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SECTIONS

50+

GK BYTES

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EDITION: MARCH 2026 · ALL-ROUND COVERAGE

Contents

Ten thematic sections covering 100 must-know updates from March 2026. Each entry has a heading, a crisp explanation, and many carry a **GK Byte** strip that links the news to static general knowledge for instant revision.

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How to use this capsule

Read the **heading** first (recall trigger), then the **explanation** (prelims facts + mains context), then the **GK Byte** (static linkage). Revise the GK Bytes and the **Rapid Revision** table at the end the night before your exam for quick, high-yield wins.



National, Polity & Judiciary

1 - 13

1 Budget Session 2026 - Second Half Resumes (March 9)

Parliament's Budget Session resumed on 9 March 2026 after the recess, scheduled to conclude on 2 April. During the session the Finance Bill 2026 and two Appropriation Bills were passed, along with several new legislative measures.

2 Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026 Passed

Introduced by Social Justice Minister Dr Virendra Kumar, the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha (24 March) and Rajya Sabha (25 March). It amends the 2019 Act, provides for District Magistrate identity certificates via a medical board, and raises punishment for forcing a transgender identity to 10 years-to-life.

GK BYTE

Amends: Transgender Persons Act, 2019

NALSA judgment: 2014 (third gender)

3 Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 Introduced

The Bill seeks to amend 80 central Acts to decriminalise and rationalise minor offences (up from 17 Acts in the 2025 version), with fines rising 10% every three years. The Select Committee, chaired by Tejasvi Surya, submitted its report on 13 March 2026.

GK BYTE

First Jan Vishwas Act: 2023

Theme: trust-based governance

4 Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 Introduced

Introduced on 23 March to amend the Companies Act 2013 and LLP Act 2008, and referred to a Joint Committee. It raises the small-company thresholds (share capital to Rs 20 crore, turnover to Rs 200 crore) and updates the CSR net-profit trigger to Rs 10 crore.

5 Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

Introduced on 25 March to amend FCRA, 2010. On cancellation or surrender of an FCRA certificate, foreign contributions and assets would vest in a government-notified 'Designated Authority'.

 GK BYTE

FCRA: regulates foreign funding of NGOs

Administered by: Home Ministry

6 Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026

Introduced in the Rajya Sabha to regulate recruitment, deputation and promotions across the CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP and SSB, mandating IPS deputation for 50% of IG posts, 67% of ADG posts and all DG posts.

 GK BYTE

CAPFs: CRPF, BSF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, AR

Under: Ministry of Home Affairs

7 SC: Maternity Leave for Adoptive Mothers Regardless of Child's Age

In Hamsaanandini Nanduri v. Union of India (17 March 2026), the Supreme Court held adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks' paid maternity leave irrespective of the child's age, striking down the under-3-months restriction as violating Articles 14 and 21.

 GK BYTE

Article 14: equality

Article 21: right to life & dignity

8 SC: Scheduled Caste Status Limited to Three Religions

In Chinthada Anand v. State of Andhra Pradesh (24 March 2026), the Court affirmed that only those professing Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism qualify as Scheduled Caste under the 1950 Presidential Order; conversion to another religion results in loss of SC status.

 GK BYTE

Basis: Constitution (SC) Order, 1950

Article 341: Scheduled Castes

9 SC Permits Passive Euthanasia for Harish Rana (March 11)

The Supreme Court permitted removal of life support for Harish Rana, in a vegetative state since a 2013 fall - among the notable applications of passive euthanasia following the Common Cause (2018) 'living will' framework.

 GK BYTE**Passive euthanasia legalised:** Common Cause case, 2018**10 National Dental Commission Constituted (March 19)**

The Government constituted the National Dental Commission (NDC), replacing the Dental Council of India, to align dental education and regulation with global standards - mirroring the NMC reform in medical education.

 GK BYTE**Replaces:** Dental Council of India (1948)**11 Parliamentary Panel Flags Cybercrimes Against Women**

The Committee on Empowerment of Women (Chair: Dr D. Purandeswari) reported on 23 March, noting a 239% rise in cybercrimes against women (2017-2022, NCRB) and recommending 'Cyber Safety Ambassadors' and mandatory KYC across social-media and gaming platforms.

