's south-west coast.

Global Terrorism Index 2026

March release | 2025 data | Institute for Economics and Peace

The Institute for Economics and Peace ranked Pakistan as the country most impacted by terrorism.

• Worldwide deaths fell 28% to 5,582 and incidents fell 22% to 2,944 in 2025.

• The index assesses the impact of terrorism across 163 countries.

Remember: GTI measures terrorism's impact; it is distinct from the Global Peace Index and from an overall military-power ranking.

Science & technology

CE20 tested at 22-tonne thrust

10 March test | report 12 March | ISRO

ISRO conducted a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 cryogenic engine at Mahendragiri.

• The test used a full-area nozzle, a Nozzle Protection System and a multi-element igniter.

• CE20 powers LVM3's upper stage; uprated C32-stage missions are planned with 22-tonne engine thrust.

Remember: A ground hot test checks engine performance. It is distinct from a rocket launch.

Open visual explainer

OrbitAID supported for satellite refuelling

12 March | PIB

The Technology Development Board supported OrbitAID Aerospace's indigenous docking and refuelling systems project.

• Its Standard Interface Docking and Refueling Port enables autonomous docking and propellant transfer.

• In-orbit servicing could extend satellite life and reduce the need for replacement launches.

Remember: Financial support and technology development do not establish that routine commercial refuelling is already operational.

Open visual explainer

SpaDeX-2 and SpaDeX-3 under study

23 March parliamentary reply | PIB

ISRO outlined two further orbital docking experiments being studied for future lunar and space-station missions.

• SpaDeX-2 would examine highly elliptical-orbit docking and sample transfer relevant to Chandrayaan-4.

• SpaDeX-3 would examine circular-orbit docking of pressurised modules using the Bharatiya Docking System.

Remember: These were proposed studies in March. Do not describe them as completed launches or docking demonstrations.

NavIC: navigation and messaging are different

25 March parliamentary reply | PIB

The government reported eleven NavIC satellites launched, with eight functional in different service roles.

• Three were broadcasting navigation signals; five could broadcast one-way messaging signals.

• NavIC is designed for position, navigation and timing over India and about 1,500 km beyond its landmass.

Remember: GAGAN is India's operational satellite-based augmentation system for aviation; it is distinct from NavIC.

OTEC-desalination project reviewed at Kavaratti

6 March | PIB

The Earth Sciences Ministry reviewed the ongoing Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion project in Lakshadweep.

• The concept uses the temperature difference between warm surface water and cold deep-sea water.

• The project links ocean energy with desalination to improve freshwater security on islands.

Remember: The March report described work in progress. A review visit is not a commissioning announcement.

Open visual explainer



Review of the Kavaratti OTEC project. Ministry of Earth Sciences / PIB.

Indigenous 30 kW EV drive launched

2 March | Chennai | PIB

MeitY launched a Wide Band Gap-based integrated drive system for electric vehicles at IIT Madras.

• C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram, developed it with IIT Madras and Lucas TVS under NaMPET.

• The power class is relevant to compact electric cars and fleet-mobility platforms.

Remember: Power electronics control energy flow to a motor; the drive is not the vehicle's battery.

Spent battery graphite gains a second use

30 March research report | PIB

ARCI researchers recovered graphite from end-of-life lithium-ion batteries for use in fuel-cell catalysts.

• Chemical exfoliation increased its surface area and functional groups.

• Combined with platinum, the material improved oxygen-reduction performance and resistance to methanol-related problems.

Remember: This is material recovery and repurposing, rather than reuse of an entire worn-out battery.

Quantum teaching laboratories approved

16 March review | PIB

Approval was reported for quantum teaching facilities in twenty-three academic institutions under the National Quantum Mission.

• A further hundred institutions were under consideration.

• The facilities are intended to expand research training and skills in quantum technologies.

Remember: Approval for laboratories is a capacity-building milestone; it does not mean twenty-three new quantum computers were commissioned.

Heat transport explained in magnetic semiconductors

12 March research report | PIB

A JNCASR, Bengaluru, study investigated unusual thermal behaviour in chromium nitride.

• The work identified coupling between heat-carrying phonons and magnetic spin fluctuations.

• It may help thermal management in spintronics, magnetic memory and advanced electronics.

Remember: Phonons describe lattice vibrations. Thermal conductivity and electrical conductivity measure different properties.

RRI studies flares from an X-ray binary

30 March research report | PIB

Raman Research Institute astronomers studied repeating flares from ultraluminous X-ray source M74 X-1.

• The analysis used observations by NASA's Chandra and ESA's XMM-Newton observatories from 2001-21.

• The work investigates accretion and a possibly wobbling disc around a compact object.

Remember: A report on analysis of archival observations is different from a spacecraft launch or a new telescope.

India Bioeconomy Report 2026

19 March | BIRAC Foundation Day | PIB

The report placed India's bioeconomy at about USD 195 billion in 2025, compared with about USD 10 billion in 2014.

• The government reiterated a USD 300 billion bioeconomy target for 2030.

• BIRAC supports biotechnology innovation; BioE3 promotes biotechnology for economy, environment and employment.

Remember: Separate the report's publication year, its 2025 estimate and the future 2030 target.

Clinical study of adjunct Ayurveda in TB care

24 March | World TB Day | PIB

India announced a clinical study evaluating Ayurveda as an adjunct to standard anti-tuberculosis treatment.

• The study links traditional-medicine research with modern clinical evaluation.

• The announcement concerned testing possible supportive benefits alongside the established treatment regimen.

Remember: A trial announcement is not proof of effectiveness or a replacement for standard TB treatment.

