

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

March 2026 — Week 1

EXAM REVISION NOTES

APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI

TOPICS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE

• International Current Affairs	• Andhra Pradesh Affairs
• National Current Affairs	• Schemes & Polity
• Science & Technology	• Defence, Ranks & Reports
• Person in News	• Important Days & Sports

01 INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

U.S. – Israel – Iran War

- The United States and Israel carried out major coordinated air strikes on Iran, targeting key military and leadership locations in Tehran and other areas.
- Iran retaliated with missiles and drones aimed at Israel and U.S. military bases in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar.
- Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) announced the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global oil transit route.

QUICK REVISION POINTS

1. IRGC = Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps
2. Strait of Hormuz: Connects Persian Gulf to Arabian Sea; critical oil route
3. IAEA Emergency Meeting held in Vienna, Austria on March 2, 2026

Missile Defence Systems — Key Facts for Exam

Allied Systems (USA / Israel / UAE):

- Patriot (PAC-3 MSE) — Terminal-phase ballistic missile defence (USA)
- THAAD — High-altitude interception (USA)
- SM-3 / SM-6 — Sea-based defence (USA)
- Iron Dome — Short-range rockets (Israel)
- Iron Beam — Anti-drone defence (Israel)
- Cheongung II — 360° radar, optimised for Gulf region (UAE)

Iran's Defence Systems:

- Bavar-373 (Sayyad-4B missile) — Long-range interceptor
- Arman Ballistic Missile Defence system
- Sevom-e-Khordad — Cruise missile & aircraft defence
- Tor-M1 (Russian-made) — Short-range defence

Canadian PM's Visit to India — Key Outcomes

- India–Canada CEPA — Terms of Reference Finalised; Target: USD 50 billion bilateral trade by 2030
- India–Canada–Australia Trilateral MoU under ACITI Partnership (emerging technologies)
- Joint Pulse Protein Centre of Excellence at NIFTEM-K
- Uranium Supply Agreement with Cameco (Canada) for long-term supply
- AICTE–Mitacs Globalink MoU — 300 Indian students to get 12-week funded research internships in Canada from 2027

Major Announcements:

- 24 institutional partnerships in AI, healthcare, agriculture
- Canada joins Global Biofuels Alliance and International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- India supports Canada's entry into Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) as Dialogue Partner
- Establishment of India–Canada Defence Dialogue and Parliament Friendship Group

Israel Recognises Somaliland

- Israel became the first country to formally recognise Somaliland's independence since it declared autonomy from Somalia in 1991.
- Berbera Port (Gulf of Aden): One of the most strategically important ports on global maritime trade routes, modernised by DP World (UAE).

India – Finland Strategic Partnership

President of Finland: Alexander Stubb

Visit Date: March 4–7, 2026

Partnership Name: Strategic Partnership in Digitalization and Sustainability

Key MoUs Signed:

- MoU on Migration and Mobility Partnership
- Renewal of MoU on Environmental Cooperation
- MoU on Cooperation in Official Statistics

Key Announcements:

- Joint Task Force on 6G research — University of Oulu (Finland) + Bharat 6G Alliance
- Indo-Finland Startup Corridor
- World Circular Economy Forum 2026 to be co-hosted in India

IRIS Dena — Iranian Warship Incident

- Iranian naval frigate IRIS Dena sank ~40 nautical miles off Galle, Sri Lanka, after a torpedo attack by a U.S. submarine.
- The ship had participated in the International Fleet Review 2026 at Visakhapatnam, India.
- As per U.S., this is the first sinking of an enemy ship by torpedo since World War II.

Mobile World Congress 2026

- Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the Bharat Pavilion at MWC 2026 in Barcelona, Spain.
- MWC is one of the world's largest technology and telecommunications events.

02 NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

PM Modi's Projects Worth ₹2,700 Crore in Puducherry

- Projects cover infrastructure, education, healthcare, housing, mobility, water management and tourism.
- Puducherry is included in the 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' scheme.
- **BEST Mantra:** Business, Education, Spirituality and Tourism (given by PM Modi for Puducherry's development)

Rice Fortification Under PMGKAY — Temporarily Suspended

- The Union Food Ministry temporarily discontinued rice fortification under PMGKAY and other welfare schemes.
- Decision based on an IIT Kharagpur study showing moisture, temperature, humidity affect stability of fortified rice.
- The government clarified that food grain entitlements under PDS will NOT be reduced.
- Scheme paused until a more effective nutrient delivery mechanism is identified.

NITI Aayog & JICA — SDG Cooperation Phase II

- NITI Aayog and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the Record of Discussions (RoD) for Japan–India Cooperative Actions Towards SDGs — Phase II.
- Focus: Aspirational Districts Programme (ADP) and Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP) to achieve SDGs by 2030.