 GK BYTE**NCRB:** under Home Ministry (est. 1986)**12 Parliamentary Panel Report on AI Misuse (March 30)**

The Committee on Communications and IT (Chair: Dr Nishikant Dubey) reported on 30 March, flagging deepfake and AI-surveillance risks and recommending comprehensive legislation against AI misuse plus AI courses in schools.

13 Sonam Wangchuk Released; NSA Charges Quashed (March 14)

Climate activist and innovator Sonam Wangchuk was released from jail after the Government quashed National Security Act charges against him, following the Ladakh statehood and Sixth Schedule protests.

 GK BYTE**NSA:** National Security Act, 1980 (preventive detention)**Schemes, Cabinet & Regulations**

14 - 26

14 Cabinet Approves Modified UDAN Scheme

The Union Cabinet approved the modified UDAN regional connectivity scheme with a Rs 28,840 crore outlay over ten years (FY2026-27 to FY2035-36), including Rs 10,043 crore of Viability Gap Funding and development of 100 airports from unserved airstrips.

 GK BYTE**UDAN:** Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (2016)**15 Cabinet Approves NDC Targets for 2031-35**

India will aim to cut the emissions intensity of GDP by 47% by 2035 (from 2005 levels) and reach a 60% non-fossil-fuel share in installed power capacity by 2035, plus an additional carbon sink of 3.5-4 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent.

 GK BYTE**NDC:** under the Paris Agreement (2015)**India net-zero:** 2070**16 Cabinet Extends Jal Jeevan Mission to December 2028**

The Cabinet approved continuation of the Jal Jeevan Mission until December 2028 with an enhanced outlay of Rs 8.7 lakh crore, with each village to get a unique service-area ID and digitally mapped drinking-water systems certified by Gram Panchayats.

 GK BYTE**JJM launched:** 2019**Goal:** tap water to every rural household

17 FDI Rules Eased for Land-Border Countries (March 15)

DPIIT's Press Note No. 2 of 2026 removed the requirement of a beneficial owner being 'situated in' a land-border country, defining beneficial ownership per the PMLA (over 10% holding of shares, capital or profits).

 GK BYTE**PMLA:** Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002**18 RoDTEP Remission Cap Removed**

The Government removed the 50% cap on remission rates (introduced in February 2026) under the RoDTEP scheme, restoring earlier rates to support exporters amid West Asia disruption.

 GK BYTE**RoDTEP:** Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products**19 National Highways Fee (Second Amendment) Rules (effective March 17)**

The penalty for unpaid user fees was set at twice the toll (only the original fee if paid within 72 hours of an e-notice), with VAHAN-linked vehicle restrictions after 15 days.

20 Draft Digital Trade Facilitation Bill, 2026 Released

DPIIT released the draft Bill for feedback; it gives electronic trade documents full legal validity equal to paper and provides for cross-border recognition and trust service providers.

21 Draft Mineral Exchange Rules, 2026 Released

The Ministry of Mines released draft rules under the MMDR Act, 1957 providing for registration of electronic Mineral Exchanges (valid 25 years) for minerals other than coal, lignite and atomic minerals, regulated by the Indian Bureau of Mines.

 GK BYTE**MMDR Act:** 1957**IBM HQ:** Nagpur

22 Draft Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Amendment Rules, 2026

The Ministry of Power proposed mandatory Time-of-Day tariffs for commercial/industrial consumers from 1 April 2027, a net-metering charge (exempt for solar PV up to 5 kW) and automatic review of abnormal bills within 30 days.

23 Draft Amendments to IT Rules, 2021

MeitY proposed requiring intermediaries to comply with all MeitY advisories and directions, and extending the rules to news and current-affairs content shared by non-publisher users.

 GK BYTE**Parent Act:** Information Technology Act, 2000**24 RBI Draft Framework on Customer Liability in Digital Fraud**

The RBI proposed compensating customers for small-value fraudulent electronic transactions - 85% of net loss or Rs 25,000 (whichever lower), once per lifetime - with banks paying within five days and bearing the burden of proof.