International affairs

India-Canada CEPA negotiations launched

2 March | New Delhi | PIB / PIB

India and Canada signed terms of reference for negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

- The framework covers goods, services and other mutually agreed areas.
- The leaders set an ambition of USD 50 billion in bilateral trade by 2030.

Remember: Terms of reference start negotiations; they are not a completed, operational free-trade agreement.

Canada visit: uranium and technology partnerships

2 March outcomes | PIB / PIB

Prime Minister Mark Carney's visit produced agreements on civil nuclear energy, critical minerals, innovation and education.

- A CAD 2.6 billion commercial agreement with Cameco covers long-term uranium supply to India.
- The Australia-Canada-India Technology and Innovation Partnership includes a trilateral cooperation MoU.

Remember: Cameco is Canadian. The uranium agreement relates to civil nuclear fuel supply, not a new weapons programme.

Finland partnership upgraded

4-7 March visit | outcomes 5 March | PIB / PIB

President Alexander Stubb's visit elevated relations to a Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability.

- Outcomes included migration and mobility cooperation, a joint 6G task force and stronger startup links.
- The partners aim to double bilateral trade by 2030 and co-host the World Circular Economy Forum in India in 2026.

Remember: Finland's capital is Helsinki. Its President and Prime Minister are separate offices.

Eleventh Raisina Dialogue

5 March inauguration | New Delhi | PIB

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the eleventh Raisina Dialogue with Finland's President as chief guest.

- Alexander Stubb delivered the inaugural keynote address.
- The dialogue brings together participants on geopolitical and geoeconomic issues.

Remember: Match the 2026 chief guest with Finland, rather than another Nordic country.

WTO MC-14 in Cameroon

26-30 March | report 31 March | PIB

The fourteenth WTO Ministerial Conference met in Yaounde, Cameroon.

- Agenda items included WTO reform, fisheries subsidies, agriculture, development and electronic commerce.
- Consensus was not reached on key issues; several discussions were to continue in Geneva.

Remember: Yaounde is Cameroon's capital. An agenda or negotiation does not establish that a global agreement was adopted.

West Asia conflict: India's energy and trade exposure

March developments | PIB / PIB / PIB

The conflict disrupted shipping, energy supply chains and air travel, prompting Indian inter-ministerial coordination.

- Disruption around the Strait of Hormuz increased freight, insurance and war-risk costs.
- Responses included supply monitoring, port coordination and the RELIEF intervention for exporters.

Remember: Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the wider Arabian Sea.

Open visual explainer

BRICS Youth Track begins under Indian chairship

25 March meeting | report 27 March | PIB

India hosted the first BRICS Youth Coordination Meeting of 2026 in virtual format.

• The youth-track theme is Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.

• Priority areas include skills, entrepreneurship, innovation, inclusion, health, sport and sustainability.

Remember: A youth coordination meeting is a preparatory engagement, rather than a leaders' summit.

Seventh India-Japan CEPA committee meeting

2 March | report 4 March | PIB

The Joint Committee under the existing India-Japan CEPA met in Tokyo.

• Discussions reviewed implementation, market access, trade diversification and the investment environment.

• India highlighted potential exports in textiles, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and services.

Remember: This was a review of an existing agreement, rather than the signing of a new CEPA.

World Happiness Report 2026

19 March release | World Happiness Report / World Happiness Report

Finland again topped the rankings; India placed 116th with a life-evaluation score of 4.536.

• Iceland and Denmark followed Finland; Costa Rica ranked fourth.

• The rankings draw on Gallup life evaluations, with the 2026 country scores averaging 2023-25.

Remember: A happiness score reflects reported life evaluations. It is not a measure of GDP alone.

Balendra Shah becomes Nepal's Prime Minister

27 March | PIB / Nepal PM Office

Balendra Shah, also known as Balen, took office as Prime Minister of Nepal.

• His Rastriya Swatantra Party secured a large majority in the 5 March House of Representatives election.

• Shah previously served as mayor of Kathmandu.

Remember: Kathmandu is Nepal's capital; distinguish the Prime Minister from President Ramchandra Paudel.

Anutin Charnvirakul elected Thailand's PM

20 March report | PIB

India congratulated Anutin Charnvirakul on his election as Prime Minister of Thailand.

• The development concerns Thailand's parliamentary leadership.

• Thailand's capital is Bangkok.

Remember: Thailand is an ASEAN member; its Prime Minister and monarch hold different constitutional offices.

Jose Antonio Kast takes office in Chile

13 March Indian statement | PIB

India congratulated José Antonio Kast Rist on assuming office as President of Chile.

• The announcement marks a change in the South American country's presidency.

• Chile's capital is Santiago, on the Pacific side of South America.

Remember: Match Kast with Chile. Do not confuse the President with architect Smiljan Radić Clarke, the Chilean Pritzker laureate.

Iran names a new Supreme Leader

9 March report | Associated Press

Iranian authorities announced Mojtaba Khamenei as successor to Ali Khamenei as Supreme Leader.

• The announcement came during the escalating conflict with the United States and Israel.

• The Supreme Leader is a separate office from Iran's presidency.

Remember: Match the leader with Iran; Tehran is its capital.

National affairs & economy

BHAVYA: one hundred industrial parks

18 March | Cabinet approval | PIB

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna was approved with Rs. 33,660 crore for 100 plug-and-play industrial parks.

• Parks are to have prepared land, utilities, infrastructure and streamlined approvals.

• The programme builds on the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme framework, with states and private partners.

Remember: Plug-and-play means a ready industrial ecosystem that reduces the setup work an investor must repeat.

Modified UDAN approved for ten years

25 March | PIB

The revised regional-connectivity scheme received an outlay of Rs. 28,840 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.

