

## National News

**Q1. On 4th March 2026, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated its milestone Foundation Day. Which anniversary did it mark, and where was the commemorative event held?**

- (a) 150th Foundation Day; Kolkata
- (b) 175th Foundation Day; New Delhi
- (c) 176th Foundation Day; Hyderabad
- (d) 180th Foundation Day; Nagpur

**Answer: (c) 176th Foundation Day; Hyderabad**

### Detailed Explanation:

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) celebrated its **176th Foundation Day on March 4, 2026**. While GSI is headquartered in Kolkata, the national celebratory commemorative event was hosted in Hyderabad, Telangana. Established in **1851** primarily to find coal availability for the railways, GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines and stands as the second-oldest geological organization in the world (after the British Geological Survey).

**Q2. Consider the following statements regarding India's first Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven Skill Census, 'Saksham', launched on March 1-4, 2026:**

1. It was officially launched by the IT & Cultural Affairs Ministry of the Government of Maharashtra in Mumbai.
2. It utilizes advanced AI algorithms and geospatial mapping tools to identify micro-level workforce skill gaps.
3. The pilot phase of 'Saksham' will map the agricultural sector exclusively.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2, and 3

**Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

### Detailed Explanation:

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Maharashtra became the first state in India to launch an AI-driven skill census named '**Saksham**', introduced at RD National College in Mumbai. It employs artificial intelligence and geospatial tools to structurally audit and map the actual skill sets of the regional youth workforce. Statement 3 is incorrect because the census is not exclusive to agriculture; it is a cross-sectoral initiative designed to identify regional skill disparities across modern tech industries, manufacturing, services, and gig-economy sectors to match future corporate training demands.

**Q3. In early March 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official YouTube channel achieved a global digital milestone by crossing how many subscribers?**

(a) 20 million

(b) 25 million

(c) 30 million

(d) 50 million

**Answer: (c) 30 million**

### Detailed Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi cemented his position as the world's most-followed active political leader on digital platforms after his official YouTube channel officially crossed the **30 million subscriber milestone**. This achievement follows another milestone where he became the first serving world leader to hit 100 million followers on Instagram.

**Q4. In a major move to check administrative irregularities, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) executed a massive biometric update campaign targeting children across more than:**

- (a) 50,000 schools
- (b) 75,000 schools
- (c) 1,03,000 schools
- (d) 2,00,000 schools

**Answer: (c) 1,03,000 schools**

**Detailed Explanation:**

UIDAI announced that it successfully executed mandatory biometric updates across more than **1,03,000 schools** across India. This extensive school-level outreach ensures that children's Aadhaar profiles undergo the mandatory biometric updates required at ages 5 and 15, preventing data mismatches and ensuring seamless distribution of educational scholarships and nutritional welfare benefits.

**Q5. A newly discovered freshwater fish species, named *Gitchak nakana*, was officially documented by an international team of ichthyologists in which region of India?**

- (a) Western Ghats
- (b) Northeast India
- (c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- (d) Lakshadweep Sea

**Answer: (b) Northeast India**

**Detailed Explanation:**

An international team of scientists spanning Europe, the United States, and India discovered and described a unique freshwater fish species named *Gitchak nakana* in the pristine, fast-flowing river streams of Northeast India. The

discovery underscores the rich, yet unexplored aquatic biodiversity of the region's river basins.

## 2. International News

**Q6. On March 4, 2026 (Day 5 of the full-scale West Asian conflict), a ballistic missile fired from Iran toward a specific target was intercepted for the first time by NATO air defense networks over the Eastern Mediterranean. Which nation was the missile heading toward?**

- (a) Cyprus
- (b) Turkey
- (c) Greece
- (d) Egypt

**Answer: (b) Turkey**

**Detailed Explanation:**

In a dangerous expansion of the West Asian War, an Iranian ballistic missile flying through Syrian and Iraqi airspace toward **Turkey** was intercepted by NATO air defense systems deployed in the Eastern Mediterranean. Debris from the missile fell in the Hatay Province of southern Turkey. This marked the first direct missile targeting incident toward a NATO member country during the conflict.