25 RBI Financial Literacy Week 2026 (Theme: KYC)

The RBI observed Financial Literacy Week 2026 in March with the theme 'KYC - Your first step to safe banking', aimed at strengthening awareness of safe banking and KYC practices.

 GK BYTE**KYC:** Know Your Customer**26 SEBI Committee on Conflict of Interest**

SEBI approved recommendations bringing its Chairman and Whole-Time Members within the definition of 'insiders', requiring freezing of investments on joining and capping new investment via a single intermediary at 25% of the financial portfolio.

 GK BYTE**SEBI HQ:** Mumbai**Chairman:** Tuhin Kanta Pandey

States & National Events

27 - 32

27 Noida International Airport Phase I Inaugurated (March 28)

PM Modi inaugurated Phase I of the Noida International Airport at Jewar (Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP), built at about Rs 11,200 crore under PPP with an initial capacity of 12 million passengers per year, scalable to 70 million.

 GK BYTE**Location:** Jewar, Uttar Pradesh

India's largest airport once fully built

28 Naxalite Insurgency Declared Ended (March 30)

India announced the effective end of the Naxalite (Left-Wing Extremism) insurgency after Home Minister Amit Shah reported that most remaining cadres had been killed, arrested or had surrendered following intensified operations.

 GK BYTE**Naxalism began:** 1967 (Naxalbari, West Bengal)**29 Raisina Dialogue 2026 Held in New Delhi (March 5-7)**

PM Modi inaugurated the 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue, themed 'Samskara', with about 2,700 participants from 110 countries. Finnish President Alexander Stubb was the Chief Guest.

 GK BYTE**Organised by:** MEA + ORF

India's flagship geopolitics conference

30 India-Finland Summit; Ties Elevated (Stubb State Visit)

During President Alexander Stubb's state visit (4-7 March), India and Finland elevated ties to a 'Strategic Partnership in Digitalisation and Sustainability', signing 11 outcomes including a 6G joint task force and an Indo-Finland Startup Corridor.

 GK BYTE**Finland Capital:** Helsinki**Currency:** Euro

31 IAF Su-30MKI Crash in Assam (March 5)

An Indian Air Force Su-30MKI crashed after take-off for a training flight in Karbi Anglong district, Assam, killing both pilots. The Su-30MKI is the IAF's frontline multirole fighter.

32 India Submits 7th National Biodiversity Report to UN CBD

India submitted its Seventh National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, reporting that all 23 National Biodiversity Targets are on track via a whole-of-society approach.

 GK BYTE

CBD: adopted at 1992 Rio Earth Summit

GBF adopted: 2022 (Montreal)

**International & Summits**

33 - 41

33 G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in France (March 26-27)

EAM Dr S. Jaishankar attended the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting with Partner Countries at Abbaye des Vaux-de-Cernay, France. Discussions covered Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, maritime security, UNSC reform and West Asia, with India stressing Global South priorities.

 GK BYTE

G7: US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada

34 Jaishankar's Bilaterals on G7 Sidelines

On the sidelines of the G7 meeting (26-27 March), Jaishankar held bilateral talks with counterparts from France, Canada, South Korea, Japan, Brazil, the UK, Germany and Ukraine, and also met French President Emmanuel Macron.

35 Jaishankar Visits Brussels (March 15-16)

EAM Jaishankar visited Brussels, Belgium for engagements with EU leadership, following up on the January 2026 India-EU Summit and the conclusion of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement.

 GK BYTE

EU HQ: Brussels

EU members: 27

36 India-Japan CEPA 7th Joint Committee Meeting (March 2)

The 7th Joint Committee Meeting under the India-Japan CEPA was held in Tokyo, focusing on balanced trade, expanding exports in textiles, pharma and agriculture, and supply-chain cooperation.