• Plans include developing 100 airports from unserved airstrips and 200 modern helipads.

• Components cover infrastructure, operations and maintenance support, and viability-gap funding for routes.

Remember: Approval and future targets differ from completed airports and flights already operating.

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0

10 March approval | guidelines 22 March | PIB / PIB

The Cabinet extended Jal Jeevan Mission to December 2028 and reoriented it towards reliable water-service delivery.

• Total outlay rises to Rs. 8.69 lakh crore, including Rs. 3.59 lakh crore central assistance.

• Sujalam Bharat will digitally map supply systems; Jal Arpan supports community handover and accountability.

Remember: The emphasis shifts from installing connections alone to sustainable source-to-tap service.

IVFRT extended to March 2031

25 March | PIB

The immigration, visa and foreigner-registration platform was extended from April 2026 to March 2031 with Rs. 1,800 crore.

• The system links immigration posts, visa processing and registration of foreigners.

• The next phase includes mobile services, self-service kiosks, infrastructure upgrades and unified digital platforms.

Remember: IVFRT expands to Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration and Tracking; it combines facilitation with security.

FDI rules for land-bordering countries revised

10 March approval | PIB

The Cabinet approved changes to beneficial-ownership tests and processing of specified investment proposals.

• Non-controlling beneficial ownership from a land-bordering country of up to 10% may use the automatic route, subject to conditions.

• Specified manufacturing proposals are to be decided within sixty days, with Indian ownership-and-control requirements.

Remember: The change is conditional; it is not a blanket removal of investment screening.

RELIEF supports disrupted export logistics

19 March | PIB

The government approved Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation under the Export Promotion Mission.

• The intervention has a Rs. 497 crore outlay; ECGC is the nodal implementing agency.

• Support addresses exceptional freight, insurance and war-risk burdens, including specified relief for eligible MSME exporters.

Remember: RELIEF is a targeted trade response to West Asia disruption, rather than a general cash grant to every exporter.

RoDTEP rates and caps restored

23 March | PIB

The government restored eligible export remission rates and value caps to those in force on 22 February 2026.

• The decision removed the intervening restriction of 50%.

• It aimed to support exporters facing higher freight costs and war-related risks.

Remember: RoDTEP means Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products; it concerns embedded duties and taxes.

Census 2027: digital tools and mascots

5 March launch | 30 March briefing | PIB / PIB

Digital platforms and the mascots Pragati and Vikas were unveiled ahead of the Census 2027 exercise.

• Pragati represents a woman and Vikas a man; self-enumeration is available in sixteen languages.

• The first phase begins in April 2026, with state-specific houselisting schedules; population enumeration follows in a separate phase.

Remember: Census 2027 is the sixteenth census in the series and the eighth since independence.

February retail inflation: 3.21%

12 March release | PIB

Provisional year-on-year CPI inflation was 3.21% in February 2026 under the 2024-base series.

• Food inflation measured by CFPI was 3.47%.

• Rural CPI inflation was 3.37%; urban CPI inflation was 3.02%.

Remember: These are February prices reported in March. CPI measures consumer prices.

Open visual explainer

February wholesale inflation: 2.13%

16 March release | PIB

Provisional WPI inflation was 2.13% year-on-year in February 2026.

• Manufactured-products inflation was 2.92%; fuel-and-power inflation was -3.78%.

• The release used the WPI base year 2011-12.

Remember: WPI and CPI use different baskets and bases. A negative group rate can coexist with positive overall inflation.

Monthly PLFS: February labour indicators

16 March release | PIB

For persons aged fifteen and above, unemployment was 4.9% under Current Weekly Status in February.

• Labour-force participation was 55.9%; the worker-population ratio was 53.2%.

• Urban unemployment was 6.6%; rural unemployment was 4.2%.

Remember: UR uses the labour force as its denominator; WPR uses the relevant population.

Industrial production grows 5.2%

30 March | February quick estimate | PIB

The IIP quick estimate showed 5.2% year-on-year industrial growth in February 2026.

• Manufacturing grew 6.0%, mining 3.1% and electricity 2.3%.

• The release used base year 2011-12 and remained subject to revision.

Remember: IIP measures production volumes. It does not measure inflation or the whole services economy.

PLFS Annual Report 2025 released

27 March | PIB

The annual report estimated unemployment at 3.1% for persons aged fifteen and above under usual status.

• The corresponding LFPR was 59.3% and WPR 57.4%.

• Regular wage or salaried work accounted for 23.6% of workers; youth unemployment, ages 15-29, was 9.9%.

Remember: Annual usual-status estimates and monthly Current Weekly Status estimates use different reference periods.

Fiscal Health Index 2026

11 March | PIB / NITI Aayog

NITI Aayog's second edition assessed FY 2023-24 finances, covering eighteen major states and ten North-Eastern/Himalayan states.

• Odisha led the major-state group; Arunachal Pradesh led the separately ranked North-Eastern/Himalayan group.

• Five pillars cover spending quality, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence, debt index and debt sustainability.

Remember: The publication year is 2026; the reference financial year is 2023-24. The two state groups have separate rankings.

First-half government borrowing plan

27 March | PIB

The Centre planned Rs. 8.20 lakh crore in dated-security borrowing for the first half of FY 2026-27.

• This is 51% of the revised Rs. 16.09 lakh crore annual gross market-borrowing figure after switches.

• The first-half plan includes Rs. 15,000 crore in Sovereign Green Bonds and twenty-six weekly auctions.

Remember: Gross borrowing, net borrowing and the fiscal deficit are different measures.

National Dental Commission constituted

19 March notification | report 20 March | PIB

The National Dental Commission replaced the Dental Council of India under the new regulatory framework.

