

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 2026 — Week 2

EXAM REVISION NOTES

APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI

TOPICS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE

• International Current Affairs	• Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs
• National Current Affairs	• Economy & Finance
• Schemes & Policies	• Science & Technology
• Environment	• Polity & Governance
• Defence	• Awards, Ranks & Reports
• Person in News	• Important Days & Sports

01 INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Nepal Elections 2026 — Rastriya Swatantra Party Wins

- General elections held on 5 March 2026 to elect 275 members of the House of Representatives.
- Elections announced after youth protests (Sep 2025) that led to the resignation of PM K.P. Sharma Oli.
- Rastriya Swatantra Party, with Balen Shah as PM candidate, won a landslide majority — first majority since 1999.

Interim Prime Minister of Nepal: Sushila Karki

Strait of Hormuz — Key Facts

Location	Between Iran, Oman, and UAE
Width at Narrowest	Only 33 km
Connects	Persian Gulf to the Arabian Sea
Global Oil & Gas	Over 20% of world's oil and gas shipments
India's Crude Oil	~40% of India's crude oil imports pass through here
LNG from Qatar	Qatar supplies ~50% of India's LNG imports (crucial for energy & fertilizers)

Mojtaba Khamenei — New Supreme Leader of Iran

- Iran's Assembly of Experts (88-member clerical body) appointed Mojtaba Khamenei as the new Supreme Leader following the death of his father Ali Khamenei.

Role of the Supreme Leader in Iran:

- Head of State
- Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
- Ultimate authority over military, judiciary, and key national policies

India Diversifies Natural Gas Imports

- India earlier heavily relied on Qatar (and the U.S.) for LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas) imports.

Earlier LNG price from Qatar: USD 6–8 per MMBtu

Current price: ~USD 15 per MMBtu (making imports from distant countries economically viable)

MMBtu: Metric Million British Thermal Units — unit used to measure energy content of fuels. Prices of natural gas are often quoted in dollars per MMBtu.

⚡ QUICK REVISION

1. Nepal elections — Rastriya Swatantra Party wins majority; first since 1999
2. Strait of Hormuz: Only 33 km wide; 20%+ of world oil passes through it
3. India's crude oil import through Hormuz: ~40%; Qatar supplies ~50% of India's LNG
4. Iran's new Supreme Leader: Mojtaba Khamenei (appointed by Assembly of Experts)
5. MMBtu = Metric Million British Thermal Units — natural gas price unit

02 NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS**New Kota Airport — Greenfield Airport, Rajasthan**

Foundation Stone: 7 March 2026

Location: Shambhupura, near Kota, Rajasthan

Type: Greenfield Airport

Estimated Cost: ₹1,500 crore

SHINE App — Indian Railways

Full Form: Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment

Launched by: Indian Railways

Purpose: Enable women employees to report sexual harassment at the workplace

Rajasthan Scraps Two-Child Norm for Panchayati Raj Elections

- Rajasthan Legislative Assembly passed the Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- Removes the disqualification rule for candidates having more than two children.

Musi Riverfront Development Project — Telangana

River Length: ~260 km; 55 km flows through Hyderabad

Origin: Ananthagiri hills, Vikarabad district — confluence of streams Musa and Esi

- Proposed to rejuvenate the Musi River, which has become heavily polluted over the years.

Fisheries Research Institutes — Headquarters & AP Centres

Institute (Abbreviation)	HQ Location	AP Regional Centre
CIFE — Central Institute of Fisheries Education	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Kakinada
CMFRI — Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute	Kochi, Kerala	Visakhapatnam
CIFRI — Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute	Kolkata, West Bengal	—
CIFT — Central Institute of Fisheries Technology	Kochi, Kerala	Visakhapatnam
CIFA — Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture	Bhubaneswar, Odisha	Vijayawada
CIBA — Central Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	—
CICFR — Central Institute of Coldwater Fisheries Research	Bhimtal, Uttarakhand	—
NBFGR — National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	—

Chandigarh — 'Fully Literate' Status

Literacy Rate Achieved: 99.93%

Benchmark for 'Fully Literate': 95% literacy rate

Programme: ULLAS — Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (aligned with NEP 2020)

PM Modi Visits Assam — Projects Worth ₹47,600 Crore

Visit Date: 13–14 March 2026

Key Projects:

- **Assam Mala 3.0:** ₹3,200 crore investment; construction of 900 km of roads for inter-state connectivity.
- **Shillong–Silchar Corridor:** First access-controlled Greenfield 4-lane high-speed corridor in Northeast India; Length: 166 km; Cost: ₹22,860 crore.