 GK BYTE

Japan Capital: Tokyo

Currency: Yen

37 India-Canada CEPA Negotiations Launched (March 2)

India and Canada formally launched negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, signing the Terms of Reference in New Delhi with a target to raise bilateral trade to about US\$50 billion by 2030.

 GK BYTE

Canada Capital: Ottawa

PM: Mark Carney

38 India-Canada Economic Partnership Announced (March 2)

PM Modi and Canadian PM Mark Carney announced a deal to strengthen economic ties, alongside the CEPA Terms of Reference, marking a reset in India-Canada relations (bilateral trade ~US\$8.7 billion in 2024-25).

39 PM Modi-Iran President Telephone Call (March 12)

PM Modi spoke with Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian on the West Asia conflict, stressing dialogue, the safety of Indian nationals and unhindered energy and goods transit.

 GK BYTE

Iran Capital: Tehran

Chabahar Port: developed with India

40 India-US Reciprocal Defense Procurement Agreement Progress

India and the US moved close to concluding a Reciprocal Defense Procurement Agreement (RDPA) to ease defence-industrial sales, with a senior US delegation visiting India during the month.

41 70th UN Commission on the Status of Women Concludes (March 19)

The 70th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (9-19 March, New York) saw 190 member states adopt the Agreed Conclusions; India's delegation was led by MoS Savitri Thakur.

 GK BYTE

CSW: under UN ECOSOC", "Est.: 1946

**Economy & Banking**

42 - 52

42 Q3 FY26 Real GDP Grows 7.8%

India's real GDP for Q3 FY26 (Oct-Dec 2025) was estimated at Rs 84.54 lakh crore, growing 7.8% year-on-year, with real GVA also up 7.8%; the full-year FY26 estimate stood at 7.6% (new 2022-23 base series).

 GK BYTE

GDP data by: NSO / MoSPI

New base year: 2022-23

43 Retail (CPI) Inflation for February 2026 at 3.21%

The February 2026 CPI data (released in March) showed retail inflation at 3.21% with food inflation at 3.47%, comfortably within the RBI's tolerance band. (March CPI, released in April, was 3.40%.)

 GK BYTE

New CPI base year: 2024

44 WPI Wholesale Inflation for February 2026 at 2.13%

The annual WPI-based inflation rate for February 2026 was 2.13% (provisional), with the WPI food index at 1.85%, released in mid-March.



GK BYTE

WPI released by: DPIIT (Commerce Ministry)

45 IIP for January 2026 Grows 4.8% (Released March 2)

The Index of Industrial Production grew 4.8% year-on-year in January 2026, with manufacturing (the largest component) also up 4.8% and electricity the fastest-growing sub-index.

46 Eight Core Industries Output at 2.3% in February 2026

India's eight core infrastructure industries grew 2.3% in February 2026 (released in March), slowing from an upwardly revised 4.7% in January; cement (+9.3%), steel (+7.2%) and fertilisers grew, while crude oil and natural gas declined.



GK BYTE

8 Core Industries: ~40% weight in IIP

47 Current Account Deficit (Q3 FY26) at US\$13.2 billion

Per RBI data, India's Current Account Deficit for Q3 FY26 (Oct-Dec 2025) widened to US\$13.2 billion, about 1.3% of GDP, reflecting a larger merchandise trade gap.

48 GST Collections for March 2026 at Rs 1.78 lakh crore

Net GST revenue in March 2026 stood at about Rs 1.78 lakh crore, up 8.2% year-on-year; cumulative net GST collections for FY26 reached about Rs 19.35 lakh crore.



GK BYTE

GST rolled out: 1 July 2017

49 Forex Reserves Fall About US\$30.5 billion in March

India's foreign exchange reserves declined by roughly US\$30.5 billion during March 2026 amid RBI intervention to curb rupee volatility and a ~4% rupee depreciation; end-March reserves stood near US\$688 billion.

50 New RBI Digital Payment Security Rules Finalised

The RBI's revamped digital-payment security framework was finalised for rollout from 1 April 2026, mandating stronger risk-based authentication and additional verification for high-risk transactions.

