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## Today in History on 12 MAR

➤ **1942: British troops evacuate Andaman Islands during World War II.**

During World War II, the British hastily evacuated and left these islands due to the advance of Japanese forces, leading to the Japanese occupation of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The Japanese ruled the region brutally for four years from 1942 to 1945. In 1943, Japan finally handed over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands to India. These islands were handed over to the government of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, who then suggested renaming Andaman Island as 'Shaheed' and Nicobar Island as 'Swaraj' Island.



➤ **1954: The Government of India established the Sahitya Akademi.**

The Government of India established the Sahitya Akademi on March 12, 1954. It is a national institution. Its purpose is to work for the development of Indian literature and to set high

literary standards. The head office of the Sahitya Akademi is in Ravindra Bhavan, New Delhi. The Sahitya Akademi promotes literary activities in 24 languages of India. The Sahitya Akademi is the country's premier forum for literary discussion, publication, and promotion.



➤ **1960: Indian thinker, writer and Sanskrit scholar Kshitimohan Sen passed away.**

Acharya Kshitimohan Sen (2 December 1880 – 12 March 1960) was an Indian scholar, writer and professor of Sanskrit. He was the acting vice-principal of Vishwabharati (1953–1954). He was the maternal grandfather of Amartya Sen. Kshitimohan Sen has a leading position among the insightful critics of medieval saint literature. Kshitimohan Sen became the president of 'Vidya Bhavan' under 'Vishwabharati', the educational institution of





Kavindra-Rabindra. He has a leading position among the insightful critics of medieval saint literature.



➤ 1967: Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of the country for the second time.

She won the election in 1967 and became one of the first women to lead a democracy. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India twice. She was the Prime Minister for the first time from 1966 to 1977 and the second time from 1980 to 1984. After returning to India from Oxford in 1941, she joined the Indian Independence Movement. In the 1950s, she served her father as an unofficial personal assistant during his tenure as the first Prime Minister of India.



➤ 2007: The 9th Cricket World Cup was inaugurated in Jamaica.

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 was inaugurated at Trelawny Stadium in Jamaica. It was the 9th Cricket World Cup. Several pieces of West Indian music were performed at the ceremony. It took place in the West Indies from March to April 2007 using the One Day International format of the game. A total of 51 matches were played, three fewer than in the 2003 World Cup.



## Important NEWS on 12 MAR

➤ Razorpay Expands into Singapore to Revolutionize Digital Payments

Razorpay, a leading fintech company, has expanded its payment solutions to Singapore, following its success in India and Malaysia. This move aligns with Singapore's digital-first economy and its growing real-time payments ecosystem. Razorpay aims to simplify cross-border transactions, reduce payment



costs, and introduce AI-driven financial tools to empower businesses in the region.



#### ➤ Bank of Baroda Launches 'bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account' for Women NRIs

On March, 2025, Bank of Baroda (BoB) launched the 'bob Global Women NRE & NRO Savings Account', becoming the first public sector bank to introduce an NRI account exclusively for women. This initiative offers premium banking privileges, including a customized debit card with zero issuance charges, free airport lounge access, concessional loan rates on home and auto loans, and 100% concession on locker rent.



#### ➤ RBI's 29th Standing Advisory Committee Meeting on MSME Credit Flow

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held the 29th Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) in Ahmedabad, chaired by Deputy Governor Swaminathan J, to enhance credit flow to MSMEs. The discussion focused on institutional credit support, financial challenges, and digital solutions for MSMEs. Key topics included alternative credit assessment models, digital lending frameworks, and fair lending practices to improve transparency and accessibility.



#### ➤ Justice Joymalya Bagchi's Appointment to the Supreme Court

The Government of India has appointed Justice Joymalya Bagchi, a Calcutta High Court judge, to the Supreme Court of India. Announced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, the appointment was made by the President of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India (CJI). Justice Bagchi is





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expected to become CJI in 2031, succeeding Justice KV Viswanathan, reflecting his merit, integrity, and competence.



#### ➤ Vikas Kaushal Appointed as HPCL CMD

Vikas Kaushal has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) for a five-year tenure, replacing Rajneesh Narang, who served as interim CMD since September, 2024. With over three decades of experience in energy, oil & gas, and power sectors, Kaushal has led strategic transformations and digital initiatives in major Indian energy firms.