Attukal Pongala Festival — Kerala

- Held at Attukal Bhagavathy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, dedicated to Goddess Bhadrakali.
- Recorded in Guinness World Records as the largest gathering of women for a religious event.

2,000-Year-Old Megalithic Rock-Cut Chamber — Kerala

Location: Panayal, Kasaragod district, Kerala

Age: ~2,000 years (Megalithic period)

Type: Circular burial chamber carved from laterite rock

Local Names for Megalithic Chambers:

- Muniyara • Pandava Cave • Peeranki Cave • Nidhikuzhi • Kalppathayam

Census 2027 — Digital Tools & Mascots

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched 4 digital tools and 2 mascots: Pragati (female) and Vikas (male).
- First-ever digital census in India; households can self-enumerate online.

4 Digital Tools Launched:

- **1.** Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) Web Application — Uses satellite imagery
- **2.** HLO Mobile Application — For enumerators to collect housing data
- **3.** Self-Enumeration (SE) Portal — Available in 16 languages
- **4.** Census Management and Monitoring System (CMMS) Portal

Reference Date: 1 March 2027

Korea District's '5% Model' — Water Conservation, Chhattisgarh

- Initiative: Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari — farmers voluntarily dedicate 5% of agricultural land for rainwater harvesting structures.
- Based on community participation and Gram Sabha resolutions.
- Movement name: Aawa Paani Jhoki

India's First Riverine Lighthouses — Brahmaputra

Waterway: National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra River)

Location: Lachit Ghat, Guwahati, Assam

Investment: ₹84 crore

Agencies: DGLL (Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships) + IWAI

NITI Aayog – UNICEF India — Nutrition Initiative

- NITI Aayog and UNICEF India signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) to improve maternal and child nutrition in Aspirational Districts and Blocks.

03 ANDHRA PRADESH CURRENT AFFAIRS

India's First Amorphous Metal Manufacturing Unit — Andhra Pradesh

Investor: Proterial (Japan-based company)

Investment: ~\$80 million (~₹720 crore)

Location: Sri City, Andhra Pradesh

Phase-1 Capacity: 30,000 tonnes

Total Capacity (post-AP unit): ~1 lakh tonnes

- Amorphous metal = Electrical-grade steel used in power transformers.
- Using amorphous metal improves transformer efficiency by up to ~60%.

A.P. Agriculture & Housing Roadmap 2026

- Target: Completion of 10.63 lakh houses in 2026; housing for all eligible poor by 2029.
- Free house sites: 2.2 lakh families (2 cents urban / 3 cents rural).
- AI-based agronomist services and farm mechanisation being promoted.
- ₹14,230 crore investments mobilised in food processing sector.
- A.P. contributes ~10% to India's agricultural GDP.

Adulterated Milk Tragedy — Rajamahendravaram

- 5 people died; 15 others (including infants) on ventilator after consuming suspected adulterated milk supplied to 106 families (Feb 16–18, 2026).
- **Acute Renal Failure:** Sudden loss of kidneys' ability to filter waste; develops within hours to days; medical emergency.
- **Anuria:** Complete or near-complete absence of urine production.

HANUMAN Project — Wildlife Conservation, A.P.

Full Form: Healing and Nurturing Units for Monitoring, Aid and Nursing of Wildlife

- Launched in Vijayawada by Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan (Minister for Forest & Environment).
- 100+ rapid response and rescue vehicles deployed across the State.
- 7 wildlife ambulances introduced.
- 4 Wildlife Rescue and Treatment Centres at: Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, Tirupati, Byrluti.
- 19 rapid response teams deployed.
- Vajra Teams: Village-level trained wildlife protectors equipped with rescue kits.

Indra Dhanassu — Initiative for Persons with Disabilities

- New initiative by A.P. Government promoting welfare and social inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- APSRTC to provide free bus travel across the State to persons with disabilities.

Vijayanagara Period Telugu Inscriptions — Annamayya District

Location: Sri Chennakesava Temple, Somapalayam village, Annamayya district

Structure: Monolithic pillar (over 50 feet tall)

Inscriptions: Subhamastu Swasti Sri Jayabhyudaya & Jaya Samvatsaram

Estimated Date: 1534 CE — during reign of Achyuta Deva Raya (successor of Krishnadevaraya)

Carvings on the Pillar Include:

- Keerthi Mukhas, Garuda figures, Musicians and dancers, Yali motifs, Floral patterns

04 SCHEMES & POLICIES**Poshana – Shiksha – Suraksha Scheme — Andhra Pradesh**

Context: A.P. has a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of ~1.5 (similar to Tamil Nadu 1.4, Kerala 1.6). The Draft Population Management Policy aims to increase TFR from 1.5 to 2.1 (replacement level).