• Dr. Sanjay Tewari was appointed chairperson.

• Three autonomous boards cover education, assessment and rating, and ethics and registration.

Remember: Match the institution with dental education and professional regulation, rather than general medical education.

Noida International Airport: Phase I inaugurated

28 March | Jewar, Uttar Pradesh | PIB / PIB

Phase I of Noida International Airport was inaugurated at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district.

• DGCA had granted the aerodrome licence earlier in March.

• The airport adds aviation infrastructure for western Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Region.

Remember: Aerodrome licensing, inauguration and the start of scheduled commercial services are separate milestones.

Madurai Airport gets international status

10 March | Cabinet approval | PIB

The Cabinet approved declaring Madurai Airport in Tamil Nadu an international airport.

• The decision supports regional trade, travel and connectivity.

• Madurai is associated with major cultural and pilgrimage destinations, including the Meenakshi temple.

Remember: An international designation is an administrative status; it does not itself specify every future overseas route.

Kavach 4.0 deployment milestone

11 March report | PIB

The Railways reported Kavach 4.0 commissioned on 1,452 route kilometres across key Delhi-Mumbai and Delhi-Howrah routes.

• Kavach is India's indigenous Automatic Train Protection system.

• It supports speed supervision and automatic braking when the loco pilot does not respond appropriately.

Remember: Kavach combines onboard and trackside equipment; it is not a signalling app alone.

PRISM-SG digitises bridge approvals

25 March | PIB

The road and railway ministries launched the Portal for Rail-Road Inspection and Stages Management-Steel Girders.

• It digitises quality plans, welding documentation and fabrication-stage inspections for road-over-bridge work.

• The platform supports online queries, inspections, records and a complete audit trail.

Remember: Road Over Bridges carry roads above railway lines; the portal concerns project approvals and quality processes.

Gruh Sugam housing-loan portal

26 March | PIB

The National Housing Bank launched a digital marketplace for defence, paramilitary and government personnel.

• Applicants can use their administrative units to seek and compare home-loan offers from registered lenders.

• The portal includes grievance handling, chat support and online processing.

Remember: NHB facilitates the platform; an application is still subject to the lender's assessment and terms.

Assembly election schedules announced

15 March | PIB

The Election Commission announced elections for Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.

• The announcement concerns four states and one Union Territory.

• Election scheduling and conduct fall within the constitutional election-administration framework.

Remember: Puducherry is a Union Territory with a legislature. Distinguish an election schedule from the later result.

Jan Vishwas Bill introduced

27 March | Lok Sabha | PIB

The government introduced the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026.

• The PIB introduction brief described amendments to 784 provisions of 79 Central Acts, including 717 decriminalisation provisions.

• The approach uses civil penalties, warnings and administrative adjudication for selected minor defaults.

Remember: Its March milestone was introduction. Parliamentary passage occurred later and must not be backdated.

CAPF administration Bill introduced

March | Rajya Sabha | PRS Legislative Research

A Bill proposed common recruitment, deputation, promotion and service rules for five CAPFs.

• It covers CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB.

• It also specifies IPS deputation to senior posts.

Remember: CAPFs come under the Home Ministry; introduction is not enactment.

FCRA amendment proposed

25 March | Lok Sabha | PRS Legislative Research

The proposed amendment changes management of foreign contributions and assets when registration ends.

• A government-designated authority would receive specified assets.

• Cancellation, surrender and non-renewal are covered.

Remember: FCRA regulates foreign contributions; a proposed amendment is not an operative rule by itself.

Transgender-rights amendment receives assent

30 March | Gazette publication 31 March | PRS Legislative Research / Gazette of India

The President assented to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2026.

• Lok Sabha passed it on 24 March and Rajya Sabha on 25 March.

• Changes concern definitions, identity certification and offences.

Remember: Assent and commencement are separate legal milestones; check the commencement notification for operative dates.

Assam's Joha rice reaches UK and Italy

12 March shipment | report 13 March | PIB

APEDA facilitated a 25-tonne export consignment of GI-tagged Joha rice from Assam.

• Joha is an aromatic rice variety that received GI registration in 2017.

• The shipment went to the United Kingdom and Italy.

Remember: GI tags identify goods linked to a geographical origin and its qualities or reputation.

Gujarat Assembly passes UCC Bill

25 March | PIB

The Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed a Uniform Civil Code Bill.

• The March development was state legislative passage.

• Uniform civil-law proposals concern personal-law matters; Article 44 contains the constitutional directive on a uniform civil code.

Remember: Assembly passage, gubernatorial assent and commencement are separate stages; passage alone does not establish an operative code.

Environment & climate

India approves 2035 climate commitments

25 March | PIB

The Cabinet approved India's Nationally Determined Contribution for 2031-35 under the Paris Agreement framework.

• Targets include a 47% reduction in GDP emissions intensity from 2005 and 60% non-fossil installed electric-power capacity by 2035.

• The additional carbon-sink target is 3.5-4.0 billion tonnes of CO_2 equivalent through forest and tree cover from the 2005 level.

Remember: Intensity is emissions per unit of GDP. Non-fossil installed capacity is different from electricity actually generated.

Open visual explainer

WMO: the State of the Global Climate 2025

23 March release | WMO

WMO reported that 2025 was the second- or third-warmest year across datasets, about 1.43°C above 1850-1900.

• The years 2015-25 were the eleven hottest on record.

• The report highlighted ocean heat, glacier loss, sea level and a growing imbalance in Earth's energy budget.

Remember: A single year's temperature anomaly is different from the long-term warming level used in the Paris Agreement.

Great Indian Bustard chick hatches in Kutch

28 March report | PIB

A conservation effort produced a Great Indian Bustard chick in Gujarat after a decade.

