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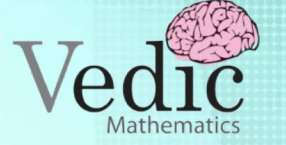
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## Today in History on 13 MAR

### ➤ 1800: Death of Nana Phadnavis, leader of the Maratha Empire.

In 1800, on March 13, Nana Phadnavis, the able minister and statesman of the Maratha Empire, whose real name was Balaji Janardan Bhanu, died. He was employed in the service of the Peshwa when the Third Battle of Panipat was fought. He was very famous for his shrewdness and intelligence. Nana Phadnavis had foiled all the attempts of Raghunathrao (Raghova) to become the Peshwa.



### ➤ 1878: The Vernacular Press Act was passed, which restricted the freedom of the press for Indian languages.

The Vernacular Press Act of 1878 was aimed at restricting the freedom of Indian language (i.e., non-English) newspapers in British India. Lord Lytton

passed the Vernacular Press Act 1878. He also passed the Arms Act 1878 which prohibited Indians from carrying arms without a licence.



### ➤ 1881: Assassination of Russian Emperor Alexander II.

On March 13, 1881, Emperor Alexander II of Russia was assassinated in Saint Petersburg, Russia, while returning from the Mikhailovsky Manege to the Winter Palace in a closed carriage. The assassination was planned by the Executive Committee of Narodnaya Volya, primarily by Andrei Zhelyabov. Two of the four assassins, coordinated by Sofya Perovskaya, actually carried out the deed. One assassin, Nikolai Rysakov, threw a bomb that damaged the carriage, forcing the Tsar to disembark.





#### ➤ 1940: Udham Singh avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by shooting Michael O' Dyer.

Revolutionary Udham Singh avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by shooting General Michael O' Dyer on 13 March 1940. March 13, 1940 is a very important day in Indian history. Udham Singh avenged the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by shooting General O' Dyer. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in 1919 on Dyer's orders.



#### ➤ 1961: Arjuna Award was announced to be given to the players for outstanding performance in various sports in India.

In 1961 in India, Arjuna Award was announced to honor the players for outstanding performance in sports, Arjun Award is a prestigious award given to the players in India, which started in 1961. This award is given every year by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to the players who perform

brilliantly in sports. Under this award, the players are given a bronze statue, citation, and cash prize.



### Important NEWS on 13 MAR

#### ➤ Government Initiatives to Promote Gas-Based Power Generation

Gas-based power plants in India are operating at a low Plant Load Factor (PLF), affecting their efficiency and energy contribution. To tackle this, the Government of India has introduced measures to boost the availability and affordability of natural gas, including placing LNG under the Open General License (OGL), expanding gas infrastructure, and implementing policy reforms. These initiatives aim to increase the share of natural gas in India's energy sector.







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### ➤ Empowering Unorganised Workers: e-Shram at 30.68 Crore Registrations

The e-Shram portal, launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment on August 26, 2021, aims to create a National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW) and provide them with a Universal Account Number (UAN) for accessing social security schemes. As of March, 2025, over 30.68 crore workers have registered, with women constituting 53.68%. To enhance accessibility, the portal now offers multilingual support, a mobile app, and integration with welfare schemes.



### ➤ Commonwealth Games Federation Rebrands as 'Commonwealth Sport' on Commonwealth Day 2025

The Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) has rebranded itself as Commonwealth Sport, officially announced on March, 2025, to mark Commonwealth Day. This move reflects its evolution from a sports federation to a global sports movement, promoting

unity, development, and inclusion through sports. While the legal entity remains the Commonwealth Games Federation, its public identity and branding will now operate under Commonwealth Sport.



### ➤ Takashi Nakajima Appointed as the New President & CEO of Honda Cars India

Honda Cars India Ltd. (HCIL) has appointed Takashi Nakajima as its new President and CEO, effective April 1, 2025, succeeding Takuya Tsumura, who will return to Honda's Japan headquarters after a three-year tenure. This leadership change is part of Honda Motor Company's annual management restructuring to enhance global leadership and operations.







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### ➤ Culmination of Indian Navy's Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025

The Theatre Level Operational Exercise (TROPEX) 2025, the Indian Navy's flagship combat drill, was conducted from January to March 2025 to validate operational strategies, assess combat readiness, and enhance joint-force coordination. Held across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), Arabian Sea, and Bay of Bengal, the exercise saw extensive participation from the Indian Army, Indian Air Force (IAF), and Indian Coast Guard (ICG).