**Q7. Following the escalation of hostilities in the Persian Gulf, which country reported that an Iranian ballistic missile struck the critical United States military facility at Al-Udeid?**

- (a) United Arab Emirates
- (b) Kuwait
- (c) Qatar
- (d) Bahrain

**Answer: (c) Qatar**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Qatar Ministry of Defense confirmed that while its regional air defenses successfully intercepted one incoming projectile, a second Iranian ballistic missile hit the **Al-Udeid Air Base** in Qatar. The base serves as the primary forward headquarters of the U.S. military's Central Command (CENTCOM).

**Q8. During the intense retaliatory airstrikes on March 3–4, 2026, the U.S. Pentagon identified its first military casualties of the Iran war. These fallen soldiers belonged to the 103rd Sustainment Command based out of which U.S. state?**

- (a) Texas
- (b) Florida
- (c) Iowa
- (d) California

**Answer: (c) Iowa**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The Pentagon officially identified its first four service members killed in action during the unfolding hostilities with Iran. The soldiers belonged to the U.S. Army Reserve's **103rd Sustainment Command**, which operates out of Des Moines, **Iowa**. They were killed during regional drone and missile barrages targeting logistical installations.

**Q9. Who is the current Prime Minister of Canada who issued a formal diplomatic brief on March 4, 2026, imploring "all parties" involved in the West Asian strikes to respect international humanitarian law?**

- (a) Justin Trudeau
- (b) Mark Carney
- (c) Pierre Poilievre
- (d) Jagmeet Singh

**Answer: (b) Mark Carney**

**Detailed Explanation:**

*Note: Reflecting Canadian political leadership transitions leading into early 2026, **Mark Carney** serves as the Prime Minister of Canada. Speaking from Sydney during an international brief, he called for immediate de-escalation from all belligerents, including the US and Israel, stressing that international law binds all combatants.*

### 3. Economics and Banking

**Q10. To boost manufacturing competitiveness, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi announced a structural national target to reduce India's overall logistics costs to what percentage of the GDP by 2030?**

- (a) 5%
- (b) 8%
- (c) 10%
- (d) 12%

**Answer: (c) 10%**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi stated that the government has implemented a comprehensive multi-modal infrastructure plan under the National Logistics Policy to structurally lower India's high logistics overheads from roughly 13-14% down to a lean **10% of the GDP by 2030**. This reduction is intended to make domestic exports more competitive globally.

**Q11. To mark its Silver Jubilee, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) launched its commemorative 'BEE@25' logo. Which apex public official delivered the keynote address defining energy efficiency as India's "First Fuel"?**

- (a) Pankaj Agarwal (Secretary, MoP)
- (b) Manohar Lal (Union Minister, MoP & MoHUA)
- (c) RK Singh
- (d) Shaktikanta Das

**Answer: (a) Pankaj Agarwal (Secretary, MoP)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

During the high-level silver jubilee event attended by Union Minister Manohar Lal as Chief Guest, Power Secretary **Pankaj Agarwal** delivered the keynote address. He coined and detailed the structural concept of energy efficiency operating effectively as India's "**First Fuel**"—highlighting that energy saved through efficiency directly mitigates the need for new fossil-fuel generation infrastructure.

**Q12. Under the updated provisions of the PRARAMBH 2026 compliance framework, the Income Tax Department introduced which advanced AI-driven chatbot to assist retail taxpayers with queries?**

- (a) Aaykar Bandhu
- (b) Tax Mitra
- (c) IT-Sathi
- (d) Kar Vachak

**Answer: (a) Aaykar Bandhu**

**Detailed Explanation:**

As part of the digital modernization initiative PRARAMBH 2026, the Income Tax Department rolled out **Aaykar Bandhu**, a conversational AI chatbot. It is designed to provide immediate, legally accurate clarifications regarding tax deductions, filing updates, and individual notice resolutions.

