

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. Tesla and xAI Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk announced an ambitious project to establish a massive semiconductor and AI chip manufacturing facility. What is the name of this project?

- A) GigaChip
- B) Terafab
- C) OptiMax Labs
- D) NovaSilicon

Answer: B) Terafab

Explanation: Elon Musk unveiled plans to build a massive semiconductor manufacturing hub called the "Terafab" in Austin, Texas. Managed under xAI Labs, the facility is strategically engineered to address the critical global shortage of high-end graphical processing units (GPUs) and specialized chips essential for robotics, autonomous driving, and advanced Artificial Intelligence workloads.

Q2. In March 2026, a tragic defense aviation accident occurred in Colombia involving which military transport aircraft, resulting in 66 fatalities?

- A) Boeing C-17 Globemaster
- B) Lockheed C-130 Hercules
- C) Airbus A400M Atlas
- D) Antonov An-124

Answer: B) Lockheed C-130 Hercules

Explanation: A C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft operated by the Colombian air forces crashed in a mountainous terrain, claiming 66 lives. The tactical aircraft was executing a logistical transport operation under challenging weather conditions, sparking

immediate global safety inquiries into aging regional defense fleets.

Q3. According to data released by parliamentary panels in March 2026, a structural delimitation proposal based on the 2011 Census suggests increasing the number of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to how many?

- A) 750 seats
- B) 816 seats
- C) 845 seats
- D) 888 seats

Answer: B) 816 seats

Explanation: Legislative policy outlines reviewed in March 2026 proposed scaling up the total lower house (Lok Sabha) seats from 543 to 816 based on demographic assessments. Crucially, in line with the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam, a strict 33% reservation window will carve out 273 specific parliamentary seats exclusively for women ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Q4. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) formally introduced an "Advanced EPG" initiative alongside built-in satellite tuners for television sets. What does EPG stand for?

- A) Electronic Programme Guide
- B) Encryption Policy Gateway
- C) Enterprise Protocol Governance
- D) Extended Projection Grid

Answer: A) Electronic Programme Guide

Explanation: Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched three major consumer media protocols, including "MyWAVES" and the mandatory integration of an Advanced Electronic Programme Guide (EPG). The

framework allows television sets to decode free-to-air satellite channels directly without requiring an external set-top box, significantly enhancing rural media access.

Q5. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) invoked which statutory act in March 2026 to introduce sweeping infrastructure reforms and accelerate the expansion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG)?

- A) Energy Conservation Act, 2001
- B) Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006
- C) Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- D) Environment Protection Act, 1986

Answer: C) Essential Commodities Act, 1955

Explanation: Seeking to bypass localized administrative bottlenecks and accelerate city gas distribution, the MoPNG invoked the Essential Commodities Act (ECA). The directive allows the Union government to streamline structural clearances, regulate commercial delivery pipelines, and enforce strict targets for 2.5 lakh new household PNG connections.

Q6. Which global tourist destination was chosen by the Commonwealth Games Federation to host the Commonwealth Youth Games 2027?

- A) Gold Coast, Australia
- B) Valletta, Malta
- C) Victoria, Canada
- D) Durban, South Africa

Answer: B) Valletta, Malta

Explanation: The Commonwealth Games Federation formally announced that the island nation of Malta (specifically its capital hub area, Valletta) will play host to the Commonwealth Youth Games in 2027. The event will bring

together thousands of under-18 athletes from across 74 nations and territories.

Part 2: Banking, Economics & Corporate Governance

Q7. Which major Indian financial institution became the latest official signatory to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative?

- A) Muthoot Finance Ltd
- B) L&T Finance Ltd
- C) Bajaj Finance Ltd
- D) Cholamandalam Investment

Answer: B) L&T Finance Ltd

Explanation: L&T Finance Ltd. (LTF) formally signed onto the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). This step legally obligates the non-banking financial company (NBFC) to align its operational lending portfolios with the UN's Ten Principles on human rights, labor, environment, and anti-corruption, explicitly integrating structured ESG metrics into its core business strategy.

Q8. The Indian Rupee (INR) fell by 29 paise to settle at an all-time provisional record low against the US Dollar on March 25, 2026. What was the exact closing rate?