### ➤ Indian Navy's First Training Squadron Concludes Visit to Phuket, Thailand

The First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy, including INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, successfully completed its visit to Phuket Deep Sea Port, Thailand. The visit featured joint exercises, professional exchanges, and coordinated tactical maneuvers with the Royal Thai Navy (RTN). A key highlight was the PASSEX exercise with HTMS Huahin on March, 2025, enhancing interoperability

and operational coordination between the two navies.



### ➤ Salman Khan Teams with GRM for Wheat Flour Campaign

GRM Overseas Limited has introduced a marketing campaign for its 10X Classic Chakki Fresh Atta, featuring Salman Khan as the brand ambassador. Titled "Better Half Ki Better Choice," the campaign highlights the atta's quality, hygiene, and nutrition, positioning it as the top choice for households. With the tagline "10 Ka Dum," the initiative promotes branded packaged wheat flour over traditional unpackaged alternatives.







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### Current affairs MCQS on 13 MAR

**Q.1. Recently, which country will conduct military exercises with Russia and Iran 'near Chabahar'?**

- (a) America
- (b) Japan
- (c) France
- (d) China

**Answer: (d) China**

Russia, China and Iran will conduct a joint naval exercise called 'Security Belt-2025' in the Indian Ocean near the Gulf. The aim of this exercise is to enhance military trust and cooperation among the participating countries. Observers from various countries, including South Africa and Sri Lanka, will monitor the exercise. This is the seventh edition of these exercises, highlighting their ongoing military cooperation.

**Q.2. Recently, who has been awarded the 'Honorary Order of Freedom Barbados'?**

- (a) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (b) Narendra Modi
- (c) Rajnath Singh
- (d) None of these

**Answer: (b) Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been conferred the prestigious 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' for his strategic leadership and assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. The award reflects the strong diplomatic ties between India and Barbados and underlines the shared commitment to global development. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Pabitra Margherita accepted the honour on behalf of the Prime Minister at a ceremony held at Government House in Bridgetown. Barbados President Dame Sandra Mason, Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley and Foreign Minister Kerry Symonds were present on the occasion.

**Q.3. Recently, the first Shaurya Vednam festival was celebrated in which country?**

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Odisha
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer: (d) Uttar Pradesh**

The first Shaurya Vedna Utsav concluded in Motihari city of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh's East Champaran district, which witnessed an impressive display of the military might of the Indian Armed Forces, martial arts, mass performances by military bands, war demonstrations by special forces, etc. The two-day event held in Motihari witnessed spectacular military displays and an exhibition of lethal weapons of the Indian Armed Forces.

**Q.4. Recently, Coal India Limited has signed an MoU with which IIT to set up a Clean Coal Energy and Net Zero Centre?**

- (a) IIT Hyderabad
- (b) IIT Guwahati
- (c) IIT Mumbai
- (d) IIT Madras

**Answer: (a) IIT Hyderabad**

Coal India Limited (CIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad (IIT-H) to set up Clean Coal Energy and Net Zero (CLEANZ) Centre in Hyderabad. The joint initiative between CIL and IITH aims to develop clean coal technologies and diversify the use of coal.

**Q.5. Where was the Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0 organized recently?**

- (a) Jabalpur
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) Patna
- (d) Mumbai

**Answer: (b) Hyderabad**

Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying organized Fisheries Startup Conclave 2.0 in Hyderabad, Telangana. The







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event was attended by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj along with Minister of State Shri George Kurien, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Minority Affairs and Minister of State Prof. SP Singh Baghel, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Panchayati Raj.

**Q.6. In which state of Northeast India was the "Chapchar Kut" festival celebrated recently?**

- (a) Mizoram
- (b) Manipur
- (c) Assam
- (d) Nagaland

**Answer:(a) Mizoram**

The state of Mizoram recently celebrated its grandest festival Chapachar Kut with a vibrant display of tradition and festivity. The event drew huge crowds to the Assam Rifles Ground at Lamual in the heart of Aizawl city. The festival showcased the rich cultural heritage of the Mizo community through various traditional performances and dances throughout the day.