#### ➤ Rajnath Singh Becomes First Raksha Mantri to Visit IAF's Institute of Aerospace Medicine in Bengaluru

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh became the first Defence Minister of India to visit the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM), IAF, in Bengaluru on March, 2025. His visit highlighted the importance of aerospace medicine in defence and aviation. He was briefed on IAM's role in pilot training, aeromedical research, and medical evaluation of Air Force personnel. He also inaugurated a research project and emphasized the need for space medicine expertise as India advances in air and space domains.



#### ➤ Mark Carney Appointed as Canada's New Liberal Party Leader and Prime Minister

Mark Carney, former central banker, has been appointed as Canada's new Prime Minister and leader of the Liberal Party, succeeding Justin Trudeau amid growing public dissatisfaction. Carney won the leadership race with 85.9% votes,





marking a new era for the party as it prepares for the upcoming general elections. His leadership will focus on regaining public trust and addressing challenges posed by US President Donald Trump.



### Current affairs MCQS on 12 MAR

**Q.1. Which organisation recently developed the Brahmastra missile (long-range anti-ship missile)?**

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (b) Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)
- (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- (d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

**Answer: (d) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**

Indian scientists have developed the Brahmastra missile (Long Range Anti-Ship Missile), a hypersonic glide missile with a speed of 12,144 kilometres per hour. It has been developed by DRDO. It is also ahead of missiles like China's DF-17 in terms of range and technology. The range of this missile is 1,500 kilometres and it can destroy enemy ships within 7-8 minutes. It can be launched from land or sea, which gives it flexibility.

**Q.2. Scientists, which country has recently identified the oldest meteorite on Earth?**

- (a) Australia
- (b) Russia

- (c) Japan
- (d) China

**Answer: (a) Australia**

Australia has discovered Earth's oldest meteorite magnetar (cracker) in Australia's Pilbara region. It is 3.5 billion years old, which is one billion years older than the oldest crater found so far. This discovery suggests that Earth's first continents may have been hit by meteorites.

**Q.3. After whom will the Bengaluru City University be named?**

- (a) Dr. Manmohan Singh
- (b) Ratan Tata
- (c) APJ Abdul Kalam
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (a) Dr. Manmohan Singh**

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that Bangalore City University will be renamed as Dr. Manmohan Singh Bangalore University in honour of late former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. The government will add Government Arts College and Government RC College as affiliated colleges to make the university a model institution. In addition, the Karnataka government has committed to make significant investments in higher education, including filling 2,000 vacant teaching positions, improving infrastructure and strengthening government engineering colleges and polytechnic institutes.

**Q.4. Where has the 'All India Women Advocates Conference' been organized recently?**

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Bengaluru

**Answer: (a) New Delhi**

Over 1,200 women advocates from across India attended the All India Advocates Conference held in Delhi on the occasion of International Women's Day. The two-day event was organised by the All India





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Advocates Council, Delhi Province in collaboration with the National Commission for Women (NCW).

**Q.5. Recently India and which country have agreed to enhance trade, investment and technology relations?**

- (a) Finland
- (b) Ireland
- (c) Denmark
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:(b) Ireland**

India and Ireland have agreed to set up a Joint Economic Commission to enhance bilateral trade, investment and technology ties, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced after meeting with his Irish counterpart in Dublin.

**Q.6. Recently India has signed a contract with which country's firm to supply engines for T-72 tanks?**

- (a) USA
- (b) France
- (c) Russia
- (d) Spain

**Answer:(c) Russia**

The Defence Ministry signed a USD 248 million contract with Russian defence firm Rosoboronexport (ROE) to procure 1,000-horsepower (HP) engines for T-72 battle tanks in fully assembled, completely knocked-down and semi-knocked-down conditions. The deal involves transfer of technology (ToT) from the Russian defence manufacturer to Chennai-based Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (Heavy Vehicles Factory) for integration and subsequent licensed production of the engines to boost the 'Make in India' initiative in the defence sector, officials said.

**Q.7. Who has recently won the 5th Asian Women's Kabaddi title?**

- (a) Iran
- (b) Iraq
- (c) China
- (d) India

**Answer:(d) India**

Indian women's Kabaddi team defeated Iran to win their fifth Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship title. The Indian team defeated hosts Iran 32-25 in the final of the 6th Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship 2025 to be held in Tehran. The 6th Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship 2025 was held in Tehran. This was the third time Iran was hosting the Asian Women's Kabaddi Championship, previously Iran hosted it in 2007 and 2017.