• An incubated egg was moved from Rajasthan to a nesting site in Kutch under the Jumpstart Approach.

• The work involved both states, MoEFCC and the Wildlife Institute of India; breeding-centre numbers reached seventy-three.

Remember: The Great Indian Bustard is a critically endangered grassland bird; breeding centres and wild populations are different counts.

Project Cheetah: five cubs born at Kuno

9 March | PIB

Namibian cheetah Jwala gave birth to five cubs at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh.

• The government reported fifty-three cheetahs in India at this milestone.

• Indian-born thriving cubs numbered thirty-three.

Remember: These are dated March counts, not permanent population totals. Kuno is in Madhya Pradesh.

NBA panel on invasive alien species

21 March | PIB

The National Biodiversity Authority formed an expert committee following National Green Tribunal directions.

• Its work includes a national list, prioritisation of high-risk species and management guidance.

• The committee also covers restoration, knowledge gaps and prevention, control and eradication strategies.

Remember: An alien species becomes invasive when its introduction or spread threatens biodiversity or causes related harm.

Indian Carbon Market Portal launched

21 March | Prakriti 2026 | PIB

The portal was launched during the international carbon-markets conference in New Delhi.

• The Bureau of Energy Efficiency organised Prakriti as part of Bharat Electricity Summit 2026.

• The platform supports implementation and administration of the Indian Carbon Market.

Remember: Carbon-market mechanisms concern measured emissions and credits; a portal launch alone is not evidence of a completed carbon trade.

First National Highways Green Cover Index report

9 March | PIB

NHAI and ISRO's NRSC produced a satellite-based assessment of vegetation within highway rights of way.

• The first cycle covered about 30,000 km across twenty-four states using July-December 2024 observations.

• The index reports green-cover percentage at one-kilometre granularity.

Remember: Report year, observation period and road length are separate. Green-cover percentage is not simply a count of trees.

Small Hydro Power development scheme

18 March | PIB

The Cabinet approved Rs. 2,584.60 crore for FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 to support about 1,500 MW of small hydro.

• The scheme covers projects between 1 and 25 MW.

• Higher assistance is available in North-Eastern states and international-border districts, subject to project caps.

Remember: Scheme-level capacity is the sum of projects; 1,500 MW is not the size of one small-hydro plant.

Energy Statistics India 2026

30 March | PIB

MoSPI released the thirty-third edition of its integrated energy-statistics publication.

• Coverage includes reserves, capacity, production, consumption, trade, energy balances and sustainable-energy indicators.

• New coverage includes domestic energy-sector credit, world energy statistics and additional consumption details.

Remember: Capacity describes potential output; production and consumption describe actual energy flows.

World Water Day: equality and access

22 March observance | UN-Water

The 2026 theme linked water and gender equality, using the campaign message Where water flows, equality grows.

• The UN World Water Development Report 2026 is titled Water for all people: Equal rights and opportunities.

• UNESCO coordinates production on behalf of UN-Water through the World Water Assessment Programme.

Remember: Connect safe water and sanitation with SDG 6, and gender equality with SDG 5.

Wildlife and forests: 2026 themes

3 March and 21 March | CITES / World Wildlife Day / FAO

World Wildlife Day focused on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods.

• International Day of Forests used the theme Forests and Economies.

• Both themes link conservation with community livelihoods, sustainable use and the wider economy.

Remember: World Wildlife Day is 3 March; International Day of Forests is 21 March.

NICRA maps agricultural climate vulnerability

24 March report | PIB

ICAR reported district-level climate-risk assessment covering 651 predominantly agricultural districts.

• Of these, 310 were vulnerable: 109 very high and 201 high.

• Contingency plans and demonstrations support locally suitable crops, varieties and farming practices.

Remember: NICRA means National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture; resilience concerns adapting to climate risks.

World Air Quality Report 2025

24 March 2026 release | IQAir / IQAir

IQAir's annual report placed India sixth for population-weighted annual PM2.5 pollution, at 48.9 micrograms per cubic metre.

• Pakistan had the highest country average; Loni, India, was the most polluted city at 112.5 micrograms per cubic metre.

• Only 14% of measured cities met WHO's annual PM2.5 guideline of 5 micrograms per cubic metre.

Remember: This is 2025 monitoring data published in 2026, rather than a live AQI ranking.

Sport, culture & awards

India retains the men's T20 World Cup

8 March | Ahmedabad | ICC

India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium.

• India made 255/5; New Zealand were dismissed for 159. This was India's third title and the first successful title defence in the competition.

• Jasprit Bumrah took 4/15 in the final; Sanju Samson scored 89.

Remember: The event was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka. T20 and ODI World Cups are separate competitions.

Lakshya Sen runner-up at All England

8 March | Birmingham | Akashvani

Lakshya Sen lost the men's singles final to Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi.

• The final score was 21-15, 22-20 in Lin's favour.

• The All England Open is a BWF World Tour Super 1000 tournament.

Remember: Pair the winner with Chinese Taipei and the runner-up with India; Birmingham is in England.

Milano Cortina Winter Paralympics

6-15 March | Italy | IPC

Italy hosted the 2026 Paralympic Winter Games, opening at Verona's Arena.

• The programme included Para alpine skiing, Para biathlon, Para cross-country skiing, Para ice hockey, Para snowboard and wheelchair curling.

• The closing ceremony was at the Cortina Curling Olympic Stadium.

Remember: The Winter Paralympics followed the February Winter Olympics.

Gerd Faltings wins the Abel Prize

19 March announcement | Norwegian Academy

German mathematician Gerd Faltings was named the 2026 Abel Prize laureate.