PM Modi Visits West Bengal — Projects Worth ₹18,680 Crore

Visit Date: 14 March 2026

Location: Kolkata

- Foundation stone laid for Kharagpur–Moregram Economic Corridor.

Bharat-VISTAAR Platform

Full Form: Virtually Integrated System to Access Agricultural Resources

Type: AI-powered multilingual Digital Public Infrastructure for farmers

Budget Allocation: ₹150 crore (announced in Union Budget 2026–27)

First Export of GI-Tagged Joha Rice — Assam

- APEDA facilitated the first export of 25 metric tonnes of GI-tagged Joha Rice from Assam to the United Kingdom and Italy on 12 March 2026.

Samridh Gram Phygital Services Pilot — Umri Village

Launched by: Department of Telecommunications

Location: Umri village, Guna district, Madhya Pradesh

Inaugurated by: Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

- Functions as a one-stop hub for: education & skill development, agriculture advisory, telemedicine, e-governance, financial inclusion, e-commerce, digital connectivity.

Phygital: Physical + Digital service delivery in rural areas.

⚡ QUICK REVISION

6. SHINE App = Sexual Harassment Incident Notification for Empowerment (Indian Railways)
7. Kota Airport: Greenfield; ₹1,500 crore; Shambhupura, Rajasthan
8. Musi River: Origin — Ananthagiri hills (Vikarabad); 260 km total, 55 km via Hyderabad
9. Chandigarh: 99.93% literacy — 'Fully Literate' under ULLAS (NEP 2020)
10. Bharat-VISTAAR: AI platform for farmers; ₹150 crore (Budget 2026-27)
11. Joha Rice: GI-tagged, from Assam; first export to UK and Italy
12. Shillong–Silchar Corridor: First Greenfield 4-lane corridor in NE India; 166 km; ₹22,860 cr

03 ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

Puligadda (Campbell) Aqueduct — Krishna District

Official Name: Campbell Aqueduct

Location: Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh

Inaugurated: 25 August 1936 (during colonial period)

Age: Nearly 89 years of service

- Designed as a bridge-cum-water carrier to transport canal water across natural drainage channels without interrupting irrigation flow.
- Currently facing structural deterioration concerns.

Milk Adulteration with Ethylene Glycol — Rajamahendravaram

- Forensic investigation confirmed milk adulterated with ethylene glycol caused 10 deaths and hospitalised 10 others (including 3 infants) in Rajamahendravaram, East Godavari district.

Chemical Formula: $C_2H_6O_2$

Chemical Type: Organic alcohol (diol)

- Ethylene glycol is a colorless, odorless, sweet-tasting, highly toxic compound widely used as an anti-freeze/coolant in automobiles.

Retaining Wall — Krishna River, Guntur District

Location: Seethanagaram, Tadepalli town, Guntur district

Purpose: Prevent flooding in low-lying areas along the right bank of Krishna River

Project Cost: ₹294.20 crore

Proton Accelerator Facility — Visakhapatnam

- Union Government planning to establish a high-energy proton accelerator facility in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Part of India's long-term nuclear energy programme.

A.P. Tourism MoU — Amusement Park, Visakhapatnam

- A.P. Tourism Department signed an MoU with Modern Masti Private Limited to develop a ₹100 crore amusement park and resort in Visakhapatnam.

Signed at: Indian Association of Amusement Parks and Industries (IAAPI) Expo-2026, Mumbai

04 ECONOMY & FINANCE

Finance Commission Grants to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)

- Urban centres contribute ~67% of India's GDP and ~90% of government revenues.

Finance Commission Grants Comparison:

Finance Commission	Period	ULB Grant Amount
15th Finance Commission	2021–26	₹1.2–1.3 lakh crore (over 5 years)
16th Finance Commission	2026–31	₹3.56 lakh crore (~₹75,000 crore/year)

- Despite absolute increase, share remains ~0.13% of India's GDP (same as previous period).

