

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. Which country signed a milestone agreement with Vietnam in March 2026 to revive and construct the Ninh Thuan 1 Nuclear Power Plant?

- A) United States
- B) Japan
- C) Russia
- D) France

Answer: C) Russia

Explanation: On March 24, 2026, Russia and Vietnam finalized an agreement to construct the Ninh Thuan 1 Nuclear Power Plant in Vietnam. This project marks a major revival of Vietnam's nuclear energy ambitions and deepens bilateral strategic cooperation between Moscow and Hanoi, overriding regional geopolitical shifts.

Q2. According to data reported in March 2026, which country surpassed the Netherlands to become India's third-largest export destination?

- A) UAE
- B) China
- C) United Kingdom
- D) Singapore

Answer: B) China

Explanation: Despite active trade tensions and tariff-related adjustments elsewhere globally, official trade data for early 2026 confirmed that China overtook the Netherlands to become India's third-largest export market. The top two largest export destinations for Indian goods remain the United States and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Q3. Which state government officially launched the "Ningol Van Initiative" in March 2026 to promote rural women-led eco-tourism?

- A) Nagaland
- B) Mizoram
- C) Assam
- D) Manipur

Answer: D) Manipur

Explanation: The Government of Manipur introduced the "Ningol Van Initiative" (Ningol meaning women/daughters in Meitei). The scheme integrates forest conservation with livelihood generation by assigning rural women community clusters the task of running micro-eco-tourism hubs and managing minor forest produce.

Q4. Which state high court issued a landmark directive in March 2026 ordering a time-bound, state-wide eradication of the invasive alien weed species *Prosopis juliflora*?

- A) Kerala High Court
- B) Madras High Court
- C) Bombay High Court
- D) Andhra Pradesh High Court

Answer: B) Madras High Court

Explanation: The Madras High Court issued stringent, time-bound guidelines to the Tamil Nadu state administration to eradicate *Prosopis juliflora* (locally known as Seemai Karuvelam). The invasive species aggressively depletes groundwater tables and destroys native biodiversity across drylands.

Q5. The first edition of the "Bharat Electricity Summit" was hosted in March 2026. Which major digital portal was launched during this summit?

- A) Vidyut Vyapar Portal
- B) Urja Sangam Platform
- C) National Carbon Market Portal
- D) Green Hydrogen Tracker

Answer: C) National Carbon Market Portal

Explanation: The Ministry of Power held the inaugural Bharat Electricity Summit in New Delhi. A centerpiece of the summit was the launch of the Carbon Market Portal, designed to institutionalize, track, and regularize carbon credit trading among domestic power generation and industrial units in India.

Q6. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) launched three structural initiatives on March 24, 2026, to bolster which sector?

- A) Community Radio Network
- B) Media and Entertainment Sector ("Orange Economy")
- C) Direct-to-Home (DTH) hardware localization
- D) Print Media Subsidies

Answer: B) Media and Entertainment Sector ("Orange Economy")

Explanation: The MoIB rolled out three dedicated frameworks targeted at expanding India's "Orange Economy" (creative industry). The initiatives focus on streamlining single-window filming clearances, offering financial tech-grants to animation and VFX start-ups, and expanding digital accessibility infrastructure.

Q7. In March 2026, which country topped the newly released Global Terrorism Index (GTI)?

- A) Afghanistan
- B) Pakistan
- C) Burkina Faso

- D) Syria

Answer: B) Pakistan

Explanation: According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) released in March 2026, Pakistan emerged at the top of the index due to a sharp surge in regional insurgent attacks. It was closely followed by African nations Burkina Faso (2nd) and Niger (3rd), even as global terrorism deaths fell overall by 28%.

Q8. The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) approved boundary modifications for which famous wildlife sanctuary, primarily known for its high density of Indian One-horned Rhinoceroses?

- A) Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary
- B) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary
- C) Orang National Park
- D) Manas National Park

Answer: B) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary

Explanation: Located in Assam, the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary was in the news because the NBWL cleared a minor boundary rationalization plan. Pobitora holds the highest density of the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros in the world, and the modifications are intended to resolve long-standing local human-wildlife border disputes.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q9. Which Indian bank became the first to operationalize a UPI-linked overdraft (OD) facility specifically for Women Self-Help Group (SHG) members?