**Q.7. Who recently won the doubles title in the 2025 Rwanda Challenger Tennis Tournament?**

- (a) Guy den Ouden and Zdenek Kolar
- (b) Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski
- (c) Geoffrey Blancaneaux and Zdenek Kolar
- (d) Valentin Foer and Siddhant Banthia

**Answer:(b) Siddhant Banthia and Alexander Donski**

Siddhant Banthia of India and Alexander Donski of Bulgaria won the doubles title at the 2025 Rwanda Challenger tennis tournament. This was Siddhant Banthia's first ATP Challenger title. Valentin Foyer of France won the singles title. The Rwanda Challenger was an ATP 100 tournament with a prize pool of \$160,000, held in Kigali. The singles and doubles winners earned 100 ATP points. The singles winner received \$22,730, while the doubles winners shared \$7,960. The Association of Tennis Professionals

(ATP) organizes tournaments for professional male tennis players, with the ATP Tour being the highest level.

**Q.8. Recently, the Foreign Minister of which country 'Ararat Mirzoyan' has visited India?**

- (a) Armenia
- (b) Russia
- (c) Japan
- (d) Indonesia

**Answer:(a) Armenia**

India and Armenia signed two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to strengthen bilateral relations. These MoUs were signed during the visit of Armenia's Foreign Minister Ararat Mirzoyan to India. Ararat Mirzoyan was on a three-day official visit to India.

**Q.9. Where has the two-day 'Study in India' expo started recently?**

- (a) Kathmandu
- (b) Thimpu
- (c) Colombo
- (d) None of these

**Answer:(c) Colombo**

A two-day 'Study in India' expo began in Colombo, Sri Lanka in which many Indian educational institutions participated. Interested students flocked to the expo and sought information about opportunities in Indian educational institutions.

**Q.10. Which state government has recently approved the Mahila Samridhi Yojana?**

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

**Answer:(a) Delhi**

The Delhi government has approved the 'Mahila Samridhi Yojana' with a budget allocation of Rs 5100 crore to provide financial assistance of Rs 2500 to women. The scheme, announced on International







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Women's Day, will be overseen by a committee headed by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.

**Q.11. Where will Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath lay the foundation stone of Microsoft Campus recently?**

- (a) Gorakhpur
- (b) Agra
- (c) Noida
- (d) Mathura

**Answer:(c) Noida**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone of the Microsoft India Development Center (IDC) in Sector 145, Noida. It is a strategic move that underlines the state's growing prominence as an investment hub for the technology sector. Spread over 15 acres, the new IDC campus with 1.1 million sq ft built-up area will serve as a powerhouse for innovation in AI, cloud computing and cybersecurity. It is a significant expansion of Microsoft's R&D footprint in India, cementing the state's position as a leader in the AI revolution.

**Q.12. Where is the 'Sahitya Mahotsav 2025' being organized by the Sahitya Akademi recently?**

- (a) Pune
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Surat

**Answer:(c) New Delhi**

Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India will hold its annual "Sahitya Mahotsav 2025" at Ravindra Bhavan, New Delhi. The grand event will be inaugurated by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism. Renowned English playwright Mahesh Dattani will be the chief guest on the occasion and Sahitya Akademi Awards will be presented in 23 languages. This year's Samvatsar Lecture will be delivered by eminent writer and scholar Upamanyu Chatterjee.

**Q.13. Who has been awarded the 'Agyeya Smriti Samman 2025' recently?**

- (a) Nitin Agarwal
- (b) Manoj Mehta
- (c) Uday Prakash
- (d) None of these

**Answer:(c) Uday Prakash**

Storyteller and poet Uday Prakash was honored with Agyeya Smriti Samman-2025. This award is given every year by the Kalavati Devi Smriti Trust located in Kushinagar.

**Q.14. Recently SIDBI has partnered with which bank for MSME financing?**

- (a) HDFC Bank
- (b) Federal Bank
- (c) Yes Bank
- (d) None of these

**Answer:(b) Federal Bank**

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Federal Bank have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing financial support for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The partnership will provide various financial services to strengthen the MSME ecosystem, including project finance, machinery and equipment loans, working capital assistance and loan against asset.

**Q.15. Recently which country's architect 'Liu Jiakun' will receive the 2025 Pritzker Architecture Prize?**

- (a) South Korea
- (b) Japan
- (c) Singapore
- (d) China

**Answer:(d) China**

The annual Pritzker architecture prize has been awarded to China's Liu Jiakun, who won the region's highest honor for "promoting architecture that celebrates the lives of ordinary citizens." Liu, who lives in Chengdu in China's southwestern Sichuan region, has said his architecture aims to "create a beautiful, just and dignified living environment" and strives to balance commercial needs with the human needs of the public.