51 India Q1 2026 M&A Activity Near a Record

In the January-March 2026 quarter, India recorded roughly 710 deals worth about US\$20 billion - one of the highest activity levels on record - led by mid-market and outbound transactions.

52 Reliance Announces IndiaCast-JioStar Amalgamation

In its March 2026 disclosures, Reliance Industries announced the amalgamation of IndiaCast Media Distribution with JioStar India, part of continued consolidation in its media business.

**Science, Space & Defence**

53 - 71

53 PM Modi Inaugurates Kaynes Semicon Plant, Sanand (March 31)

PM Modi inaugurated the Kaynes Semicon plant at Sanand, Gujarat, advancing the India Semiconductor Mission; as of March 2026, 10 semiconductor units had been approved, including two fabs.



GK BYTE

ISM nodal ministry: MeitY

Sanand: Gujarat semiconductor hub

54 IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026 Launched

Under MeitY, the IndiaAI Mission ran the IndiaAI Innovation Challenge 2026 to develop deployment-ready AI solutions for public service delivery, with selected solutions eligible for a two-year contract of up to Rs 1 crore.

55 First Lab-Grown Oesophagus Created (March 20)

Scientists from Great Ormond Street Hospital and University College London reported creating the first lab-grown oesophagus, showing it could replace a full section of the organ and restore swallowing without immunosuppression in an animal model.

56 ESA's First Rocket Lab Electron Launch (March 28)

Rocket Lab's Electron deployed Celeste IOD-1 and IOD-2, the first pair of satellites for ESA's next-generation LEO-PNT (positioning-navigation-timing) constellation - the first Electron launch conducted for ESA.

 GK BYTE**ESA:** European Space Agency (HQ: Paris)**57 China's Kinetica 2 Rocket Maiden Flight (March 30)**

CAS Space launched the maiden flight of the Kinetica 2 rocket from Jiuquan, which also carried the first flight of the Qingzhou cargo spacecraft prototype.

58 SpaceX Transporter-16 Rideshare (March 30)

A Falcon 9 flew the Transporter-16 SmallSat rideshare (60+ payloads) to sun-synchronous orbit, including a quantum-key-distribution demonstrator (SPOQC), a Danish climate CubeSat and NASA Ames' TechEdSat-23.

59 SpaceX Falcon 9 Booster Sets 34-Flight Record (March 30)

On a Starlink mission, Falcon 9 booster B1067 became the first booster to launch on 34 missions, a new reusability milestone.

60 Japan's KAIROS Flight 3 Fails (March 5)

Japan's Space One KAIROS (F3) rocket failed on launch from Spaceport Kii, destroying all five payloads - a setback for Japan's private launch sector.

61 NASA's Artemis II March Launch Window Scrubbed

NASA's targeted March 2026 launch window for Artemis II (the first crewed Moon flyby of the Artemis programme) was scrubbed after engineers found a helium-flow problem in the SLS upper stage; the mission launched on 1 April 2026.

 GK BYTE

Artemis: NASA's Moon programme

62 Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 (India-Japan)

The 7th edition of the India-Japan joint military exercise concluded at Chaubattia, Uttarakhand, running 24 February to 9 March 2026, to enhance interoperability in jungle and semi-urban terrain.

 GK BYTE

Dharma Guardian: India-Japan Army exercise

63 Exercise Vajra Prahar 2026 (India-US)

The 16th edition of the India-US joint Special Forces exercise was held at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, from 24 February to 16 March 2026.

 GK BYTE

Vajra Prahar: India-US Special Forces exercise

64 Exercise Dweep Shakti (Tri-service)

A high-intensity tri-service military drill was conducted 24-28 March 2026, focused on coastal and island defence and joint operational readiness for maritime security.

65 INS Dunagiri Delivered by GRSE (March 30)

The Project 17A stealth frigate INS Dunagiri was delivered from GRSE (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers), along with the survey vessel INS Sanshodhak, ahead of their later commissioning.