- A) 88.50
- B) 91.20
- C) 94.05
- D) 95.10

Answer: C) 94.05

Explanation: Triggered by severe foreign institutional investor (FII) capital outflows and escalating military tensions in West Asia, the Indian Rupee plummeted to a record low of

94.05 against the US greenback. Aggressive risk-off sentiment outweighed the stabilization cushions offered by a mild drop in international crude prices.

Q9. Global investment banking giant Goldman Sachs revised down its economic growth forecast for India for the Calendar Year 2026 (CY26). What is the updated GDP projection?

- A) 6.5%
- B) 6.2%
- C) 5.9%
- D) 5.5%

Answer: C) 5.9%

Explanation: Factoring in the structural disruptions and supply-chain pressures resulting from the Iran war, Goldman Sachs lowered India's CY26 growth target to 5.9% from its robust pre-war projection of 7%. The firm also forecast that domestic headline inflation will tick upward to 4.6%.

Q10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹31.80 Lakh on which foreign banking entity for violating unclaimed deposit database rules?

- A) Citibank
- B) HSBC Ltd
- C) Standard Chartered Bank
- D) Deutsche Bank

Answer: B) HSBC Ltd

Explanation: Under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the RBI fined HSBC Ltd ₹31.80 Lakh. Regulatory audits discovered that the bank failed to maintain an easily searchable public database of unclaimed deposits on its digital portals and omitted allocating unique Unique Customer

Identification Codes (UCIC) in specific portfolios.

Q11. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved major capital market adjustments during its 213th Board Meeting. Which of the following highlights the primary area of reform?

- A) Banning algorithmic trading for retail investors
- B) Democratizing social investments and improving Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) efficiency
- C) Eliminating the T+0 settlement cycle
- D) Introducing strict crypto-token taxation gateways

Answer: B) Democratizing social investments and improving Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) efficiency

Explanation: SEBI's 213th board convention introduced sweeping ease-of-doing-business guidelines for foreign capital. It simplified disclosure standards for FPIs while introducing relaxed onboarding rules for non-profit organizations seeking listing on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE).

Q12. Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the complete structural merger of which of its wholly-owned material subsidiaries into the parent bank entity, effective April 1, 2026?

- A) Kotak Securities Ltd
- B) Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd (KMIL)
- C) Kotak Mahindra Prime Ltd
- D) Kotak AMC

Answer: B) Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd (KMIL)

Explanation: To maximize operational automation, eliminate redundant corporate architectures, and consolidate compliance costs, Kotak Mahindra Bank cleared the absolute assimilation of Kotak Mahindra Investments Ltd (KMIL) directly into the parent commercial bank frame.

Part 3: Appointments & Awards

Q13. Who was honored with the prestigious "Women Empowerment Trailblazers Award" at the BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Annual Summit 2026 in New Delhi?

- A) Atishi Marlena
- B) Kalpana Soren
- C) Mahua Moitra
- D) Dimple Yadav

Answer: B) Kalpana Soren

Explanation: Jharkhand Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kalpana Soren was felicitated with the BRICS CCI Women Empowerment Trailblazers Award. The recognition spotlights her extensive work in organizing rural tribal women's cooperatives, driving female literacy in socio-economically backward districts, and fostering grassroots enterprise models.

Q14. Which regional rural financial institution was awarded the top prize for excellence in financial literacy and credit delivery at the National CLCC meet in Hyderabad?

- A) Kerala Gramin Bank (KGB)
- B) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank
- C) Prathama UP Gramin Bank
- D) Baroda UP Gramin Bank

Answer: A) Kerala Gramin Bank (KGB)

Explanation: Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan presented the apex performance trophy to V. M. Rukmini Devi, General Manager of Kerala Gramin Bank. Operating in tandem with DAY-NRLM directives, KGB extended a staggering ₹2,835 crore in structured micro-credit to over 80,000 rural Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs).

Q15. Senior diplomat Dr. Neena Malhotra and Dr. N. Kalaiselvi led a high-profile "Science Diplomacy" summit in late March 2026. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi is the Director General of which premiere Indian research body?

- A) ISRO
- B) DRDO
- C) CSIR
- D) ICMR

Answer: C) CSIR

Explanation: Dr. N. Kalaiselvi heads the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The diplomatic track, executed alongside the Ministry of External Affairs, aimed at pitching CSIR's 37 specialized multi-disciplinary laboratories to international partners for technology transfers in climate action and vaccine equity.