- A) State Bank of India
- B) Bank of Baroda
- C) Punjab National Bank

D) HDFC Bank

Answer: B) Bank of Baroda

Explanation: Bank of Baroda (BoB) successfully commercialized a credit line overdraft facility over the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for verified women SHG members holding Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts. The initiative was formally launched in Hyderabad.

Q10. What is the name of the upgraded credit flow framework introduced by the Government of India in March 2026 to assist Microfinance Institutions?

- A) MFI-Pragati 2.0
- B) CGSMFI 2.0
- C) PM-MicroCredit Scheme
- D) SIDBI-MFI Transit Fund

Answer: B) CGSMFI 2.0

Explanation: The Government of India introduced the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0). Managed via the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC), the version 2.0 system scales up guarantee caps to accelerate lower-interest credit flows from mainstream commercial banks to smaller NBFC-MFIs.

Q11. According to Reserve Bank of India data, where did India's Foreign Exchange (Forex) reserves stand in mid-March 2026?

- A) \$612.40 billion
- B) \$589.15 billion
- C) \$709.75 billion
- D) \$755.20 billion

Answer: C) \$709.75 billion

Explanation: RBI's statistical supplement updated in mid-March 2026 revealed that

India's forex reserves stood robustly at \$709.75 billion. This buffer provides comfortable macroeconomic security, covering more than 12 months of projected import bills.

Q12. The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) conducted its 622nd board meeting under the chairmanship of Governor Sanjay Malhotra in which city?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Patna
- C) New Delhi
- D) Bengaluru

Answer: B) Patna

Explanation: The 622nd meeting of the Central Board of Directors of the RBI was held on-site in Patna, Bihar. Chaired by Governor Sanjay Malhotra, the board reviewed global and domestic economic conditions, regional financial inclusion metrics, and systemic geopolitical challenges affecting banking liquidity.

Q13. In March 2026, the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 introduced an updated regulation for holding Annual General Meetings (AGMs). What is the new provision?

- A) All AGMs must be 100% physical
- B) AGMs can be held via video conferencing, provided a physical meeting is held at least once every 3 years
- C) No virtual meetings are permitted for listed firms
- D) Virtual AGMs are allowed only during national medical emergencies

Answer: B) AGMs can be held via video conferencing, provided a physical meeting is held at least once every 3 years

Explanation: The Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 updated digital governance protocols. It formally recognizes hybrid and virtual disclosures as standard compliance but builds in an accountability check requiring a physical corporate AGM at least once every three financial years.

Part 3: Appointments, Awards & Honors

Q14. Who was appointed by the Reserve Bank of India as the Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman of South Indian Bank in March 2026?

- A) PR Seshadri
- B) Jose Joseph Kattoor
- C) Salim Gangadharan
- D) Lakshmi Ramakrishna

Answer: B) Jose Joseph Kattoor

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India approved the appointment of former RBI Executive Director Jose Joseph Kattoor as the Non-Executive Part-Time Chairman of the Kerala-based private sector lender, South Indian Bank, for a three-year tenure effective March 23, 2026.

Q15. Who has been appointed as the first Chairperson of the newly constituted National Dental Commission (NDC)?

- A) Dr. Mousumi Goswami
- B) Dr. Sanjay Tewari
- C) Dr. Dibyendu Mazumdar
- D) Dr. Anil Kumar

Answer: B) Dr. Sanjay Tewari

Explanation: In March 2026, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare formally dissolved the old Dental Council of India (DCI) and

replaced it with the National Dental Commission (NDC) to modernize clinical education. Dr. Sanjay Tewari was appointed as its inaugural Chairperson.

Q16. Which prominent Indian actress was conferred with the prestigious "Women Empowerment Award" at the UK House of Commons in March 2026?

