

Weekly Current Affairs

March 2026 – Week 3

(March 2026)

Exam Revision Notes

APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI

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LETTER TO ASPIRANTS

Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz!

Another week has passed, and with it, countless developments in the world of national, state, economy, science, and governance all of which matter for your APPSC journey. Preparing for Group-1, Group-2, DSC and SI exams is not just about reading facts; it is about developing a disciplined habit of daily learning, weekly revision, monthly revision, and smart practice.

Through this Weekly Current Affairs PDF, our goal is simple:

- To give you exam-oriented coverage of all important topics.
- To save your time with structured summaries & MCQs.
- To help you connect static GK with dynamic events.

How to use this PDF effectively:

1. Start with the Week-at-a-Glance section for a quick overview.
2. Read each topic carefully, highlight key facts.
3. Revise once again before attempting the consolidated MCQs & Answer Key.

Remember, consistency is your greatest weapon. Reading 5–10 pages daily is far better than cramming 100 pages before the exam.

We at ReadingRoomz believe that every aspirant has the potential to succeed if they combine hard work with the right material and smart strategy. Trust the process, keep revising, and never lose hope.

Wishing you success in your APPSC journey. Stay focused, stay motivated, and remember *every small step you take today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.*

With warm regards,

sreekanth@readingroomz.com

1. International Current Affairs

The Kharg Island

The Kharg Island, located in the Persian Gulf, has recently become a focal point in the escalating conflict between the United States and Iran.

U.S. President Donald Trump claimed that U.S. forces carried out strikes on military targets on Kharg Island, which hosts Iran's primary oil export terminal. The strikes reportedly targeted military installations such as air defence facilities, missile storage bunkers, naval bases, and helicopter hangars, while avoiding damage to oil infrastructure.

2. National Current Affairs

National Waterway 98

The Sutlej River has been declared National Waterway 98. The waterway stretches from the Bridge at Sunni in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh to Harike Barrage in Punjab, passing through Rupnagar district.

A feasibility study for the development of NW-98 is currently being conducted, and the report is expected to be submitted by May 2026. The Government of India has sanctioned ₹2.82 crore for the study.

Country's Metro Rail Network

Our country's metro rail network has widened over the past decade, emerging as a major driver of sustainable urban transport and economic development. According to data released by the Press Information Bureau, the metro network has expanded from 248 km in 2014 to about 1,095 km by 2025, making India the third-largest operational metro network in the world.

Metro services now operate in 26 cities, compared to only 5 cities in 2014, reflecting rapid infrastructure growth. The annual metro budget has also increased sharply from ₹5,798 crore in 2013–14 to ₹29,550 crore in 2025–26.

A study by the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister titled "**Golden Decade of Infrastructure Development in India with Special Reference to Metro Rail Network**" highlights that metro connectivity reduces household transport expenses and improves loan repayment discipline, contributing to better financial stability.

Key innovations in India's metro ecosystem include:

- **Namo Bharat RRTS** – India's first semi-high-speed regional train from Delhi to Meerut (operational since 2023).
- **Kochi Water Metro** – India's first water metro launched in 2023.
- **Kolkata Underwater Metro** – India's first underwater metro tunnel launched in 2024.

Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory

The Election Commission of India has announced the schedule for the Assembly elections in four States and one Union Territory in 2026. The elections will cover 824 Assembly constituencies with around 17.4 crore voters.

The polling schedule is as follows:

- April 9, 2026 – Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry will vote in a single phase.
- April 23, 2026 – Tamil Nadu will vote in a single phase.
- West Bengal will vote in two phases on April 23 and April 29, 2026.

Ugadi and Other Regional New Year Festivals in India

Festival Name	Region / Community	Significance
Ugadi	Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh	Telugu & Kannada New Year
Gudi Padwa	Maharashtra, Goa	Marathi New Year
Cheti Chand	Sindhi Community	Sindhi New Year (birth of Jhulelal)
Navreh	Kashmir (Kashmiri Pandits)	Kashmiri New Year

Sajibu Nongma Panba Cheiraoba	Manipur (Meitei community)	Lunar New Year of Manipur
Samvatsar Padvo	Parts of Maharashtra & Goa	Traditional New Year (similar to Gudi Padwa)
Sajibu Nongma Panba	Meitei people (Manipur)	Traditional Lunar New Year festival

RISA Timeless Tribal

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has launched a premium tribal brand RISA Timeless Tribal on 18 March 2026 at New Delhi to promote tribal crafts and livelihoods. This brand is inspired by “RISA”, a traditional handwoven stole of Tripura. This will be implemented through TRIFED.

