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## Today in History on 26 MAR

### ➤ 1668 - England takes over the Indian city of Mumbai.

In 1668, King Charles II of England leases the city of Bombay (now Mumbai) to the English East India Company for an annual rent of £10, marking an important step in the company's establishment in India. The East India Company saw Bombay as a strategic location for trade and established its Western India headquarters here in 1687, moving from Surat.



### ➤ 1956 - MedicaAlert Foundation formed in California.

The MedicaAlert Foundation was founded in California in 1956, headquartered in Turlock, California. It is a non-profit organization that makes members' medical information available to medical authorities in the event of a medical emergency. It can be used by first responders such as emergency

medical personnel or law enforcement agents to access the wearer's medical history and special medical needs.



### ➤ 1958 - America's third successful satellite "Explorer III" was launched by the US Army.

In 1958, on March 26, the US Army successfully launched the "Explorer III" satellite, America's third successful satellite. It was the second successful launch in the Explorer program, and in its design and mission it was almost identical to the first American satellite Explorer 1. Which was launched in November 1954 using a slightly modified Redstone missile combined with a solid propellant rocket cluster upper stage to put a satellite into orbit.







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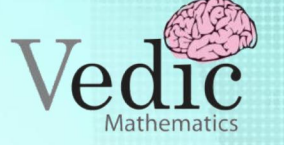
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#### ➤ 1971 – Bangladesh, led by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, declared its independence from Pakistan.

In 1971, under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh declared its independence from Pakistan, which took place on 26 March. On 10 April, the Provisional Government of Bangladesh issued a proclamation based on the previous declaration and established an interim constitution for the independence movement.



#### ➤ 2006 – The 18th Commonwealth Games concluded in Melbourne.

The 2006 Commonwealth Games, officially the XVIII Commonwealth Games and commonly known as Melbourne 2006, were an international multi-sport event for members of the Commonwealth of Nations held in Melbourne, Australia between 15 and 26 March 2006. It was the fourth time Australia had hosted the Commonwealth Games. It was also the largest sporting event held in Melbourne, surpassing the 1956 Summer Olympics in terms of the number of teams competing, athletes competing and events held.



### Important NEWS on 26 MAR

#### ➤ Oscar Piastri Triumphs at the Chinese Grand Prix as McLaren Secures One-Two Finish

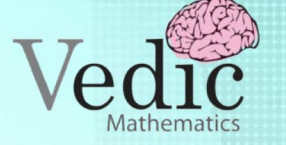
Oscar Piastri secured a dominant victory at the Chinese Grand Prix, marking redemption after his





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Australian GP setback. McLaren teammate Lando Norris finished second, despite brake issues, retaining his championship lead. Ferrari faced disqualification, with Charles Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton penalized for technical infringements.



#### ➤ Justice Harish Tandon Appointed as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

Justice Harish Tandon appointed as Chief Justice of Orissa High Court, succeeding Justice Chakradhari Sharan Singh. The Supreme Court Collegium, led by CJI D Y Chandrachud, recommended his appointment on March, 2024. Justice Arindam Sinha (acting CJ) transferred to Allahabad High Court.



#### ➤ IRDAI Appoints Five New Members to Insurance Advisory Committee

IRDAI has reconstituted the Insurance Advisory Committee, appointing five new members under Section 25 of the IRDA Act, 1999. New appointees include MR Kumar (ex-LIC, Bank of India Chairman), Dinesh Kumar Khara (ex-SBI Chairman), Visakha Mule (Aditya Birla Capital CEO), Nilesh Shah (Kotak AMC MD), and Kotak Ellis G Vaidyan (ex-GIC Re, Air India & Tata AIA Director).



#### ➤ Edelweiss ARC Appoints Mythili Balasubramanian as Interim MD & CEO

Edelweiss ARC appoints Mythili Balasubramanian as Interim MD & CEO until September 30, 2025. With 40+ years of experience in banking, NPA resolution, and IBC, she strengthens the firm's distressed asset strategy. A Search Committee & Korn Ferry will oversee the CEO selection process, ensuring transparency.





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### ➤ Public Sector Banks Witness a 33% Surge in Dividend Payouts in FY24, Reflecting Strong Financial Growth

Public Sector Banks (PSBs) in India achieved record net profits and a 33% rise in dividend payouts, reaching ₹27,830 crore in FY24 (up from ₹20,964 crore in FY23). The Indian government received ₹18,013 crore, reinforcing PSBs' role in national revenue generation. This financial strength and profitability surge highlight the improved performance and stability of PSBs.