Part 4: Sports, Books & Authors

Q16. Which Indian state contingent clinched the absolute top rank on the leaderboard at the conclusion of the 24th National Para Athletics Championships in Bhubaneswar?

- A) Odisha
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Haryana
- D) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: C) Haryana

Explanation: The 24th edition of the National Para Athletics Championships wrapped up at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Displaying clear grassroots sporting dominance, the state of Haryana finished at the absolute top of the national medal charts, sweeping track, discus, and javelin gold tallies.

Q17. Famous Indian mountaineer Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma created a stunning Guinness World Record in March 2026. What feat did he accomplish?

- A) Fastest ascent of Mount Everest without oxygen
- B) Fastest climb of the Seven Volcanic Summits across the globe
- C) First human to scale K2 in peak winter solo
- D) Climbing all 14 eight-thousand-meter peaks in 6 months

Answer: B) Fastest climb of the Seven Volcanic Summits across the globe

Explanation: Hailing from Andhra Pradesh, mountaineer Anmish Varma completed the grueling expedition of scaling the highest volcanoes on all seven continents in a record time of 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes. His record-breaking journey originally kicked off from Mount Elbrus in Russia.

Q18. Legendary football icon Mohamed Salah officially announced his planned departure from which elite European football club, ending a historic nine-year stint?

- A) Real Madrid
- B) Liverpool FC
- C) Paris Saint-Germain
- D) Manchester City

Answer: B) Liverpool FC

Explanation: Egyptian forward Mohamed Salah confirmed he will exit English Premier League giants Liverpool FC at the close of the current season. Over a stellar nine-year career with the club, Salah netted 255 goals in 435 games, establishing himself as an all-time club legend and Premier League icon.

Q19. Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi released his new non-fiction book focusing on global societal reconstruction. What is the title of the book?

- A) *The Architecture of Peace*
- B) *Karuna: The Power of Compassion*
- C) *Every Child Matters: A Memoir*
- D) *Rescuing Childhood in the 21st Century*

Answer: B) *Karuna: The Power of Compassion*

Explanation: Social activist and Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi's latest book, *Karuna: The Power of Compassion*, was formally launched. The narrative deals extensively with his decades of core field experiences liberating children from forced labor and maps a programmatic approach for global youth policy anchored in baseline human empathy.

Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

Q20. Which advanced British Astute-class nuclear-powered attack submarine arrived in the Arabian Sea for a strategic deployment?

- A) HMS Astute
- B) HMS Artful
- C) HMS Anson
- D) HMS Ambush

Answer: C) HMS Anson

Explanation: The Royal Navy's state-of-the-art nuclear submarine, HMS Anson, entered the

Arabian Sea maritime theater for a long-range deployment. The movement is aimed at preserving Sea Lines of Communication (SLOC) and conducting joint tracking exercises alongside friendly partner navies in the Indian Ocean Region.

Q21. Fintech major Razorpay signed a strategic technological Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which artificial intelligence start-up to integrate multilingual conversational AI into payment rails?

- A) Krutrim AI
- B) Sarvam AI
- C) Perplexity India
- D) Hanooman Labs

Answer: B) Sarvam AI

Explanation: Razorpay partnered with Sarvam AI to integrate the latter's specialized voice-LLM and agentic technology stack into its digital checkout gates. This allows merchant interfaces to deploy voice-activated AI assistants capable of processing real-time commercial transactions via conversational regional languages.

Q22. The Forest Survey of India (FSI) signed a strategic technical MoU with BISAG-N to boost geospatial space mapping in forestry. BISAG-N functions under the administrative control of which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- C) Ministry of Science and Technology
- D) Ministry of Earth Sciences

Answer: B) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

Explanation: The Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-N) is an autonomous scientific society under MeitY. The FSI-BISAG-N partnership leverages indigenous satellite configurations to track live forest fire footprints and calculate real-time biomass canopy alterations across India.

Part 6: Government Schemes & Science-Tech

Q23. The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) announced the operationalization of a comprehensive centralized digital system to modernize institutional accountability. What is the name of this portal?

- A) Gram-Nirakshan Portal
- B) Internal Audit Portal
- C) Panchayati Lekha Platform
- D) Vigilance-Vikas Gate

Answer: B) Internal Audit Portal

Explanation: Moving away from conventional manual record keeping, the MoRD rolled out its real-time 'Internal Audit Portal'. The system tracks fund distribution across flagship welfare policies like MGNREGS and PMAY-G, automatically flagging accounting discrepancies and closing compliance gaps instantly.