Objective:

- Promote tribal weaves, embroidery, and handicrafts
- Create a premium global brand identity
- Ensure fair profit-sharing for tribal artisans

The first phase of the RISA launch features a curated selection of some of India’s most iconic weaves and crafts.

S. No.	Weaves / Embroidery	Communities Involved	State / UT
1	Eri Silk	Bodo	Assam
2	Santal Cotton	Santal	Jharkhand

3	Changpa Pashmina	Changpa	Ladakh
4	Kotpad Cotton	Mirgan	Odisha
5	Muga Silk	Miri (Mising)	Assam
6	Dongria Embroidery	Dongria Kondh	Odisha
7	Toda Embroidery	Toda	Tamil Nadu

Government Constitutes National Dental Commission (NDC)

- The Government of India has established the National Dental Commission (NDC) on March 19, 2026.
- It replaces the Dental Council of India (DCI), marking a major reform in dental education and healthcare.
- The reform aims to ensure transparency, accountability, and global standards in dental education.
- Three autonomous boards have been created:
 - Undergraduate & Postgraduate Dental Education Board
 - Dental Assessment and Rating Board
 - Ethics and Dental Registration Board
- The Dentists Act, 1948 has been repealed with the introduction of the NDC.
- The Commission will regulate education standards, assess institutions, regulate fees, and establish professional ethics.
- The National Dental Commission Chairperson: **Dr. Sanjay Tewari**

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

AP Cabinet Approved Multi Village Schemes and Sakhi Nivas Hostels

The Cabinet granted administrative approval of ₹9,355 crore for seven Multi-Village Schemes (MVS) to provide safe drinking water. These schemes aim to supply 55 litres of water per person per day to more than 65 lakh people across 76 mandals in Andhra Pradesh.

Additionally, ₹1,814.71 crore has been sanctioned for 3,000 localised water projects in water-stressed areas under the Jal Jeevan Mission with support from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The Cabinet also approved the 'Sakhi Nivas' hostel initiative under Mission Shakti, which will establish 30 hostels for single working women, widows, and women living away from their families, including creche facilities for working mothers.

Further, the government expanded irrigation subsidies under the Per Drop More Crop programme for tribal farmers holding forest rights titles:

- 100% subsidy for drip irrigation
- 90% subsidy for sprinkler irrigation

The scheme will be implemented in eight districts to improve agricultural productivity in rain-fed tribal lands.

Seven Green Field Airports in Andhra Pradesh

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced plans to construct seven greenfield airports across the state to boost civil aviation connectivity and regional development. The project is estimated to cost around ₹7,47a2 crore.

The proposed airports will be developed at Dagadarthi (Nellore), Kuppam, Amaravati, Srikakulam, Nagarjuna Sagar (NSP), Ongole, and Anantapur. In addition, airports are also planned at Tuni–Annavaram and Tadepalligudem.

A major highlight is the Amaravati Greenfield Airport, which will be developed under the Public–Private Partnership (PPP) model on a Design–Build–Finance–Operate–Transfer (DBFOT) basis. Around 4,500 acres of land will be allocated for the airport under the Land Pooling Scheme (LPS)-2, with an estimated Phase-I cost of about ₹4,700 crore. The Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) has been completed by RITES Limited.

Another important project is the Alluri Sitharama Raju International Airport at Bhogapuram, which is expected to become operational by June 2026.

Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in India to receive the ‘Pramaan’ certification

Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in India to receive the ‘Pramaan’ certification under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme.

The certification is being awarded to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation for eucalyptus cultivation outside forest areas.

The Pramaan certification (Programme for Recognition and Accreditation of Sustainable Management Practices) was launched in 2023 by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change to promote sustainable forest and agroforestry practices.

Andhra Pradesh secured first position for its World Hypertension Day awareness campaigns

Andhra Pradesh has received national recognition for its World Hypertension Day awareness campaigns (May 17), securing the top position jointly with Karnataka.

The campaigns were conducted under the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, which issued nationwide guidelines for awareness programmes from May 17 to June 16.