- A) Vidya Balan
- B) Rituparna Sengupta
- C) Priyanka Chopra
- D) Deepika Padukone

Answer: B) Rituparna Sengupta

Explanation: Acclaimed veteran Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta was honored with the Women Empowerment Award during a special session at the UK Parliament's House of Commons. The award recognizes her extensive contribution to cinema and her sustained advocacy work for marginalized women's rights through creative arts.

Q17. Who was appointed to head the newly formed expert committee on managing and mitigating Invasive Alien Species (IAS) under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change?

- A) Dhananjai Mohan
- B) Dr. A. Biju Kumar
- C) C. P. Goyal
- D) Sunita Narain

Answer: A) Dhananjai Mohan

Explanation: The Central Government constituted a high-level technical expert panel to formulate a national master-list and containment strategy for high-risk invasive alien flora and fauna. Dhananjai Mohan (former

PCCF of Uttarakhand) was designated as Chair, with Dr. A. Biju Kumar serving as Co-Chair.

Part 4: Sports, Books & Authors

Q18. Indian squash sensation Anahat Singh defended her title at the Indian Open in March 2026. This victory marked which historic career milestone?

- A) Her 5th PSA title
- B) Her 10th PSA title
- C) Her 16th PSA title
- D) Her 25th PSA title

Answer: C) Her 16th PSA title

Explanation: World No. 20 Anahat Singh secured her second consecutive Indian Open Squash title by defeating Egypt's Hana Moataz 3-1. This victory marks her 16th Professional Squash Association (PSA) title overall. By achieving this ranking, she became the youngest Asian player ever to break into the world's top 20 squash players.

Q19. Which Indian state has been formally announced as the host for the upcoming "Khelo India Tribal Games (KITG)" scheduled from late March to April 2026?

- A) Jharkhand
- B) Odisha
- C) Chhattisgarh
- D) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: C) Chhattisgarh

Explanation: Chhattisgarh is the host state for the Khelo India Tribal Games 2026. This marks a major milestone as the first national-level games variant curated exclusively to identify and support tribal athletic talent at the grassroots level.

Q20. A highly discussed non-fiction book focusing on child safety and internet metrics, titled "Children and Social Media in India: Rules, Risks and Gaps", was released in March 2026 in the presence of which legal luminary?

- A) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
- B) Justice Surya Kant
- C) Justice Sanjiv Khanna
- D) Justice B.V. Nagarathna

Answer: B) Justice Surya Kant

Explanation: The analytical book mapping the legal and psychological landscape of teenage digital consumption in India was officially unveiled in New Delhi in the presence of Supreme Court Judge, Justice Surya Kant, and former Lt. Governor Dr. Kiran Bedi.

Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

Q21. Which Indian Navy stealth frigate actively participated in the sea phase of the multilateral 'Exercise KAKADU 2026' conducted in Australia?

- A) INS Nilgiri
- B) INS Himgiri
- C) INS Taragiri
- D) INS Udaygiri

Answer: A) INS Nilgiri

Explanation: The Indian Navy's advanced stealth frigate INS Nilgiri participated in the sea phase of 'Exercise Kakadu 2026' off Darwin, Australia. Operating alongside naval warships from Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines, the crew of INS Nilgiri also clinched the prestigious "Kakadu Shield Trophy" during the harbor sports phase.

Q22. In March 2026, India signed a major bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bhutan to launch which cross-border financial mechanism in the postal sector?

- A) RuPay-Bhutan Post Card
- B) UPU-UPI Digital Cross-Border Remittance System
- C) Indo-Bhutan Postal Bank Fund
- D) SAARC Post-Pay Wallet

Answer: B) UPU-UPI Digital Cross-Border Remittance System

Explanation: India and Bhutan finalized an MoU in Thimphu to revamp postal cooperation. The key operational component of this agreement is the integration of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) framework with India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to execute seamless, low-cost cross-border digital remittances via local post networks.

Q23. Which national institution signed a security training MoU with the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Academy in March 2026?

- A) National Defence University (NDU)
- B) Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)
- C) National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)
- D) Internal Security Academy (ISA)

Answer: B) Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)

Explanation: Rashtriya Raksha University (an Institution of National Importance based in Gujarat) signed an agreement with the SSB Academy in New Delhi. The collaboration aims to modernize joint border management training, counter-intelligence protocols, and internal security capacity building for SSB personnel.