### ➤ India Imposes Anti-Dumping Duty on Five Chinese Products

India has imposed anti-dumping duties on five Chinese products—Soft Ferrite Cores, vacuum insulated flasks, aluminium foil, Trichloro Isocyanuric Acid, and PVC Paste Resin—to protect domestic industries from unfairly priced imports. Recommended by the DGTR, the duties will be in place for up to five years, ensuring fair trade practices. The duty rates vary, with Soft Ferrite Cores facing up to 35% duty, while other products have specific per-tonne tariffs.



### ➤ RRBs Get Five More Years to Amortize Additional Pension Liabilities

The RBI has granted Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) an additional five years (from FY25) to amortize pension liabilities under the Employee Pension Scheme 2018, retroactive to November 1, 1993. RRBs must allocate 20% annually, ensure full recognition in financial statements, and disclose unamortized expenditure while Tier-I Capital remains unaffected.







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### Current affairs MCQS on 26 MAR

**Q.1. Who recently won the Stockholm Water Prize 2025?**

- (a) Jacob Bear
- (b) Paul Witherspoon
- (c) Gunter Bloesch
- (d) Yuan Daoxian

**Answer: (c) Gunter Bloesch**

Renowned hydrologist Günter Blöschl has been awarded the 2025 Stockholm Water Prize for his pioneering research in flood hydrology. The award, announced by the Prize Committee, recognizes Blöschl's groundbreaking work in understanding flood risk and water resources management under climate change. His studies have significantly improved global flood forecasting models, helping communities prepare for extreme weather events.

**Q.2. Who has recently been appointed as Joint Secretary in UPSC?**

- (a) Manan Kumar Mishra
- (b) N Ganapathy
- (c) Anuj Kumar Singh
- (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c) Anuj Kumar Singh**

Anuj Kumar Singh, a 2009 batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE), has been appointed as Joint Secretary (Director level) in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Delhi. His appointment, made under the Central Staffing Scheme, will be for five years or until further orders.

Singh, selected for central deputation on the recommendation of the Ministry of Railways, is expected to bring his technical and administrative expertise to enhance the operational efficiency and strategic framework of the UPSC.

**Q.3. Who has recently been appointed as the brand ambassador of Goibibo?**

- (a) Rishabh Pant
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Akshay Kumar
- (d) Virat Kohli

**Answer: (a) Rishabh Pant**

Online travel platform Goibibo has roped in Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant as its new brand ambassador and launched a new promotional campaign featuring legendary cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. The campaign features Gavaskar's famous commentary lines in a fun way, reinforcing Goibibo's young and fun marketing strategy.

**Q.4. Where will the 58-foot-high statue of freedom fighter P. Sriramulu be installed?**

- (a) Amaravati
- (b) Kochi
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Odisha

**Answer: (a) Amaravati**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has announced to install a 58-foot tall statue in memory of freedom fighter Potti Sriramulu in Amaravati. Sriramulu's 58-day fast led to the formation of Andhra Pradesh in 1953. The construction of the statue and memorial will be completed before his next birth anniversary. Apart from this, Sriramulu's ancestral house in Padmatipally will be converted into a museum, along with a modern health center and a high school will be set up in his village.

**Q.5. Who has recently been awarded the British Film Institute Fellowship?**

- (a) Bill Smith







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- (b) Tom Cruise  
(c) Brad Pitt  
(d) None of the above

**Answer:(b) Tom Cruise**

Hollywood actor Tom Cruise will be honoured with the institute's highest honour, the BFI Fellowship, at the British Film Institute's (BFI) Chair's Dinner in London on May 12. According to the BFI's official website, the Fellowship recognises Cruise's achievements as an exceptional, versatile actor whose career has ranged from critically acclaimed dramas and romances to dark thrillers and high-octane action films.

**Q.6. Recently George Foreman died. Who was he?**

- (a) Journalist  
(b) Writer  
(c) Actor  
(d) Boxer

**Answer:(d) Boxer**

American boxing legend George Foreman, renowned for his extraordinary comebacks and business success, has died at the age of 76. His family released an emotional statement on Instagram to announce his death, describing him as a humanitarian, Olympian and two-time heavyweight world champion.

**Q.7. Who will be awarded this year's Jnanpith Award?**

- (a) Dr. Vishakha Tripathi  
(b) Chandrika Tandon  
(c) Vinod Kumar Shukla  
(d) None of the above

**Answer:(c) Vinod Kumar Shukla**

Renowned Hindi writer Vinod Kumar Shukla has been awarded India's highest literary honour, the 59th Jnanpith Award. 88-year-old Vinod Kumar Shukla has been given this prestigious honour for his extraordinary contribution to Hindi literature and his unique writing style. A unique amalgamation of creativity and emotional depth of language is seen in his works. It is noteworthy that he is the first writer

from Chhattisgarh to receive this honour and the 12th Hindi litterateur to receive the Jnanpith Award.