“Statue of Sacrifice” was unveiled in Amaravati

A 58-foot bronze statue of Potti Sriramulu named “Statue of Sacrifice” was unveiled in Amaravati at Sakhamuru Park by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion of his 125th birth anniversary.

Key Highlights:

- The statue commemorates Sriramulu’s 58-day fast unto death, which led to the formation of Andhra State (1953).
- Part of Sri Potti Sriramulu Memorial Park Project (spread across 6.8 acres).
- Recognises Potti Sriramulu’s sacrifice for linguistic states.

Fertiliser Consumption in Andhra Pradesh

Andhra Pradesh has emerged as one of the leading states in fertilizer consumption during the Rabi 2025–26 season, reflecting intensive agricultural activity.

Key Highlights:

- **Top Urea Consuming Districts in A.P.:**
 - SPSR Nellore – 69,005 MT (highest in the State)
 - Tirupati – 46,948 MT
 - Palnadu – 47,024 MT
- **DAP (Diammonium Phosphate) National Rankings (2025):**
 - **Nandyal – 1st in India**
 - **Palnadu – 8th**
 - **Bapatla – 49th**

Andhra Pradesh Tops Consumer Justice Ranking 2026

- Andhra Pradesh ranked 1st among large and mid-sized states in the Consumer Justice Report 2026.
- The report was part of the India Justice Report, assessing consumer redressal systems.
- AP showed minimal staff shortage in District Consumer Commissions.

4. Economy

Economic Stabilisation Fund

The Government of India has allocated ₹57,381 crore to create an Economic Stabilisation Fund to address global economic uncertainties such as energy price shocks, supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical crises. It was proposed by the Finance Ministry and approved through Supplementary Demands for Grants in Parliament (2025-26).

The Lok Sabha approved additional government spending with a net cash outgo of about ₹2.01 lakh crore during the current fiscal year. The newly created Economic Stabilisation Fund will provide fiscal space for the government to respond to global economic headwinds, including unexpected crises affecting India's economy.

Despite the additional expenditure, the government reaffirmed that the fiscal deficit target for 2025–26 will remain at 4.4% of GDP, as announced in the Union Budget.

What is the Economic Stabilisation Fund?

The Economic Stabilisation Fund (ESF) is a proposed fiscal buffer created by the Government of India to help the country respond quickly to global economic shocks and unexpected crises. It was proposed by the Finance Ministry and approved through Supplementary Demands for Grants in Parliament (2025-26).

5. Schemes

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Context:

The government recently simplified the loan process through the Jan Samarth Portal, which allows applicants to apply for loans digitally.

About PMMY:

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana was launched on 8 April 2015 to provide collateral-free loans to small entrepreneurs and micro enterprises. The scheme is implemented through Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs), Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), and Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs).

Under PMMY, loans are provided for income-generating activities in manufacturing, trading, service sectors and agriculture-allied activities. The scheme categorizes loans into four types:

- **Shishu:** Loans up to ₹50,000
- **Kishor:** Loans above ₹50,000 and up to ₹5 lakh
- **Tarun:** Loans above ₹5 lakh and up to ₹10 lakh
- **Tarun Plus:** Loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹20 lakh

The Tarun Plus category, introduced in 2024–25, provides collateral-free loans up to ₹20 lakh for entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid loans under the Tarun category.

Community Hub Mobile Skill Vans

The National Skill Development Corporation has deployed seven Solar Community Hub Mobile Skill Vans in 2025 under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to promote skill development and digital inclusion in remote areas.

These solar-powered mobile training units began operations in April 2025 and are currently functioning across multiple states to deliver on-the-go training services.

Deployed Locations:

- **Rajasthan** – Sawai Madhopur
- **Madhya Pradesh** – Ujjain
- **Sikkim** – West/East Sikkim
- **Jharkhand** – Hazaribagh
- **Andhra Pradesh** – East Godavari
- **Karnataka** – Kalaburagi
- **Maharashtra** – Nagpur

Small Hydro Power Development Scheme

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Small Hydro Power Development Scheme for the period FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31.