• His work concerns arithmetic geometry and major Diophantine problems, including the Mordell and Lang conjectures.

• He is associated with the Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in Bonn.

Remember: Abel: mathematics; awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters.

Smiljan Radic Clarke: Pritzker laureate

March announcement | Pritzker Prize

Chilean architect Smiljan Radić Clarke was selected for the 2026 Pritzker Architecture Prize.

• His practice is based in Santiago, Chile.

• The citation recognises an architectural approach attentive to materials, experience and the human condition.

Remember: Pritzker: architecture. Abel: mathematics.

Ninety-eighth Academy Awards

15 March | Los Angeles | Academy

One Battle after Another won Best Picture, and Paul Thomas Anderson won directing for the film.

• Michael B. Jordan won leading actor for Sinners; Jessie Buckley won leading actress for Hamnet.

• Sean Penn and Amy Madigan won supporting acting; KPop Demon Hunters won animated feature.

Remember: The 2026 ceremony honoured films released in 2025.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 announced

16 March | PIB

The Akademi announced its annual awards in twenty-four recognised languages.

• English: Navtej Sarna for the novel Crimson Spring. Hindi: Mamta Kalia for the memoir Jeete Jee Allahabad.

• The selected books include eight poetry collections, four novels and six short-story collections, among other genres.

Remember: These 2025 literature awards were announced in March 2026.

RISA: Timeless Tribal brand launched

18 March | New Delhi | PIB

The Tribal Affairs Ministry launched a premium brand for tribal weaves, embroidery and crafts.

• The initiative links heritage preservation with market access and artisan livelihoods.

• The launch took place at Sunder Nursery during Bharat Tribes Fest.

Remember: RISA links traditional crafts with artisan livelihoods.



RISA brand launch at Bharat Tribes Fest. Tribal Affairs Ministry / PIB.

Indian Culture Portal 2.0

5 March | PIB

The Culture Ministry upgraded its national gateway to cultural resources.

• It brings together materials from museums, archives, libraries and cultural institutions.

• Version 2.0 improves discovery, access and capacity.

Remember: A digital-access upgrade is distinct from a new UNESCO designation.

First Khelo India Tribal Games begin

25 March-3 April | Chhattisgarh | PIB

The inaugural Games brought tribal sporting talent to venues in Raipur, Jagdalpur and Sarguja.

• The programme included seven medal sports and two demonstration sports, with 106 gold medals at stake.

• Mor Veer is the mascot; around 3,800 participants included athletes, coaches and officials.

Remember: The Games continued into April; their final results were not March outcomes.



Khelo India Tribal Games participants. Sports Ministry / PIB.

Cycling League of India logo unveiled

5 March | PIB

The Sports Ministry unveiled the franchise-based road-cycling league's logo.

• The initiative supports professional competition and talent pathways.

• It introduces a team-franchise format for road racing.

Remember: A logo launch is not completion of the first season.

Culture Ministry and YouTube sign MoU

25 March | PIB

A Culture Ministry-YouTube MoU supports Indian folk and tribal musicians.

• The partnership promotes digital reach and creator opportunities.

• It aims to strengthen cultural livelihoods.

Remember: It promotes traditional music through digital distribution.

Sports-equipment export roadmap

19 March | PIB

NITI Aayog's report examined sports-equipment manufacturing and exports.

• It targets about USD 8.1 billion in exports by 2036.

• Recommendations include clusters, testing, certification and global partnerships.

Remember: The 2036 figure is a target, not current exports.

Stockholm Water Prize: Kaveh Madani

March announcement | Royal Swedish Academy

Kaveh Madani was named the 2026 Stockholm Water Prize laureate.

• He directs UNU's Institute for Water, Environment and Health.

• The award recognises water science, policy and governance.

Remember: Announcement: March. Planned presentation: World Water Week in August.

Visual explainers

Build the concept behind the news. Select the return link to revisit the article.

SHIPBUILDING: THREE DISTINCT MILESTONES

1	2	3
Launch	**Delivery**	**Commissioning**
The hull enters water; fitting out and trials follow.	The builder hands the vessel over to the Navy.	Formal entry into naval service.
Shachi | 31 March	Dunagiri + Sanshodhak | 30 March	A separate later milestone

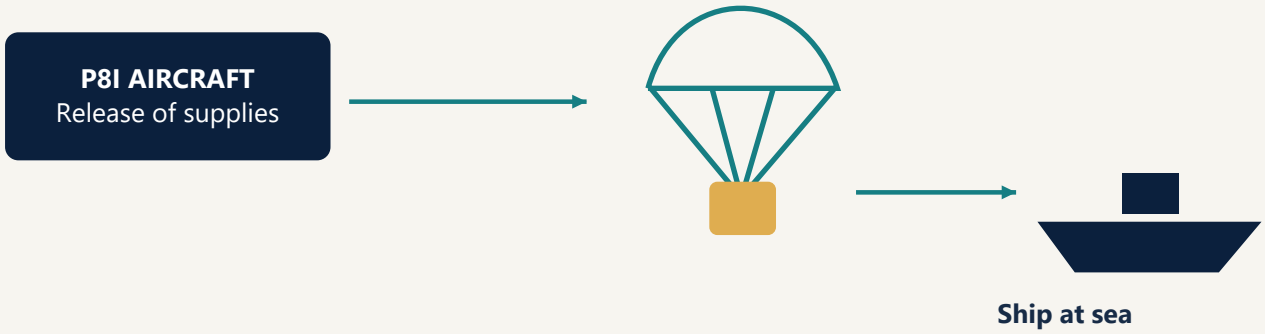
Return to Dunagiri delivered to the Navy