 GK BYTE

Project 17A: Nilgiri-class stealth frigate

GRSE: Kolkata

66 MoD Signs Defence Contracts Worth Rs 858 crore (March 29)

The Ministry of Defence signed two contracts worth a combined Rs 858 crore: one with Russian entities for the Tunguska air-defence system, and one with Boeing for P-8I maritime-reconnaissance-aircraft maintenance.

67 MoD Signs ALH Mk-III and VL-Shtil Contracts

The MoD signed contracts worth Rs 5,083 crore for ALH Mk-III helicopters from HAL for the Indian Coast Guard, and VL-Shtil surface-to-air missiles for the Indian Navy.

 GK BYTE

ALH Dhruv: made by HAL

68 DAC Approves Indigenous Air Defence Tracked System

The Defence Acquisition Council approved the indigenous Air Defence Tracked System, a mobile platform to fill the short-range air-defence gap for mechanised formations.

 GK BYTE

DAC chaired by: Defence Minister

69 US 'Dark Eagle' Hypersonic Weapon Test (March 26)

The third live-fire test of the US Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon (LRHW / 'Dark Eagle') with a Common Hypersonic Glide Body was conducted from Cape Canaveral.

 GK BYTE

Hypersonic: above Mach 5

70 National Immunization Day Observed (March 16)

India observed National Immunization Day (National Vaccination Day) on 16 March, alongside Pulse Polio rounds, reinforcing India's polio-free status.

 GK BYTE

India polio-free since: 2014 (WHO-certified)

71 World TB Day Launch & 100-day TB Mukht Bharat Campaign (March 24)

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda chaired the national World TB Day launch at Greater Noida (theme 'Yes! We Can End TB!'). The intensified 100-day TB Mukht Bharat campaign covers 1.58 lakh villages and urban wards; TB incidence has fallen 21% since 2015.

 GK BYTE

World TB Day: 24 March (Robert Koch, 1882)

**Environment & Ecology**

72 - 77

72 World Wildlife Day 2026 (March 3)

Observed globally under the theme 'Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods', highlighting these plants' role in health, culture and livelihoods. The day marks the 1973 signing of CITES.

 GK BYTE

CITES signed: 1973

Day: 3 March

73 International Day of Forests (March 21)

Observed under the 2026 theme 'Forests and Economies', highlighting how forests support livelihoods, jobs and economic resilience worldwide.

 GK BYTE

By: UN (FAO)

Day: 21 March

74 World Water Day (March 22)

Observed under the theme 'Water and Gender' (slogan 'Where water flows, equality grows'). UNESCO also launched the UN World Water Development Report 2026.

 GK BYTE

By: UN-Water

Day: 22 March

75 World Meteorological Day (March 23)

Observed under the 2026 theme 'Observing today, protecting tomorrow', marking the World Meteorological Organization's focus on observation systems.



GK BYTE

WMO HQ: Geneva

Marks WMO's founding (1950)

76 Earth Hour 2026 (March 28)

Held at 8:30 pm local time under the theme 'Give an Hour for Earth', marking the 20th anniversary of Earth Hour, a WWF-led global movement.



GK BYTE

Led by: WWF

Started 2007 (Sydney)

77 India BioEconomy Report 2026

Unveiled at BIRAC's 14th Foundation Day, the report said India's bioeconomy reached a record US\$195.3 billion in 2025, nearly 5% of GDP, driven by biopharma, bio-industrial and bio-agriculture sectors.



GK BYTE

BIRAC: under the Dept. of Biotechnology

**Sports**

78 - 85

78 India Wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (March 8)

India beat New Zealand by 96 runs in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, becoming the first team to defend the T20 World Cup, the first host nation to win it, and the first to lift three titles. Sanju Samson was Player of the Tournament.



GK BYTE

Venue: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

India's T20 WC titles: 3 (2007, 2024, 2026)

79 All England Open 2026 - Lakshya Sen Runner-up

At the All England Open (Birmingham, 3-8 March), Lin Chun-Yi of Chinese Taipei beat India's Lakshya Sen 21-15, 22-20 in the men's singles final; Wang Zhiyi of China won the women's title.