Key Highlights:

- Total Outlay: ₹2,584.60 crore
- Target Capacity: ~1500 MW
- Project Size: 1 MW to 25 MW (Small Hydro Projects)

Financial Assistance:

- **For North Eastern & Border Areas:**
 - ₹3.6 crore/MW or 30% of project cost
 - Max ₹30 crore per project
- **For Other States:**
 - ₹2.4 crore/MW or 20% of project cost
 - Max ₹20 crore per project

Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, has approved the Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) with an allocation of ₹33,660 crore to develop 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across India.

Key Highlights:

- **Objective:** Develop world-class industrial infrastructure and boost manufacturing
- **Industrial Park Size:** 100 to 1000 acres
- **Implementation:** In partnership with States and private sector

Financial Support:

- **Up to ₹1 crore per acre for:**
 - Core infrastructure (roads, utilities, drainage, ICT systems)
 - Value-added infrastructure (factory sheds, warehouses, labs)
 - Social infrastructure (worker housing)
- **Additional 25% support for external infrastructure**

Special Features:

- Plug-and-play model: Ready land, approvals, and infrastructure
- Single-window clearances for ease of doing business
- Aligned with PM GatiShakti for multimodal connectivity
- Focus on green energy and sustainability

Institutional Framework:

- Implemented under National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry

RELIEF Scheme to Support Exporters Amid West Asia Crisis

Government Launches RELIEF Scheme to Support Exporters Amid West Asia Crisis (2026)

- The Union Government approved RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- The scheme aims to support exporters affected by logistics disruptions in West Asia, especially around the Strait of Hormuz.
- It addresses issues like increased freight costs, insurance premiums, and war-related risks.
- Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd. has been designated as the nodal implementing agency.
- Key benefits include:
 - 100% additional risk coverage for affected shipments (Feb 14 – Mar 15, 2026)
 - Up to 95% coverage for upcoming exports (Mar 16 – Jun 15, 2026)
 - Up to 50% reimbursement (max ₹50 lakh) for MSME exporters without insurance
- The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹497 crore.

22nd Instalment of PM-KISAN Released

22nd Instalment of PM-KISAN Released: ₹18,640 Crore to 9.32 Crore Farmers

- The Government released the 22nd instalment of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) on March 13, 2026.
- Around ₹18,640 crore was transferred to 9.32 crore farmers, including 2.15 crore women beneficiaries.
- Each eligible farmer receives ₹6,000 annually in three instalments via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Since launch (2019), over ₹4.27 lakh crore has been disbursed, making it one of the world's largest DBT schemes.

6. Science & Technology

Atomic clock on NavIC satellite stopped functioning

India's regional navigation system NavIC has been weakened after the atomic clock on the satellite IRNSS-1F stopped functioning on 13 March 2026, according to the Indian Space Research Organisation. With this failure, the number of operational satellites capable of providing reliable navigation services under NavIC has reduced from four to three, whereas at least four satellites are required for effective navigation services.

NavIC is India's indigenous satellite navigation system designed to provide positioning services within India and up to about 1,500 km beyond its borders.

The failed clock was a Swiss-made atomic clock manufactured by SpectraTime. To reduce dependency on foreign technology, ISRO plans to install indigenously developed rubidium atomic clocks in the next generation of satellites, including the NVS-01, which already carries a domestically developed clock.

HALEU-thorium (HALEU-Th)

A study published in the journal Current Science by scientists from the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre concluded that HALEU-thorium fuel may not be suitable for India's existing pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) because it could reduce the effectiveness of reactor shutdown systems.

HALEU (High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium) contains a higher proportion of U-235 compared to conventional reactor fuel and is often combined with thorium, a fertile material that can breed fissile fuel.

ISRO Report on Flash floods in Uttarakhand

A recent study by scientists from the Indian Space Research Organisation has revealed that exposed ice patches on melting glaciers pose a greater disaster risk than previously understood. The study analysed the flash flood that destroyed Dharali village in Uttarakhand on August 5, 2025.

The research found that the collapse of an exposed ice patch on the Srikanta Glacier triggered the devastating flash flood. The glacier is located in the Bhagirathi river basin in Uttarkashi district.

What is Nivation?

Nivation means the wearing away (erosion) of land under a snow patch due to repeated freezing and melting of snow and ice. When snow stays in one place for a long time:

- The snow melts during warm periods.
- The water then freezes again when temperatures drop.
- This repeated freezing and thawing weakens the ground and rocks under the snow.

Slowly, the ground gets eroded and forms a small hollow or depression.