DEFENCE PROCUREMENT: APPROVAL IS NOT DELIVERY

1	2	3
AoN	**Contract**	**Delivery / induction**
Acceptance of Necessity establishes the procurement need.	A signed agreement specifies supply, price and terms.	Equipment is supplied and accepted for use.
DAC | 27 March	ALH + VL-Shtil | 3 March	Follow the specified schedule

Return to DAC clears proposals worth Rs. 2.38 lakh crore

ADC-150: AIR DELIVERY FOR NAVAL LOGISTICS



150 kg payload | critical stores, equipment and medical supplies | concept, not to scale

Return to ADC-150 air-droppable container trials

CE20: A GROUND TEST SUPPORTS FUTURE FLIGHT

1	2	3
Test stand	**Measurements**	**Flight readiness**
Engine fires at sea level using nozzle protection.	Thrust and operating behaviour are checked.	Results support uprated upper-stage capability.
Mahendragiri	22 tonnes | 165 seconds	CE20 powers LVM3 upper stage

Return to CE20 tested at 22-tonne thrust

IN-ORBIT SERVICING: EXTEND A SATELLITE'S LIFE

1	2	3
Approach	**Dock**	**Transfer**
A service spacecraft navigates towards its client.	Compatible interfaces establish a secure connection.	Propellant transfer can extend useful operating life.
Guidance + control	OrbitAID SIDRP	Technology-development project

Return to OrbitAID supported for satellite refuelling

OTEC: USE THE OCEAN'S TEMPERATURE DIFFERENCE

1	2	3
Warm surface water	**Turbine + generator**	**Cold deep water**
Provides the warmer side of a heat engine.	A temperature difference enables energy conversion.	Provides the colder side; freshwater can be co-produced.
Tropical ocean surface	Energy supports useful work	Kavaratti project under review

Return to OTEC-desalination project reviewed at Kavaratti

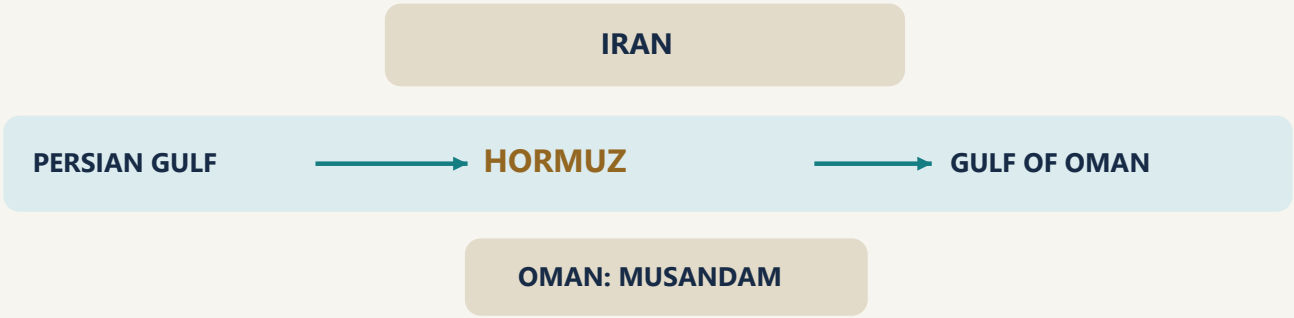
INDIA'S 2035 NDC: KEEP THE THREE MEASURES DISTINCT

47%	60%	3.5-4.0 bn t
Emissions intensity	**Non-fossil capacity**	**Additional carbon sink**
Reduction per unit of GDP from the 2005 level.	Share of installed electric-power capacity.	CO_2 equivalent through forest and tree cover, from 2005.

Targets approved 25 March 2026. Capacity share is not the same as generation share.

Return to India approves 2035 climate commitments

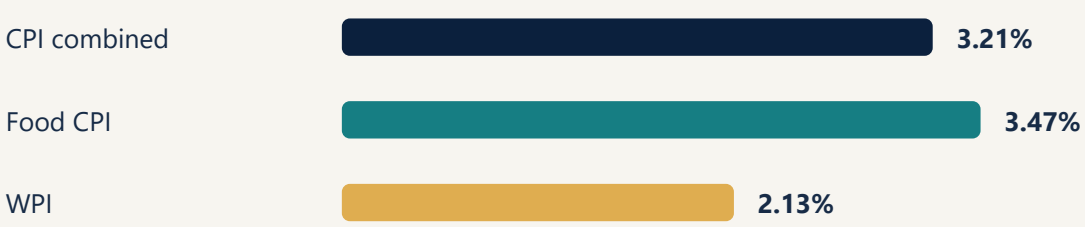
STRAIT OF HORMUZ: AN ENERGY-SHIPPING CHOKEPOINT



Schematic orientation, not a map to scale. Gulf of Oman opens towards the Arabian Sea.

Return to West Asia conflict: India's energy and trade exposure

FEBRUARY PRICES | MARCH 2026 RELEASES



Year-on-year. CPI base: 2024; WPI base: 2011-12. The baskets are different.

Return to February retail inflation: 3.21%

Defence and science: recall grid

Pair the platform or project with its role, place and March milestone.