Tied Grants — Specific Sectors:

- Water supply, Sanitation, Wastewater management

16th Finance Commission — Performance-Based Conditions (20% of funds linked to):

- Improving fiscal discipline
- Publishing audited accounts
- Conducting regular local body elections
- Increasing Own Source Revenue (OSR) — property tax and user charges

Credit Flow to Agriculture — Government Policy Measures

- Increase in Collateral-Free Loan Limit (from ₹1.60 lakh to ₹2 lakh)
- Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Expansion
- Interest Subvention Scheme
- Priority Sector Lending (PSL) Norms
- PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PM-DDKY)
- Support through NABARD

FDI from Land Border Countries — Amended Rules

- In 2020, Press Note 3 (2020) required prior government approval for investment from land-border countries (introduced to prevent opportunistic takeovers during COVID-19).

Amended Rules:

- Introduces concept of 'beneficial ownership'.
- Investments where land-border country entities hold up to 10% non-controlling stake will now be allowed under the automatic route.

FCNR(B) Deposits — Key Facts

Full Form: Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) Deposits

Who can hold: Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)

Currency: USD, GBP, EUR, JPY (foreign currency — not Indian rupees)

Maturity Period: 1–5 years

- Exchange rate risk is borne by the bank, not the depositor.
- Interest rates are linked to international benchmark rates.

05 SCHEMES

Jal Jeevan Mission 2.0 — Extended till December 2028

Approved by: Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi

New Deadline: December 2028 (JJM 2.0)

Total Outlay: ₹8.69 lakh crore

Central Assistance: ₹3.59 lakh crore

Additional Central Share: ₹1.51 lakh crore

National SC-ST Hub Scheme (NSSH)

- Government of India initiative to support SC and ST entrepreneurs to start or expand Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- Under the Public Procurement Policy, government bodies must buy at least 25% of goods/services from MSEs.
- 4% of procurement is specifically reserved for SC/ST-owned enterprises.

Subsidy for institutional loans: Up to ₹25 lakh (for buying machinery, plant, or equipment)

06 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Natural Gas vs LPG — Comparison Table

Feature	Natural Gas	LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas)
Main Composition	Mainly Methane (CH ₄)	Propane (C ₃ H ₈) + Butane (C ₄ H ₁₀)
Storage Method	Pipelines or as LNG	Pressurised cylinders/tanks
Common Uses	Electricity, industries, CNG vehicles	Household cooking, heating, small industries
Density vs Air	Lighter than air (disperses quickly)	Heavier than air (accumulates near ground)
Transportation	Pipelines, LNG tankers	Cylinders, LPG tankers
Energy Source	Fossil fuel from natural gas fields	By-product of petroleum refining
Safety	Safer in open areas	Requires careful handling (accumulation risk)

Nuclear Agricultural Technologies — BARC

- Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is promoting nuclear agricultural technologies in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities (SAUs).
- BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre) developed Trombay Crop Varieties using gamma irradiation.

Process Name: Mutation Breeding Programme

Nuclear Technology	Purpose / Application
Mutation Breeding (Gamma Irradiation)	Improved crop varieties — higher yield, disease resistance, climate tolerance
Isotope Tracer Techniques	Studies nutrient uptake, soil-water-plant interactions, fertilizer efficiency
Food Irradiation	Eliminates microbes/pests in food; increases shelf life and safety
Sterile Insect Technique (SIT)	Controls harmful insects by releasing radiation-sterilized insects
Radiometric Soil Analysis	Analyses soil moisture and nutrient dynamics
Radiation Processing of Seeds	Improves drought tolerance and disease resistance of seeds

Nuclear Imaging in Plant Research

Tracks movement of nutrients and water inside plants

Peptide Therapy

- Gaining global attention in modern medicine for its role in precision medicine.

Peptides: Short chains of amino acids (building blocks of proteins) that act as biological messengers regulating hormone release, metabolism, immune responses, and tissue repair.

07 ENVIRONMENT

First Comprehensive Checklist of Fireflies in India

Published in: Zootaxa journal, 10 March 2026

Records Compiled: Over 260 years of scattered scientific records (1881–2025)

Scientific Name: Lampyridae

Rare Earth Reserves in India

India's Global Rank: 3rd largest rare earth resources in the world (USGS Mineral Commodity Summaries, 2025)

Major Deposit Locations:

- Coastal sands of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat
- Inland deposits in Jharkhand and West Bengal

Deep Sea Mining — MATSYA-6000

Mission: Deep Ocean Mission (Ministry of Earth Sciences)

Vehicle: MATSYA-6000 — human submersible

Depth Capability: 6,000 metres

Crew Capacity: 3 aquanauts

- Designed for deep-sea exploration and mining.