This depression is called a nivation hollow, and it gets deeper over time as more snow accumulates and melts in the same place.

Space Debris Management Initiatives

India is strengthening its space debris management efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of outer space activities.

Key Highlights:

- As of March 2026, India has 129 trackable space debris objects in orbit:
 - Defunct satellites in LEO (23) and GEO (26)
 - Rocket bodies: PSLV (40), GSLV (4), LVM3 (3)
 - Debris from PSLV-C3 breakup (33)
- India releases annual report:
 - Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR)

Major Initiatives:

- **Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM) – 2024**
 - Target: Zero debris creation by 2030
 - Includes fuel planning for safe de-orbiting

- **NETRA Project (NEtwork for space object TRacking and Analysis)**
 - Cost: ₹509.01 crore
 - SSA (Space Situational Awareness) control centre operational
 - Tracks debris and predicts collisions
- **IS4OM (ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations):**
 - Established in 2022
 - Supports debris mitigation and startups

7. Environment

First National Report (NR1) on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol

India has submitted its first National Report (NR1) on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority, covering the period 2017 to 2025.

Key Highlights:

- India's Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) framework operates under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- Over 2.76 lakh Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) have been established across India.
- A total of 12,830 ABS approvals were granted during 2017–2025.
- India published 3,556 Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), contributing to over 60% of global total.

What is an 8.2 ka cooling event?

Scientists from the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, under the Department of Science & Technology, have found that a sudden cooling event in Greenland about 8,200 years ago led to a weakening of the Indian Summer Monsoon.

This climatic phenomenon, known as the **8.2 ka cooling event**, is considered one of the largest climate disturbances of the Holocene period.

8. Polity and Governance

Removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

Members of the INDIA bloc submitted a notice in both Houses of Parliament seeking the removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. This is the first time such a notice has been submitted in Parliament for the removal of a CEC.

The notice lists several allegations including partisan conduct, obstruction of investigation into electoral fraud, and mass disenfranchisement. According to the rules, a motion for removal requires at least 100 MPs' signatures in the Lok Sabha and 50 MPs' signatures in the Rajya Sabha. The Opposition's notice reportedly had 130 signatures in the Lok Sabha and 63 in the Rajya Sabha, exceeding the required threshold.

Removal Process of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC)

1. **Constitutional Provision:** The removal process is governed by Article 324(5) of the Constitution of India.
2. **Removal Procedure:** The Chief Election Commission can be removed in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Judge of the Supreme Court (proved misbehaviour or incapacity).
3. **Removal Notice:** A removal motion must be submitted in either House of Parliament (Lok Sabha or Rajya Sabha).
4. **Minimum Signatures:** Removal notice for CEC requires either 100 Lok Sabha MPs or 50 Rajya Sabha MPs, depending on the House where the motion is introduced.
5. **Admission of Motion:** Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha) decides whether to admit the motion.
6. **Inquiry Committee:** If admitted, a 3-member inquiry committee is formed under the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968.
 - Usually, this committee consists of a Supreme Court judge, a Chief Justice of a High Court, a distinguished jurist.
7. **Committee Investigation:** The committee investigates the allegations and allows the CEC to present defence and evidence.
8. **Committee Report:** The committee submits its findings to Parliament on whether the charges are proved or not.
9. **Special Majority Vote:** If charges are proved, the motion must be passed in both Houses of Parliament with special majority (majority of total membership + 2/3 of members present and voting).

10. **Final Removal:** After Parliament passes the motion, the President of India issues the order removing the Chief Election Commissioner.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

The Government of India has invoked the Essential Commodities Act 1955 to manage the emerging cooking gas (LPG) supply crisis caused by disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz, through which a large share of India's LPG imports pass.

The Act allows the government to control production, supply, distribution, and pricing of essential commodities. Under Section 3 of the Act, the Centre can regulate supply, prevent hoarding, impose stock limits, and ensure equitable distribution at fair prices.

To address the gas shortage, the government directed oil refineries to divert propane and butane streams towards LPG production instead of petrochemical manufacturing. This order applies to both public and private refiners, including Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL), Reliance Industries, and Nayara Energy.