Q24. NITI Aayog sanctioned a financial package of ₹1.55 Crore to back specialized programs at the RISE Centre for Skill Development and Women-led Enterprise. In which state is this hub located?

- A) Telangana
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Odisha

Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation: The Rural Incubation, Skilling and Entrepreneurship (RISE) Centre is located at Guntupalli in the NTR district of Andhra Pradesh. The financial injection from NITI Aayog is directed toward executing AI-based rural skill matrices, providing technical training in solar panel installation, and incubating micro-businesses led by rural women.

Q25. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw approved a set of five fresh logistics and cargo management protocols under which long-term modernization initiative for Indian Railways?

- A) Amrit Bharat Cargo Mission
- B) Gati Shakti Rail-Link
- C) "Reform Express" Initiative
- D) Rail-Pragati 2026

Answer: C) "Reform Express" Initiative

Explanation: The "Reform Express" framework targets three core operational vertices: Cargo efficiency, Construction quality, and Passenger convenience. A key structural reform rolled out under this phase includes giving the automobile sector full liberty to custom-design high-capacity wagons optimized for specialized transport routes.

Q26. India's rare earth magnet pilot plant, designed to manufacture indigenous Neodymium-Iron-Boron (Nd-Fe-B) configurations to feed the electric vehicle ecosystem, was setup under the aegis of which technology institute?

- A) IIT Madras
- B) ARCI Hyderabad
- C) NML Jamshedpur
- D) IICT Mumbai

Answer: B) ARCI Hyderabad

Explanation: The pathbreaking pilot plant was formally commercialized at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) in Hyderabad. Nd-Fe-B permanent magnets are highly critical components required for EV traction motors and defense guidance electronics, historically heavily imported from China.

Part 7: Important Days & Observances

Q27. Every year, March 21 is marked by the United Nations as World Poetry Day. What is the official designated theme for World Poetry Day 2026?

- A) Poetry for Sustainable Futures
- B) Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion
- C) Healing the World through Rhyme and Verse
- D) Linguistic Diversity and Creative Freedom

Answer: B) Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion

Explanation: The global community observed the 27th annual iteration of World Poetry Day on March 21, 2026. The theme chosen by UNESCO, "Poetry as a Bridge for Peace and Inclusion", focuses on honoring oral traditions, preserving endangered native dialects, and leveraging poetry to cultivate intercultural harmony.

Q28. International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed on March 21. This date honors the memory of peaceful demonstrators who were killed during a tragic police firing in 1960 in which apartheid-era township?

- A) Soweto

- B) Sharpeville
- C) District Six
- D) Robben Island

Answer: B) Sharpeville

Explanation: March 21 marks the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. It remembers the Sharpeville Massacre of 1960 in South Africa, where police opened fire on a peaceful assembly protesting apartheid pass laws, resulting in 69 deaths. It serves as a high-yield historical marker frequently queried in competitive exams.

Q29. The United Nations observes World Down Syndrome Day annually on March 21. Why was the 21st day of the 3rd month specifically chosen for this global awareness timeline?

- A) To honor the birth anniversary of Dr. John Langdon Down
- B) To represent the unique triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes the condition
- C) To mark the adoption of the UN Rights of Persons with Disabilities charter
- D) To coincide with the spring equinox

Answer: B) To represent the unique triplication of the 21st chromosome that causes the condition

Explanation: Down Syndrome (Trisomy 21) is a naturally occurring chromosomal arrangement. The date 21st of March (3/21) was strategically selected to mirror the biological nature of the condition—the presence of three copies of chromosome 21 instead of two.

Q30. International Day of Forests is observed across the world on March 21. What is the global operational theme for the year 2026?

- A) Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World

- B) Forests and Health: Healthy Trees, Healthy People
- C) Forests and Climate: Our True Carbon Sinks
- D) Forests and Education: Learn to Love our Woodlands

Answer: A) Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World

Explanation: The United Nations General Assembly designates March 21 as the International Day of Forests. The 2026 theme “Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World” underscores how technological tools like AI, advanced drone monitoring, and space-based remote sensing are redefining global conservation efforts.