⚡ QUICK REVISION

19. Fireflies: Scientific name = Lampyridae; First India checklist published in Zootaxa (2026)
20. India = 3rd largest rare earth reserves (USGS 2025); Kerala, TN, Odisha coasts
21. MATSYA-6000: Submersible for 6,000 m depth; 3 aquanauts; Deep Ocean Mission

08 POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Motion to Remove Lok Sabha Speaker — Constitutional Provisions

Constitutional Article: Article 94(c) of the Constitution of India

Majority Required: Majority of all members of Lok Sabha

Procedure for Removal:

22. Written notice must be submitted to the Secretary-General of Lok Sabha.
23. At least 14 days' notice must be given before the motion is discussed.
24. Motion requires support of at least 50 members to be admitted.
25. Debate and voting follow Rules 200–203 of Lok Sabha Rules of Procedure.

Historical Instances of Removal Motions:

- G. V. Mavalankar (1954) | Hukum Singh (1966) | Balram Jakhar (1987) | Om Prakash Birla (2026)

Related Article: Article 105(1) — Freedom of speech in Parliament

Treasury Bench in Indian Parliament

- Front-row seats to the right of the Speaker, occupied by the PM, Cabinet Ministers, and key ruling government members.
- Represents the executive branch — responsible for guiding policy, parliamentary proceedings, and government business.

Supreme Court on Creamy Layer Status

- SC stated that parental income alone cannot determine 'creamy layer' status for Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation.
- Court clarified that creamy layer exclusion is status-based rather than purely income-based.

09 DEFENCE

Exercise LAMITIYE-2026

Edition: 11th

Countries: India and Seychelles

Venue: Seychelles

Seychelles Armed Forces: Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)

10 AWARDS & HONOURS

Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025

Award Category	Winner
NTR National Film Award (Indian Film Artist)	Konidela Chiranjeevi
Paidi Jairaj Film Award (Indian Film Personality)	Kamal Haasan
C. Narayana Reddy Film Award	Suddala Ashok Teja
Lifetime Recognition	Singeetham Srinivasa Rao
Lifetime Recognition	Jayasudha
Best Feature Film	Raju Weds Rambai
Best Director	Saailu Kaampati (Raju Weds Rambai)
Best Leading Actor	Akkineni Naga Chaitanya (Thandel)
Best Leading Actress	Rashmika Mandanna (The Girlfriend)
Best Film on National Integration	Thandel

11 RANKS & REPORTS**First National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) Report 2025–26**

Released by: National Highways Authority of India (NHA)

Coverage: ~30,000 km of National Highways across 24 States

Assessment Period: July–December 2024

- Provides a scientific and quantitative assessment of green cover along National Highways in India.

12 PERSON IN NEWS**Jose Antonio Kast — President of Chile**

Position: President of Chile

- Jose Antonio Kast assumed office as the President of Chile.
- Known for positions on economic liberalism, law and order, and national security.

13 IMPORTANT DAYS**International Women's Day 2026 — 8 March**

Date: 8 March (observed globally every year)

Theme 2026: Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.

- Celebrates achievements of women and promotes gender equality.

14 SPORTS**India Wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**

Final Venue: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

Final Result: India defeated New Zealand

Award / Record	Player / Team
Player of the Tournament	Sanju Samson (321 runs)
Final Man of the Match	Jasprit Bumrah (4/15 in 4 overs)
Most Runs	Sahibzada Farhan (383 runs)
Most Wickets (joint)	Jasprit Bumrah & Varun Chakravarthy (14 wickets each)

⚡ QUICK REVISION

26. ICC T20 WC 2026: India beat New Zealand at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
27. Player of Tournament: Sanju Samson (321 runs)
28. Man of the Match (Final): Jasprit Bumrah (4/15)
29. Most Runs: Sahibzada Farhan (383 runs)
30. Most Wickets: Bumrah & Varun Chakravarthy (14 each)

— End of Weekly Current Affairs | March 2026 Week 2 —

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