The government has also introduced a priority-based allocation of natural gas, giving top priority to:

- Household piped natural gas (PNG)
- Compressed natural gas (CNG) for transport
- Gas required for LPG production

List of Essential commodities

- Food grains
- Pulses
- Edible oils
- Fertilizers
- Drugs and medicines
- Petroleum and petroleum products
- Seeds
- Cotton and jute products

ECI appoints a Special Observer for the Assam Elections

The Election Commission of India has appointed Manjeet Singh as the Special Observer for the Assam Legislative Assembly Elections 2026.

The appointment has been made under the powers of the Commission as per Article 324 of the Constitution of India, which empowers the ECI to supervise and conduct elections.

The Constitution of India (Article 324) gives broad powers to the Election Commission of India (ECI) to supervise, direct and control elections. Using these powers, the ECI can appoint officials like Special Observers, General Observers, Expenditure Observers, etc. So, Special Observer is neither constitutional nor statutory.

All adoptive mothers now get 12 weeks of paid maternity leave

The Supreme Court of India has ruled that all adoptive mothers are entitled to 12 weeks of paid maternity leave, regardless of the child's age at adoption.

Key Highlights:

- The Court declared maternity leave as a basic human right
- Struck down restrictive provisions under the Code of Social Security 2020
- Earlier rule allowed leave only if the adopted child was below 3 months
- Court termed this provision unconstitutional and discriminatory

Lok Sabha Passes ₹53 Lakh Crore Demands for Grants Using Guillotine (2026–27)

The Lok Sabha approved Demands for Grants worth over ₹53 lakh crore for various Ministries for the financial year 2026–27.

- The approval was done using the 'guillotine' procedure, which allows passage of remaining demands without detailed discussion due to time constraints.
-

What is Guillotine in Parliament?

In our Parliament, the term “Guillotine” refers to a budgetary procedure where all remaining Demands for Grants are put to vote and passed without further discussion. This is done when the time allotted for detailed discussion on the Budget expires. It ensures that the government secures approval for expenditure within the scheduled timeframe. The Guillotine is commonly used during the Budget Session to avoid delays in financial decision-making.

“Guillotine” is a parliamentary procedure, not a constitutional term.

It is derived from the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, which govern how the Budget is passed.

9. Awards and Honours

Jnanpith Award 2026

Renowned Tamil lyricist and author Vairamuthu has been selected for the Jnanpith Award, the highest literary award in India. With this achievement, he becomes the third Tamil writer to receive the prestigious award.

Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2026

Renowned Saraswati veena exponent Jayanthi Kumaresh has been selected for the prestigious Sangita Kalanidhi Award. The award will be conferred during the 100th Conference and Concerts of the The Music Academy Chennai, scheduled from 15 December 2026 to 1 January 2027.

At the same event, Bharatanatyam dancer Narendra G. will receive the Nritya Kalanidhi Award, another prestigious honour given by the academy for excellence in dance.

BCCI Naman Awards 2026

At the BCCI Naman Awards 2026, Indian cricketers Shubman Gill and Smriti Mandhana were honoured as the Best International Cricketers for the 2024–25 season.

- Shubman Gill received the Polly Umrigar Award for the second time.
- Smriti Mandhana won the Best International Cricketer (Women) award for the fifth time.

Additionally, the Col. C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on three Indian cricket legends:

- Roger Binny
- Rahul Dravid
- Mithali Raj

Other awards included Best International Debut (Men) for Harshit Rana and Best International Debut (Women) for Shree Charani.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025

The Sahitya Akademi has announced the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025 in 24 Indian languages. A total of 24 literary works across different genres were selected, including:

Some notable winners include:

- **Telugu:** *Animesha* by **Nandini Sidha Reddy** (Poetry)
- **Tamil:** *Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal* by **Sa. Tamilselvan** (Literary Criticism)
- **Marathi:** *Kalyanilya Resha* by **Raju Baviskar** (Autobiography)
- **Hindi:** *Jeete Jee Allahabad* by **Mamta Kalia** (Memoir)

Each awardee will receive:

- A copper plaque (casket)
- **A shawl**
- A cash prize of ₹1,00,000

The awards will be presented at a ceremony on 31 March 2026 in New Delhi.

98th Academy Awards (Oscar Awards)

At the 98th Academy Awards, the film *One Battle After Another* won the Best Picture award, marking a major milestone for director Paul Thomas Anderson, who received his first Oscar.