**Q13. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched an**

**indigenous 30 kW Wide Band Gap (WBG)-based Integrated Drive System (IDS) for electric vehicles. Which premier institute developed this system?**

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Madras
- (c) IISc Bengaluru
- (d) IIT Kanpur

**Answer: (b) IIT Madras**

**Detailed Explanation:**

MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan officially launched the indigenously engineered **30 kW Wide Band Gap (WBG)-based Integrated Drive System (IDS)** at **IIT Madras**, Chennai. Utilizing advanced Silicon Carbide (SiC) and Gallium Nitride (GaN) power semiconductors, the system yields much higher thermal efficiency and compact sizing for next-generation EVs, reducing reliance on imported powertrain electronics.

**Q14. According to the comprehensive macroeconomic assessment report released by Invesco, which continent remains the most economically vulnerable to prolonged crude oil supply shocks arising from the 2026 West Asian War?**

- (a) Europe
- (b) Asia
- (c) North America
- (d) Africa

**Answer: (b) Asia**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Global investment management firm Invesco released a specialized economic impact dossier highlighting that **Asia** remains the most vulnerable region to sudden spikes in oil prices. Because major Asian economies (including

India, China, and South Korea) are heavy net importers of crude oil, an extended naval blockade in the Persian Gulf directly strains their current account balances and fuels domestic inflation.

## 4. Sports

**Q15. The Indian Women's Cricket Team created history by becoming the first-ever women's cricket team to be nominated for which prestigious global sports honor?**

- (a) BBC Sports Team of the Year
- (b) Laureus World Team of the Year Award
- (c) ICC Iconic Vanguard Trophy
- (d) ESPY Global Team Excellence Award

**Answer: (b) Laureus World Team of the Year Award**

### Detailed Explanation:

Following their historic championship run at the ICC Women's ODI World Cup, the Indian Women's Cricket Team earned a nomination for the **2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award**. This marks the first time in history that any women's cricket team globally has been short-listed for this award, placing them alongside elite sports clubs like McLaren Formula One and Paris Saint-Germain.

**Q16. To mark International Women's Day, Union Minister of State Raksha Nikhil Khadse announced a massive nationwide edition of which sports league?**

- (a) Khel Shila League
- (b) ASMITA Athletics League
- (c) Nari Shakti Khelo Grid
- (d) Urja Women Championship

**Answer: (b) ASMITA Athletics League**

### Detailed Explanation:

Union MoS for Youth Affairs and Sports, Raksha Nikhil Khadse, announced a special nationwide edition of the **ASMITA League** (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action). Originally launched in 2021, the ASMITA framework has organized over 2,600 events across 34 sporting formats to boost grassroots sports participation among women.

**Q17. Indian test batsman Rishabh Pant was recently nominated under which specific category for the upcoming Laureus Sports Awards?**

- (a) World Sportsman of the Year
- (b) World Comeback of the Year
- (c) Action Sportsperson of the Year
- (d) Sports for Good Award

**Answer: (b) World Comeback of the Year**

### Detailed Explanation:

Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant was nominated for the **Laureus World Comeback of the Year** award. The nomination recognizes his remarkable return to elite international cricket and high-performance execution across formats following a near-fatal car accident.

## 5. Appointments

**Q18. Who was appointed by the Union Government to serve as the new Chairperson of the high-level Manipur Violence Inquiry Commission?**

- (a) Justice Ajai Lamba
- (b) Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan
- (c) Justice U.U. Lalit
- (d) Justice Hemant Gupta

**Answer: (b) Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan**

**Detailed Explanation:**

The central government reconstituted and appointed veteran jurist **Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan** to chair the independent Manipur Violence Inquiry Commission. The judicial commission is mandated to review structural field reports, investigate cases of ethnic friction, and chart out institutional frameworks for regional rehabilitation.