**Q.8. Recently Vijay Shankar has been awarded the Knight's Cross of which country?**

- (a) Finland  
(b) Norway  
(c) Denmark  
(d) Argentina

**Answer:(c) Denmark**

Vijay Shankar, Honorary Consul General of Denmark for South India and Chairman of the Sanmar Group, has been conferred the Knight's Cross of the Order of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark. The prestigious honour is for his outstanding consular services and contribution to strengthening India-Denmark relations. The award was presented by Danish Ambassador to India Rasmus Abildgaard Christensen at a special ceremony in Chennai. The event also highlighted the legacy of the Shankar family's five-decade-old association with Denmark's consular services.

**Q.9. Recently Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah has been sworn in as the first woman president of which country?**

- (a) Namibia  
(b) Sudan  
(c) Morocco  
(d) None of the above

**Answer:(a) Namibia**

The southern African desert nation of Namibia has sworn in its first female president. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah won last year's election, ending the ruling party's 35-year grip on power. Ms Nandi-Ndaitwah, 72, will become one of the region's few female leaders when she is sworn in in the presence of heads of state from neighbouring countries, including Angola and South Africa.

**Q.10. Recently, C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) has partnered with which IIT?**

- (a) IIT Delhi







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- (b) IIT Mumbai  
(c) IIT Madras  
(d) IIT Jaipur

**Answer:(a) IIT Delhi**

India's Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) has signed an agreement with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi). Under this partnership, IIT Delhi will work with C-DOT to develop a state-of-the-art chatbot that will leverage generative AI for early disaster warning and improved customer support in emergency situations.

**Q.11. Who has been appointed as the Chancellor of NIIT University recently?**

- (a) Amitabh Kant  
(b) Dr. V.I. Mathan  
(c) Krishna Kant  
(d) None of the above

**Answer:(a) Amitabh Kant**

NIIT University (NU) has appointed Shri Amitabh Kant, former CEO of NITI Aayog and India's G20 Sherpa, as its new Chancellor (President). His appointment signals a strategic leadership transition, bringing with it vast experience in economic transformation, policy-making and technology-driven innovation. Shri Kant will replace Shri K Kasturirangan, whose tenure contributed significantly to the growth and reputation of NU. With an emphasis on industry-aligned education and skills, NU aims to strengthen its commitment to preparing future-ready professionals under Kant's leadership.

**Q.12. Recently, India-Nepal Literature Festival was organized at which place?**

- (a) New Delhi  
(b) Mathura  
(c) Mumbai  
(d) Surat

**Answer:(b) Mathura**

India-Nepal Literature Festival is being organized in Vrindavan (Mathura). It has been organized by Uttar

Pradesh Braj Tirtha Vikas Parishad and Geeta Shodh Sansthan, an associate organization of Krantidhara Sahitya Academy, Meerut. 180 litterateurs, writers, journalists and educationists from both the countries are participating in this program.

**Q.13. Recently, Justice Harish Tandon has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the High Court of which state?**

- (a) Haryana  
(b) Punjab  
(c) Odisha  
(d) Gujarat

**Answer:(c) Odisha**

Justice Harish Tandon of the Calcutta High Court has been appointed as the new Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The notification issued by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (1) of Article 217 of the Constitution of India, the President hereby appoints Justice Harish Tandon, Judge of the Calcutta High Court, as Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. This appointment will take effect from the date on which he assumes charge."

**Q.14. Recently, the 113th foundation day of which state was celebrated?**

- (a) Himachal Pradesh  
(b) Haryana  
(c) Uttarakhand  
(d) Bihar

**Answer:(d) Bihar**

Bihar is celebrating its 113th foundation day. Bihar came into existence as a new state after separating from Bengal Presidency during the British period. This year the theme of Bihar Day is - Advanced Bihar, Vikashishak Bihar. President Draupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have greeted the people of the state on Bihar Day.

**Q.15. Recently, America has banned the entry of former President Christina Fernandez of which country?**





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

**Answer:(d) Argentina**

Former Argentine President Cristina Fernandez and her Planning Minister Julio Miguel de Vido have been banned from entering the United States due to allegations of massive corruption during their tenure. The State Department's decision follows their convictions for embezzlement and fraud related to public works contracts.