Name	March milestone	Remember
Dunagiri	Delivered | 30 March	Fifth Project 17A frigate | GRSE
Sanshodhak	Delivered | 30 March	Fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large)
Shachi	Launched | 31 March	First NGOPV | Goa Shipyard
ADC-150	Trials completed | report 10 March	150 kg air-droppable supplies | P8I
LAMITIYE-11	9-20 March | Seychelles	First tri-service edition
VAJRA PRAHAR-16	24 February-16 March	India-USA | Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh
IMEX TTX	27 March | Kochi	IONS | simulated maritime scenarios
ALH Mk-III (MR)	Contract | 3 March	HAL | six helicopters for Coast Guard
VL-Shtil	Contract | 3 March	Russia | Navy | surface-to-air missile
CE20	165-second ground test | 10 March	22-tonne thrust | Mahendragiri | LVM3
OrbitAID SIDRP	TDB-supported project	Autonomous docking and satellite refuelling
OTEC	Project review | 6 March	Kavaratti | temperature difference in seawater

Different stages, different meanings

READ THE VERB

AoN approves a procurement need. A contract is a signed purchase agreement. Launching puts a vessel in water. Delivery hands it over. Commissioning formally enters it into naval service. A ground-engine test is not a space launch.

Economy and environment: key numbers

Keep each figure with its reference period and what it actually measures.

Figure	Meaning
Rs. 2.38 lakh crore	DAC Acceptance of Necessity | 27 March
Rs. 33,660 crore / 100 parks	BHAVYA | Cabinet approval
Rs. 28,840 crore / 10 years	Modified UDAN | FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36
December 2028 / Rs. 8.69 lakh crore	JJM extension / revised total outlay
Rs. 1,800 crore / 5 years	IVFRT | April 2026-March 2031
Rs. 497 crore	RELIEF | targeted export-support intervention
3.21% / 3.47% / 2.13%	February CPI / food CPI / WPI | March releases
4.9% / 55.9% / 53.2%	February UR / LFPR / WPR | age 15+ | CWS
3.1% / 59.3% / 57.4%	2025 annual UR / LFPR / WPR | usual status
5.2% / 6.0%	February IIP / manufacturing growth | quick estimate
Rs. 8.20 lakh crore	Planned H1 FY 2026-27 dated-security borrowing
47% / 60% / 3.5-4.0 bn tonnes	2035 NDC: intensity reduction / capacity share / carbon sink
Rs. 2,584.60 crore / 1,500 MW	Small Hydro Power scheme outlay / supported capacity
1.43°C above 1850-1900	WMO's approximate 2025 temperature anomaly
53 / 33	Cheetahs in India / Indian-born thriving cubs | 9 March

Bilateral and global pairings

Event / initiative	Country or institution
CEPA negotiation terms; Cameco uranium supply	Canada
Digitalization and Sustainability partnership	Finland
MC-14 | Yaounde	WTO | Cameroon
India-Japan CEPA Joint Committee	Tokyo | seventh meeting
World Happiness Report 2026	Finland first; India 116th
Fiscal Health Index 2026	NITI Aayog | FY 2023-24 data

Winners, books and honours

Match each person or team with the correct field and result.

Field / event	March fact
ICC Men's T20 World Cup	India beat New Zealand by 96 runs | Ahmedabad
All England men's singles	Lin Chun-Yi winner; Lakshya Sen runner-up
Abel Prize | mathematics	Gerd Faltings | Germany
Pritzker Prize | architecture	Smiljan Radić Clarke | Chile
Stockholm Water Prize	Kaveh Madani | UNU-INWEH
Best Picture / directing | Oscars	One Battle after Another / Paul Thomas Anderson
Leading actor / actress | Oscars	Michael B. Jordan, Sinners / Jessie Buckley, Hamnet
Sahitya Akademi | English	Navtej Sarna | Crimson Spring | novel
Sahitya Akademi | Hindi	Mamta Kalia | Jeete Jee Allahabad | memoir
First Khelo India Tribal Games	Chhattisgarh | 25 March-3 April | Mor Veer mascot

Quick location check

Place	Remember
GRSE | Kolkata	Dunagiri and Sanshodhak delivery
Goa Shipyard | Goa	Shachi launch
NSTL | Visakhapatnam	ADC-150 nodal laboratory
ADRDE | Agra	ADC-150 parachute system
Mahendragiri | Tamil Nadu	ISRO Propulsion Complex | CE20 test
Kavaratti | Lakshadweep	OTEC-desalination project
Kuno | Madhya Pradesh	Jwala's five cheetah cubs
Kutch | Gujarat	Great Indian Bustard chick through egg transfer
Jewar | Uttar Pradesh	Noida International Airport
Sarguja, Raipur, Jagdalpur | Chhattisgarh	Khelo India Tribal Games venues

March calendar

Observances and their exam connections. Tap an observance to open its source.

Date	Observance	Exam connection
1 March	Zero Discrimination Day	Equality, inclusion and non-discrimination
3 March	World Wildlife Day	Medicinal and aromatic plants: health, heritage and livelihoods
4 March	National Safety Day (India)	Occupational health and safety
8 March	International Women's Day	Rights, equality and women's participation
10 March	CISF Raising Day	Central Industrial Security Force; Ministry of Home Affairs
14 March	International Day of Mathematics	Mathematics and its applications; also Pi Day
15 March	World Consumer Rights Day	Consumer protection and informed choices
20 March	International Day of Happiness	Life evaluations and World Happiness Report
21 March	International Day of Forests	2026 theme: Forests and Economies
21 March	World Down Syndrome Day	Inclusion, dignity and participation
22 March	World Water Day	Water and Gender Equality; Where water flows, equality grows
23 March	World Meteorological Day	Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow
23 March	Shaheed Diwas (India)	Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev; 1931
24 March	World Tuberculosis Day	Yes! We can End TB! Led by countries. Powered by people.
27 March	World Theatre Day	Performing arts and cultural exchange

KEEP THE TIME PERIOD

February inflation, employment and industrial production were released in March. The Fiscal Health Index uses FY 2023-24 data. The Tribal Games continued into April. Future programme targets and announced agreements are not completed outcomes.