80 World Athletics Indoor Championships 2026 (Torun, Poland)

The 21st edition ran 20-22 March at Torun, where Armand 'Mondo' Duplantis won a fourth successive indoor pole-vault title with a championship record 6.25m. India was awarded the 2028 edition, to be hosted in Bhubaneswar.



GK BYTE

2028 host: Bhubaneswar, India

81 Simon Ehammer Sets Indoor Heptathlon World Record

At Torun on 21 March, Switzerland's Simon Ehammer scored 6,670 points to break Ashton Eaton's 14-year-old indoor heptathlon world record by 25 points and win gold.

82 Sunshine Double - Jannik Sinner & Aryna Sabalenka

Jannik Sinner won both Indian Wells (4-15 March) and the Miami Open (17-29 March), becoming the first man to complete the 'Sunshine Double' without dropping a set; Aryna Sabalenka won both women's titles.

83 FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualifiers - India Silver

Hosted at Hyderabad, India beat Italy 1-0 in the semi-final (13 March) but lost the final 2-0 to England. India, England and Scotland all qualified for the 2026 Women's World Cup.

84 Prague Chess Festival Masters 2026 - Abdusattorov Wins

Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan won the Prague Masters (concluded 6 March) with 6 points, becoming the first two-time champion; India's Aravindh Chithambaram tied for second.

85 India to Host 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships

India won hosting rights for the 2028 World Athletics Indoor Championships, with Bhubaneswar selected as host city - making India the fourth Asian nation to host the event.

 GK BYTE**Host city:** Bhubaneswar, Odisha**Awards & Appointments**

86 - 93

86 98th Academy Awards (March 15)

Held at the Dolby Theatre and hosted by Conan O'Brien, 'One Battle After Another' won Best Picture (six awards) and Paul Thomas Anderson won Best Director. Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor and Jessie Buckley Best Actress.

 GK BYTE**Best Picture:** One Battle After Another**87 Oscars 2026 Debut a Best Casting Category**

The 98th Academy Awards introduced the Best Casting award, the first new Oscar category since Best Animated Feature (2001), won by Cassandra Kulukundis for 'One Battle After Another'.

88 Pritzker Architecture Prize 2026 - Smiljan Radic (March 12)

The Chilean architect Smiljan Radic Clarke was named the 2026 Pritzker laureate - architecture's highest honour - becoming the second Chilean to win after Alejandro Aravena (2016).

 GK BYTE**Pritzker Prize:** 'Nobel of architecture'

89 Abel Prize 2026 - Gerd Faltings (March 19)

Germany's Gerd Faltings won the Abel Prize for his work in arithmetic geometry, resolving the Mordell and Lang conjectures. He is the first German Abel laureate; the prize carries 7.5 million Norwegian kroner.

 GK BYTE**Abel Prize:** 'Nobel of mathematics' (Norway)**90 60th Jnanpith Award - R. Vairamuthu (March 14)**

The Tamil poet-lyricist R. Vairamuthu was named winner of the Jnanpith Award (for 2025), India's highest literary honour, chosen by a committee chaired by Pratibha Ray. He is the third Tamil writer to receive it.

 GK BYTE**Jnanpith:** India's highest literary award (since 1965)**91 Balen Shah Sworn In as Prime Minister of Nepal (March 27)**

The former Kathmandu mayor and rapper Balendra 'Balen' Shah became Nepal's PM after his Rastriya Swatantra Party won the March 2026 election (held after the 2025 Gen Z protests). At 36 he became among the world's youngest serving national leaders.

 GK BYTE**Nepal Capital:** Kathmandu**Currency:** Nepalese Rupee**92 Taranjit Singh Sandhu Sworn In as LG of Delhi (March 11)**

Former Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu was sworn in as Delhi's 23rd Lieutenant Governor, replacing V.K. Saxena, who was moved to LG of Ladakh.

93 Deepak Gupta Appointed CMD of GAIL (India) Ltd (March 1)

Deepak Gupta took over as Chairman & Managing Director of GAIL (India) Ltd, having previously served as Director (Projects), with tenure until February 2029.