Q24. Which organization signed an MoU with the Forest Survey of India (FSI) to accelerate the application of advanced geospatial technologies and space mapping in Indian forestry?

- A) ISRO
- B) NRSC
- C) BISAG-N
- D) MapmyIndia

Answer: C) BISAG-N

Explanation: The Forest Survey of India (FSI) signed an MoU with the Bhaskarcharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N). The collaboration aims to integrate high-resolution geospatial imagery and automated satellite tracking to map forest fires, track biomass density, and monitor illegal encroachments.

Part 6: Government Schemes & Science-Tech

Q25. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh reviewed the progress of the "GARBH-INi" initiative. What is the primary objective of this government-backed medical research program?

- A) Eradication of maternal anemia through fortified rations
- B) Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms to predict and combat preterm births
- C) Digital tracking of rural infant immunizations
- D) Financial cash transfers to lactating mothers

Answer: B) Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms to predict and combat preterm births

Explanation: The Interdisciplinary Group for Advanced Research on Birth Outcomes (GARBH-INi) is a massive Indian pregnancy cohort program. The Department of



Biotechnology utilizes advanced data science and AI models developed on clinical histories of over 12,000 women to identify early bio-risk markers for preterm births.

Q26. In the updated fiscal planning frameworks discussed in March 2026, the budgetary outlay for the "PM-KUSUM" scheme was nearly doubled to ₹5,000 crore to prepare for which new national sub-mission?

- A) National Solar Pump Micro-Finance Mission
- B) National Agri-photovoltaics Mission
- C) Deep Ground Water Rejuvenation Mission
- D) Har Khet Ko Paani 2.0

Answer: B) National Agri-photovoltaics Mission

Explanation: The PM-KUSUM scheme's enhanced allocation is designed to support the launch of the National Agri-photovoltaics Mission. Agri-photovoltaics (AgriPV) allows farmers to generate solar energy on their cultivable land by mounting solar panels high enough to allow farming underneath, optimizing land use.

Q27. The Government of India established its first pilot plant for manufacturing indigenous Neodymium-Iron-Boron (Nd-Fe-B) rare earth permanent magnets at which location?

- A) ARCI Hyderabad
- B) BARC Mumbai
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) DMRL Visakhapatnam

Answer: A) ARCI Hyderabad

Explanation: To cut reliance on imports for electric vehicles and defense electronics, the Ministry of Science and Technology inaugurated the Nd-Fe-B Rare Earth Magnet Pilot Plant at the International Advanced Research Centre for

Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Part 7: Important National & International Days

Q28. What is the central theme for "World Tuberculosis (TB) Day" observed on March 24, 2026?

- A) Invest to End TB. Save Lives.
- B) Yes! We Can End TB!
- C) The Clock is Ticking: Eliminate TB
- D) United to End TB by 2030

Answer: B) Yes! We Can End TB!

Explanation: World TB Day is observed annually on March 24 to mark Dr. Robert Koch's 1882 discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. The global theme for 2026 is "Yes! We Can End TB!". India synchronized this day with the rollout of the *TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan - 100 Days Campaign*.

Q29. World Water Day is observed globally on March 22. What is the official designated theme for World Water Day 2026?

- A) Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible
- B) Accelerating Change through Partnerships
- C) Water for Peace
- D) Water and Gender

Answer: D) Water and Gender

Explanation: World Water Day was observed on March 22 with the 2026 international theme "Water and Gender". The theme highlights how water scarcity disproportionately impacts women and girls in developing economies, who often bear the primary responsibility for water collection.

Q30. Which important regional day is celebrated annually on March 22 to commemorate the separation of Bihar from the Bengal Presidency in the year 1912?

- A) Bihar Diwas
- B) Magadh Gaurav Din
- C) Bihar Sthapna Diwas
- D) Pataliputra Day

Answer: A) Bihar Diwas

Explanation: March 22 marks "Bihar Diwas", commemorating the date in 1912 when the British government carved out the state of Bihar from the old unified Bengal Presidency. This historical milestone is an important topic for state and national service exams.