Key Provisions for Third Child:

- ₹25,000 incentive at delivery
- ₹1,000 monthly for 5 years
- Free education up to 18 years

Expected Effective Date: April 1, 2026 (post-public consultation)

SWAYATT Initiative — 7 Years Milestone

Full Form: Startups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions

Platform: Government e-Marketplace (GeM)

Launch Date: 19 February 2019

7th Anniversary: 6 March 2026

Key Objectives:

- Access to markets
- Access to finance
- Access to value addition

05 SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Breast Cancer in India — The Lancet Oncology

- Breast cancer cases in India increased by ~477% between 1990 and 2023.
- Deaths due to breast cancer rose by ~352%.

Contributing Factors:

- Lifestyle changes, urbanisation, delayed childbirth, reduced breastfeeding, lack of early screening

Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) — Lakshadweep

Location: Kavaratti Island, Lakshadweep

Purpose: Seawater desalination using ocean temperature gradient to generate energy

- Uses temperature difference between warm surface water and cold deep-sea water.
- Claimed to be the first project of its kind in the world.

DNS Censorship in India — Study Findings

Study: 'Poisoned Wells: Examining the Scale of DNS Censorship in India'

Website Blocking Methods (Strongest to Weakest):

1. Internet Shutdown
2. Deep Packet Inspection (DPI)
3. BGP Routing Manipulation
4. IP Address Blocking
5. SNI Filtering
6. URL Filtering
7. DNS Filtering (Primary method used by ISPs in India — easily bypassed)
8. Platform-Level Blocking

06 POLITY & GOVERNANCE

A.P. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

- Passed by A.P. Legislative Assembly to decriminalise minor offences.
- Replaces imprisonment with monetary penalties for minor procedural violations under 12 State Acts.

Key Features:

- Administrative adjudication mechanisms introduced
- Graded penalties based on severity and duration of violations
- Provision for compounding certain offences

Repealed Obsolete Laws:

- A.P. (Krishna, Godavari and Pennar Delta Area) Drainage Cess Act, 1985
- A.P. (Non-Delta Area) Drainage Act, 1986
- Aligns with Central Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023

07 DEFENCE

Operation Sankalp

Launched: June 2019

Operational Areas: Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, and Persian Gulf

Purpose: Safety of Indian-flagged merchant vessels; anti-piracy operations

- Two Indian Navy ships (a frigate and a destroyer) deployed in Gulf of Aden and Gulf of Oman.
- Ships placed on standby for possible HADR (Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief) operations amid West Asia tensions.

08 RANKS & REPORTS

World Obesity Atlas 2026 — India's Ranking

Released by: World Obesity Federation on World Obesity Day (March 4)

India's Rank: 2nd globally in children living with obesity/high BMI

- In 2025: ~15 million children aged 5–9 years and ~26 million aged 10–19 years were overweight/obese in India.

09 PERSON IN NEWS

New Chief Justice — Andhra Pradesh High Court

- Supreme Court Collegium recommended Justice Lisa Gill for appointment as Chief Justice of A.P. High Court.

New Governors / Lieutenant Governors

State / Union Territory	Governor / Lieutenant Governor
West Bengal	R N Ravi
Tamil Nadu (Additional Charge to Kerala Governor)	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Bihar	Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)
Telangana	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Maharashtra	Jishnu Dev Varma
Ladakh (Lieutenant Governor)	Vinai Kumar Saxena
Himachal Pradesh	Kavinder Gupta
Delhi (Lieutenant Governor)	Taranjit Singh Sandhu
Nagaland	Nand Kishore Yadav

10 IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wildlife Day 2026

Date: 3 March (annually)

Theme 2026: Medicinal and Aromatic Plants: Conserving Health, Heritage and Livelihoods

Significance: Marks adoption of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)

CISF 57th Raising Day

Date: 6 March 2026

Location: Mundali, Odisha

Chief Guest: Union Home Minister Amit Shah

Established: 1969

- CISF = Central Industrial Security Force — India's premier industrial security force.

11 SPORTS

Ranji Trophy 2025–26 — Historic First

- Jammu & Kashmir won the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history.

Ranji Trophy: India's premier domestic first-class cricket championship, organised by BCCI

First Organised: 1934–35

Indian Women's Cricket Team — Laureus Award Nomination

- Team led by Harmanpreet Kaur nominated for 2026 Laureus World Team of the Year Award.
- Following their historic maiden Women's Cricket World Cup victory.
- Laureus Awards = 'Oscars of Sports' in international sports.

Khelo India Tribal Games 2026

Dates: 25 March – 6 April 2026

Host State: Chhattisgarh

Cities: Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Sarguja

Mascot: Morveer

- 'Mor' = Mine/Our (Chhattisgarhi); 'Veer' = Courage and bravery
- Announced by Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya (Youth Affairs & Sports)

QUICK REVISION POINTS

4. J&K won Ranji Trophy for the first time
5. Indian Women's Cricket Team nominated for Laureus 2026 (won maiden WC)
6. Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 in Chhattisgarh; Mascot: Morveer
7. Ranji Trophy first held in 1934-35