 GK BYTE**GAIL:** India's largest natural gas company (Maharatna)

July
17

Reports, Days & Obituaries

94 - 100

94 World Happiness Report 2026 (March 20) - India 116th

India ranked 116th of 147 countries, up two places from 118th. Finland topped for the ninth consecutive year, followed by Iceland and Denmark.

 GK BYTE

Published by: UN SDSN + Gallup

No. 1: Finland

95 Global Terrorism Index 2026 (March 21)

Released by the Institute for Economics and Peace, India ranked 13th (improved from 14th), while Pakistan ranked 1st (most impacted) for the first time.

 GK BYTE

By: Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)

96 Forbes World's Billionaires List 2026 (March 10)

Mukesh Ambani was India's richest at US\$99.7 billion (21st globally). India produced a record 229 billionaires whose combined wealth crossed US\$1 trillion.

 GK BYTE

India's richest: Mukesh Ambani

97 International Women's Day (March 8)

Observed globally with the UN theme 'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls', reaffirming the drive for gender equality.

 GK BYTE

Day: 8 March

UN theme: Rights. Justice. Action.

98 World Consumer Rights Day (March 15)

Observed under the theme 'Safe Products, Confident Consumers', commemorating US President J.F. Kennedy's 1962 address on consumer rights to the US Congress.

**GK BYTE****India's law:** Consumer Protection Act, 2019**99 Obituary: Industrialist Vijaypat Singhania (March 28)**

The industrialist, aviator and former Raymond Group chairman Vijaypat Singhania (Padma Bhushan, 2006) died in Mumbai aged 87. He once held the world record for the highest hot-air-balloon altitude.

100 Obituary: Urdu Writer Jeelani Bano (March 1)

The eminent Urdu writer and Padma Shri awardee (2001) Jeelani Bano, known for her social realism depicting Deccan society, died in Hyderabad aged 89.

Rapid Revision — One-Line Facts

High-yield one-liners distilled from this capsule. Skim these last, right before your exam.

Question / Cue	Answer
ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 winner	India (beat New Zealand)
Noida International Airport location	Jewar, Uttar Pradesh
Bill amending the Transgender Persons Act, 2019	Transgender Persons (Amendment) Bill, 2026
Jan Vishwas Bill 2026 - number of Acts amended	80 Acts
SC status limited to which religions	Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist
Modified UDAN outlay	Rs 28,840 crore (10 yrs)
Jal Jeevan Mission extended to	December 2028
India's NDC emissions-intensity cut target by 2035	47% (from 2005)
Raisina Dialogue 2026 theme & chief guest	Sanskara · Pres. Stubb (Finland)
India-Canada launched which pact (Mar 2)	CEPA negotiations
Q3 FY26 GDP growth	7.8%
GST collection March 2026	Rs 1.78 lakh crore
Kaynes Semicon plant location	Sanand, Gujarat
World TB Day & theme	24 March · 'Yes! We Can End TB!'
World Wildlife Day marks signing of	CITES (1973)
World Water Day 2026 theme	Water and Gender
98th Oscars Best Picture	One Battle After Another
Pritzker Prize 2026 laureate	Smiljan Radic (Chile)
Abel Prize 2026 winner	Gerd Faltings (Germany)

Question / Cue	Answer
60th Jnanpith Award	R. Vairamuthu (Tamil)
New Prime Minister of Nepal	Balen Shah
Delhi's new Lieutenant Governor	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
World Happiness Report 2026 - India rank	116th of 147
Global Terrorism Index 2026 - most impacted	Pakistan (India 13th)
Forbes 2026 - India's richest	Mukesh Ambani (\$99.7 bn)
2028 World Athletics Indoor host	Bhubaneswar
Winter... (T20) India's T20 WC titles	3 (2007, 2024, 2026)

Disclaimer: Compiled from March 2026 news and current-affairs sources for exam preparation. A few economic data points (CPI, WPI, IIP, core sector) pertain to Jan/Feb but were released/discussed in March 2026. Verify exact figures, names and dates against primary sources (PIB, RBI, MEA, MoSPI, PRS) before final use. © MockSutra · www.mocksutra.com