**Q.8. Recently which state government will set up a media center to monitor news content?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Assam

**Answer:(c) Maharashtra**

The Maharashtra government will set up a media monitoring centre to analyse news from print, electronic and digital media and has allocated a budget of Rs 10 crore for it. According to a government proposal (GR) published, the centre will collect and analyse all factual and misleading news published in the print and broadcast media and prepare a factual report. The proposal states that if any news is found to be misleading, it will be clarified on the spot. Clarification on negative news will also be given as soon as possible.

**Q.9. Recently which airline has become the world's second fastest growing airline in terms of seat capacity?**

- (a) SpiceJet
- (b) Air India
- (c) Indigo
- (d) None of these

**Answer:(c) Indigo**

IndiGo Airlines has achieved a significant milestone, becoming the world's second-fastest growing airline in terms of seat capacity. According to the latest report by the Official Airline Guide (OAG), IndiGo







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recorded a growth of 10.1% year-on-year in 2024, taking its total seat capacity to 134.9 million.

**Q.10. Which state government has recently proposed to set up a family-centric citizen database?**

- (a) Bihar
- (b) Arunachal Pradesh
- (c) Rajasthan
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Answer:(b) Arunachal Pradesh**

The Arunachal Pradesh government has proposed to set up a family-centric citizen database to improve governance and ensure efficient, transparent and targeted delivery of public welfare benefits and services. The Arunachal Pradesh Arun Family Patra Authority Bill, 2025, aimed at creating this database, was introduced in the Assembly on the first day of the state's budget session.

**Q.11. Which country has recently topped the Glass Ceiling Index 2025?**

- (a) Australia
- (b) Spain
- (c) France
- (d) Germany

**Answer:(c) France**

France topped the Glass Ceiling Index 2025. Spain and Australia ranked second, demonstrating significant progress in equal pay and leadership opportunities. New Zealand emerged as the most improved country, climbing eight places to join the top five. Nordic countries, including Sweden, Norway, Finland and Denmark, maintained high rankings due to their commitment to work-life balance and gender equality laws.

**Q.12. Recently the President of which country has signed an executive order to create a strategic bitcoin reserve?**

- (a) America
- (b) China
- (c) Russia
- (d) Germany

**Answer:(a) America**

US President Donald Trump has signed an executive order to create a strategic bitcoin reserve. Trump gave this information while addressing the crypto summit at the White House. The US President said, "Last year, I promised to make America the world's bitcoin superpower and the crypto capital of the planet and we are taking historic steps to fulfill that promise."

**Q.13. Recently the electronic city of which state has been named after Ratan Tata?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Gujarat
- (c) Assam
- (d) Odisha

**Answer:(c) Assam**

Taking an important decision, the Assam government has renamed Jagiroad Electronic City as Ratan Tata Electronic City. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma made this announcement public. The move is aimed at honoring the contribution of industrialist Ratan Tata in Assam, who has played a key role in the industrial and economic development of the state through the Tata Group.

**Q.14. Recently which bank has launched 'Project Haq'?**

- (a) ICICI Bank
- (b) Yes Bank
- (c) HDFC Bank
- (d) None of the above

**Answer:(c) HDFC Bank**

HDFC Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Air Force (IAF) and CSC Academy to launch Project HAKK (Hawaii Anubhav Wellness Centre) under its Parivartan initiative. The initiative is designed to support defence pensioners, veterans and their families by providing financial services, skill development and economic inclusion. The MoU was





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signed in the presence of senior officials from HDFC Bank, Indian Air Force and CSC e-Governance Ltd.

**Q.15. Which country tops the Global Terrorism Index 2025 recently released by the Institute of Economics and Peace?**

- (a) Burkina Faso
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Mali
- (d) Syria

**Answer:(a) Burkina Faso**

The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) has released the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2025. Burkina Faso ranks first in this index based on the impact of terrorism. Pakistan ranks second in this index. This is the first time Pakistan has faced 1,000 terrorist attacks in a year. Terrorist attacks in Pakistan have increased by 45 percent. The Afghanistan-affiliated Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has become the fastest growing terrorist group in Pakistan.