The film won six Oscars, including:

- Best Picture
- Best Director (Paul Thomas Anderson)
- Best Adapted Screenplay

Other key winners:

- Michael B. Jordan – Best Actor

- Jessie Buckley – Best Actress (for Hamnet)
- Autumn Durald Arkapaw – Made history as the first female Director of Photography to win Best Cinematography

Union Minister Jitendra Singh Receives Lifetime Achievement Award in Medicine & Diabetes

- Dr Jitendra Singh was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Medicine & Diabetes at MVCON 2026 in Chennai.
- The award recognises his contribution as a medical professional, author, and advocate for diabetes care and public health.
- This is his second Lifetime Achievement Award, after receiving a similar honour in July 2024.

10. Ranks and Reports

Ministry of Statistics released SDG Report on “Planet and Prosperity”

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation released two thematic SDG Bulletins “Planet in Focus” and “Delivering Prosperity at Scale” on 18 March 2026 in Patna, Bihar.

Key Highlights:

- Based on SDG National Indicator Framework (NIF) Progress Report 2025
- Aligned with 5 pillars of SDGs:
 - People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnerships

Planet in Focus (Environmental Sustainability):

- Covers SDGs:
 - SDG 6 (Clean Water)
 - SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption)
 - SDG 13 (Climate Action)
 - SDG 14 (Life Below Water)
 - SDG 15 (Life on Land)
- Major Achievements:
 - 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) status
 - 97.2% schools with separate toilets for girls
 - Waste recycling units increased to 3,036
 - Progress in disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework)

Prosperity Report (Economic Growth):

- Covers SDGs:
 - SDG 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
- Key Indicators:
 - Renewable energy share: 16% → 22%
 - India: 4th largest wind energy producer
 - Carbon intensity reduced significantly
 - 100% household electrification achieved
 - 99% mobile network coverage
 - Tourism contributes 2.6% to GDP

UNIGME Report 2025 (Levels and Trends in Child Mortality)

Our Country Shows Steady Progress in Reducing Child Mortality: UN Report 2025

- According to the UNIGME Report 2025 (Levels and Trends in Child Mortality), India has made significant progress in reducing child deaths.
- India's Under-5 Mortality Rate (U5MR) declined from 127 (1990) to 27 per 1,000 live births (2024).
- The Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) also reduced from 57 (1990) to 17 (2024).
- Globally, 4.9 million children under five died in 2024, with 2.3 million newborn deaths.
- Major causes include preterm birth complications, infections (malaria, pneumonia), and malnutrition.
- Despite progress, global reduction pace has slowed since 2015.

India Bioeconomy Report (IBER) 2026

India's Bio-economy Grows to \$195 Billion, Targets \$300 Billion by 2030

- India's bioeconomy expanded from \$10 billion (2014) to \$195 billion (2025), showing rapid growth.
- The sector recorded an annual growth rate of 17–18%, emerging as a major global biotech hub.
- It contributes around 4.8–5% to India's GDP, according to the India Bioeconomy Report (IBER) 2026.
- The government aims to achieve a \$300 billion bioeconomy by 2030.
- The BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment) will promote sustainable biomanufacturing.
- Over 11,800 biotech startups are driving innovation in healthcare, agriculture, and climate solutions.

- A ₹1 lakh crore RDI Fund supports research, innovation, and commercialization in biotechnology.

NITI Aayog Report on Sports Equipment Sector Export Potential

- NITI Aayog released a report titled “Realising the Export Potential of India’s Sports Equipment Manufacturing Sector.”
- India currently exports \$275 million worth of sports equipment, holding only 0.5% share in global exports.
- The global sports equipment market is valued at \$140 billion (2024) and is expected to reach \$283 billion by 2036.
- India’s manufacturing is MSME-driven (about 90%), with major clusters in Jalandhar and Meerut.
- The report identifies challenges like high costs, weak global branding, and limited technology access.
- It recommends ₹7,500 crore investment (2027–31) to boost competitiveness.
- India’s exports could grow to \$8.1 billion by 2036, increasing global share to 11%.