**Q19. In early March 2026, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) established a round-the-clock Special Control Room in New Delhi. What is its primary operational mandate?**

- (a) Coordinating India's UNSC presidency objectives
- (b) Assisting and evacuations of Indian nationals stranded by the US-Iran War
- (c) Monitoring cross-border trade tariffs with China
- (d) Managing international delegates for the upcoming G20 review

**Answer: (b) Assisting and evacuations of Indian nationals stranded by the US-Iran War**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Due to the sudden outbreak of full-scale war between the United States, Israel, and Iran, the MEA set up a dedicated **Special Control Room** alongside state-level assistance centers (such as the Punjab Assistance Centre at Delhi Airport). The facility manages emergency helplines, coordinates safe air corridors, and assists thousands of Indian expatriates and students caught in the West Asian conflict zone.

## 6. Awards and Honors

**Q20. Which Indian social activist and educational reformer was officially named among TIME Magazine's global 'Women of the Year 2026'?**

- (a) Sudha Murty
- (b) Vandana Shiva
- (c) Safeena Husain
- (d) Medha Patkar

**Answer: (c) Safeena Husain**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Noted social entrepreneur **Safeena Husain**, the founder of the non-profit organization *Educate Girls*, was named among **TIME's Women of the Year 2026**. The award recognizes her work using advanced data analytics and community mobilization to return over 1.4 million out-of-school girls in rural India back into mainstream education.

**Q21. Veteran media advisor, diplomat, and former Rajya Sabha MP H.K. Dua, who passed away on March 4, 2026, was a recipient of which civilian honor?**

- (a) Padma Shri
- (b) Padma Bhushan
- (c) Padma Vibhushan
- (d) Bharat Ratna

**Answer: (b) Padma Bhushan**

**Detailed Explanation:**

**Harikishan Singh Dua (H.K. Dua)**, a distinguished journalist, diplomat, and former member of parliament, passed away at the age of 88. He was honored with the **Padma Bhushan** for his contributions to journalism and public affairs. Over his career, he served as the editor of leading national dailies, media advisor to two Indian Prime Ministers (Atal Bihari Vajpayee and HD Deve Gowda), and India's Ambassador to Denmark.

## 7. Books and Authors

**Q22. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released a collection of 16 books published by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The vast majority (14 out of 16) of these cultural volumes were written in which language?**

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Sanskrit
- (c) Tamil
- (d) Telugu

**Answer: (c) Tamil**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released 16 special volumes curated by the Publications Division at Uparashtrapati Bhavan. Reflecting a concerted focus on preservation of ancient regional heritage, **14 books are written in Tamil**, with the remaining two published in Hindi and English.

## 8. Defense News

**Q23. The Ministry of Defence executed a set of domestic capital procurement contracts valued at ₹5,083 crore. Which shipbuilding yard secured the contract to manufacture four 500-tonne self-propelled fuel barges for the Indian Navy?**

- (a) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai
- (b) Shoft Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., Thane
- (c) Garden Reach Shipbuilders, Kolkata
- (d) Cochin Shipyard Limited

**Answer: (b) Shoft Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., Thane**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Under the "Make in India" and "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" defense directives, the Indian Navy signed a commercial contract with **Shoft Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., Thane**, for the construction of **four 500-tonne self-propelled fuel barges**. These specialized support vessels will replenish critical fuel reserves for frontline warships and submarines directly at anchorages and deep harbours.

**Q24. To preserve fragile high-altitude mountain ecologies, the Indian Army signed a landmark wildlife conservation MoU with the Environment Department of which Union Territory?**

- (a) Jammu & Kashmir
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Sikkim
- (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Answer: (b) Ladakh**

**Detailed Explanation:**

On World Wildlife Day, the Indian Army partnered with the Forest, Ecology, and Environment Department of **Ladakh** to sign a conservation pact. Given the heavy military deployments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), this MoU establishes a **Joint Snow Leopard Conservation Cell** to ensure defense logistics do not disrupt high-altitude habitats of endangered species like the snow leopard, Himalayan wolf, and black-necked crane.

## 9. Government Schemes and MoUs

**Q25. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the introduction of two major legislative upgrades, the New Seed Act 2026 and the Revised Pesticide Act 2026, during an agricultural summit held in:**

- (a) Anand, Gujarat

- (b) Mussoorie, Uttarakhand
- (c) Ludhiana, Punjab
- (d) Pusa, New Delhi

**Answer: (b) Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the upcoming **New Seed Act 2026** and the **Revised Pesticide Act 2026** at an apex conclave in Mussoorie. The new laws introduce stricter penalties for the sale of counterfeit seeds, regulate chemical residues to match global standards, and safeguard intellectual property rights for local farmers.

**Q26. NITI Aayog signed a Record of Discussions (RoD) for Phase II of its Cooperative Actions program to strengthen development across India's aspirational districts. Which international agency is partnering with India on this initiative?**

- (a) World Bank
- (b) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (d) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

**Answer: (b) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)**

**Detailed Explanation:**

NITI Aayog and **JICA** signed the Phase II agreement for Japan-India Cooperative Actions towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This phase focuses on deploying Japanese technical solutions and monitoring frameworks directly across India's **Aspirational Districts** to boost performance metrics in health, nutrition, and clean water.

**Q27. Telangana's Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP) launched a ₹12.66 crore Challenge Fund under the NRLM framework. Which premier institution's Technology Business Incubator Society (TBIS) is partnering on this project?**

- (a) IIT Hyderabad
- (b) BITS Pilani Hyderabad
- (c) IIIT Hyderabad
- (d) Osmania University

**Answer: (b) BITS Pilani Hyderabad**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Telangana's SERP partnered with **TBIS at BITS Pilani Hyderabad**, along with tech incubators T-Hub and WE Hub, to launch the ₹12.66 crore Challenge Fund. Supported by the Ministry of Rural Development, the fund aims to help rural women self-help groups (SHGs) adopt modern tech solutions for agri-processing and rural logistics.

**Q28. The National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Kundli (NIFTEM-K) signed a strategic academic MoU to expand food security research with the University of Saskatchewan, located in which country?**

- (a) United Kingdom
- (b) Australia
- (c) Canada
- (d) Germany

**Answer: (c) Canada**

**Detailed Explanation:**

**NIFTEM-K** (operating under India's Ministry of Food Processing Industries) signed a research and student-exchange MoU with the **University of Saskatchewan, Canada**. The partnership will

focus on cold-chain logistics, pulse processing technologies, and crop residue management to reduce post-harvest food waste.

## 10. Important Days and Themes

**Q29. National Safety Day 2026 was observed across India on March 4, marking the commencement of the 55th National Safety Week. What was the official central theme designated for the year 2026?**

- (a) Safety Leadership for Viksit Bharat
- (b) Our Goal - Zero Harm
- (c) Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety
- (d) Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture

**Answer: (c) Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety**

### Detailed Explanation:

Organized annually by the National Safety Council of India to commemorate its foundation day on **March 4**, National Safety Day 2026 launched its 55th awareness week under the official theme: "**Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety**". The campaign focuses on improving safety protocols across hazardous industrial environments, construction sites, and public utilities.

**Q30. World Obesity Day is observed globally on 4th March. What is the official global theme designated for World Obesity Day 2026?**

- (a) Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity
- (b) Everyone Needs to Act
- (c) 8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity
- (d) Close the Care Gap in Metabolic Health

**Answer: (c) 8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity**

### Detailed Explanation:

Coordinated by the World Obesity Federation in official partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), World Obesity Day is marked annually on **March 4**. The 2026 theme is "**8 Billion Reasons to Act on Obesity**", highlighting the global scale of the issue and calling for stigma-free healthcare, healthier environments, and collective action.