11. Person in News

Mahad Satyagraha Centenary (1927–2027)

- The Mahad Satyagraha was led by B. R. Ambedkar on March 20, 1927 at Mahad (Maharashtra).
- It was a historic movement asserting the right of Dalits to access public water sources, especially the Chavdar Tank.
- The protest challenged untouchability and caste-based discrimination, making it a key milestone in India’s social justice movement.
- The event later influenced constitutional provisions like Article 15 (non-discrimination) and Article 17 (abolition of untouchability).
- The centenary (100 years) will be observed on March 20, 2027, with calls for nationwide reflection on equality and dignity.
- Unlike the Salt Satyagraha, it addressed internal social injustice within Indian society.

Tributes Paid to Veerangana Rani Avantibai Lodhi on Martyrdom Day

- Rani Avantibai Lodhi was a brave queen of Ramgarh (present-day Madhya Pradesh).

- She played a key role in the Revolt of 1857, leading resistance against the British.
- After her husband's death, she took charge and opposed British annexation under the Doctrine of Lapse.
- She attained martyrdom on March 20, 1858, choosing sacrifice over surrender.
- Minister of Home Affairs, paid tribute, highlighting her as a symbol of patriotism and women empowerment.

Vikram K. Doraiswami Appointed as India's Ambassador to China

- Vikram K. Doraiswami has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China.
- He is currently serving as the High Commissioner of India to United Kingdom.
- He will succeed Pradeep Kumar Rawat, the current Ambassador to China.
- The appointment was announced by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Anutin Charnvirakul Becomes Prime Minister of Thailand

- Anutin Charnvirakul has been re-elected as the Prime Minister of Thailand.
- He assumed office again on March 19–20, 2026 after winning a parliamentary vote.
- He is the leader of the Bhumjaithai Party.
- **Thailand capital: Bangkok**
- **Thailand currency: Thai Baht**

12. Important Days

World Consumer Rights Day – 15 March

Observed globally every year on **15 March** to raise awareness about consumer rights and protection.

Theme 2026: "Fair and Responsible AI for Consumers"

Day marks the anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's speech to the U.S. Congress in 1962, where he formally addressed consumer rights.

World Sleep Day – 21 March 2026

Observed annually on the Friday before Spring Equinox (Northern Hemisphere). Organised by World Sleep Society to raise awareness about sleep health.

Theme 2026: “Sleep Equity for Global Health”

Aims to reduce the burden of sleep problems through prevention and management.

International Day of Happiness – 20 March

The UN observes **International Day of Happiness** every year on 20 March. Established by the UN General Assembly in 2012 (Resolution 66/281).

Theme 2026: “Happiness for All, Together”

Recognises the importance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in lives of people around the world.

International Day of Forests – 21 March

Observed on **21 March** annually. Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012 to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests.

Theme 2026: “Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World”

Day encourages countries to organize local, national and international activities involving forests and trees.

World Down Syndrome Day – 21 March

Observed globally on **21 March** (21/3 signifies triplication – trisomy – of 21st chromosome causing Down Syndrome).

Theme 2026: “End the Stereotypes”

Officially recognized by the UN General Assembly in 2011. Raises awareness and advocates for rights, inclusion and well-being of people with Down syndrome.

World Poetry Day – 21 March

Declared by UNESCO in 1999. Observed on **21 March** to recognize unique ability of poetry to capture the creative spirit of the human mind.

Celebrates linguistic diversity through poetic expression and opportunities for endangered languages to be heard.

International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination – 21 March

The UN observes this day on **21 March** annually. Commemorates Sharpeville massacre in South Africa (1960) where 69 people were killed during peaceful demonstration against apartheid pass laws.

Theme 2026: “Voices for Action Against Racism”

Proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 1966.

Ordnance Factories Day (India) – 18 March

Observed in India on **18 March** to commemorate establishment of first ordnance factory at Cossipore, Kolkata in 1802.

Celebrates contribution of Ordnance Factory Board and defence production establishments to India’s self-reliance in defence manufacturing.

13. Sports

Mayank Chakraborty has become India’s 94th Grandmaster

Mayank Chakraborty has become India’s 94th Grandmaster (GM) and the first Grandmaster from Assam. The 16-year-old achieved the title at the Chess Talents Tournament held in Stockholm.

Kimi Antonelli secured his first-ever Grand Prix victory

Italian Formula One driver Kimi Antonelli secured his first-ever Grand Prix victory at the Chinese Grand Prix. The 19-year-old Mercedes driver became the second-youngest driver in Formula One history to win a Grand Prix, after Max Verstappen.