

Daily Current Affairs 11 March 2025



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Q1. The SWAYATT initiative, which completed seven years in March 2026, was launched under which platform?

- (a) Digital India
- (b) Government e-Marketplace (GeM)
- (c) Startup India
- (d) Make in India

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer: (b)

Solution

- The SWAYATT (Startups, Women and Youth Advantage through e-Transactions) initiative was launched under the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).
- It was launched on 19 February 2019 to promote inclusive public procurement.
- The initiative integrates startups, women entrepreneurs, and youth into government procurement processes.
- On 6 March 2026, GeM celebrated the 7th anniversary of SWAYATT in New Delhi.

Information Booster

- The anniversary event featured a documentary highlighting the impact of SWAYATT.
- Ajit B. Chavan, Additional CEO of GeM, presented the initiative's progress and future roadmap.

Additional Knowledge

- Participation of women entrepreneurs increased significantly through SWAYATT.
- Order value rose from ₹1,265.62 crore (FY2019) to ₹83,323 crore (FY2026).
- Total orders increased from 1,01,530 to over 44 lakh orders.

Q2. In March 2026, India submitted its 7th National Biodiversity Report to which international convention?

- (a) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- (b) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- (c) Ramsar Convention
- (d) Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer: (b)

Solution

- In March 2026, the Government of India submitted its 7th National Report (NR7) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The report evaluates India's progress toward the 2030 global biodiversity goals.
- It assesses performance across 23 national biodiversity targets aligned with the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF).
- The report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change with inputs from 33 central ministries and departments.

Information Booster

- NR7 is the first comprehensive progress assessment since the KMGBF was adopted in 2022.
- KMGBF aims to strengthen global biodiversity conservation efforts by 2030.
- The framework includes multiple national targets to protect ecosystems and species.

Additional Knowledge

- Key KMGBF target: Protect 30% of global land and marine areas by 2030.
- Focus areas include ecosystem restoration and prevention of species extinction.
- India has completed policy alignment and planning, while effective implementation will determine progress toward the 2030 goals.

Q3. Jan Aushadhi Diwas (Generic Medicine Day) is observed every year in India on which date?

- (a) 7 March
- (b) 5 March
- (c) 1 March
- (d) 10 March

Ans.(a)

Sol. Answer: (a)

Solution

- Jan Aushadhi Diwas is observed annually on 7 March in India.
- The day aims to raise awareness about the affordability and effectiveness of generic medicines.
- It also promotes the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- The observance was declared by Narendra Modi on 7 March 2019.

Information Booster

- 2026 marked the 8th observance of Jan Aushadhi Diwas.
- Jan Aushadhi Week is celebrated from 1–7 March every year.
- The final day of the week is observed as Jan Aushadhi Diwas.

Additional Knowledge

- Organised by Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI).
- PMBI operates under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- The scheme ensures affordable medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras across India.

Q4. Who presented the ₹7.69 lakh crore Maharashtra State Budget for FY 2026–27 in March 2026?

- (a) Eknath Shinde
- (b) Ajit Pawar
- (c) Devendra Fadnavis
- (d) Uddhav Thackeray

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer: (c)

Solution

- In March 2026, Devendra Fadnavis presented the Maharashtra State Budget for FY 2026–27.
- The total budget outlay was ₹7,69,467 crore.
- The budget was presented in the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly at Nagpur.

- It focuses on welfare schemes, infrastructure development, and fiscal discipline.

Information Booster

- Capital expenditure: ₹1,12,816 crore for infrastructure development.
- Fiscal deficit: ₹1,50,491 crore (about 2.7% of GSDP).
- Revenue deficit: ₹40,552 crore (below 1% of GSDP).

Additional Knowledge

- The budget is based on four pillars: progressive development, sustainability, inclusiveness, and good governance.
- The state aims to become a USD 1 trillion economy in the coming years and USD 5 trillion by 2047.
- Punyashlok Ahilyabai Holkar Farmers' Loan Waiver Scheme: crop loans up to ₹2 lakh waived.
- FY27 declared as "Year of Social Equality and Harmony."

Q5. The 'National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge', launched in March 2026, was initiated by which organisation?

- (a) NITI Aayog
- (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- (c) ICAR
- (d) NABARD

Ans.(d)

Sol. Answer: (d)

Solution

- In March 2026, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) launched the National Climate Stack Innovation Challenge.
- The initiative was launched in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and Dalberg Advisors.
- It aims to build a National Climate Stack to provide climate intelligence for agriculture, rural finance, and public planning.
- The project is anchored in the DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture) platform developed by NABARD.

Information Booster

- The competition is open to startups, research institutions, and universities in India.
- Top three solutions will receive cash prizes of ₹15 lakh, ₹10 lakh, and ₹5 lakh.
- Winners may also receive opportunities for pilot implementation through NABARD's network.

Additional Knowledge

- NABARD was established on 12 July 1982 under the NABARD Act, 1981.
- It is the apex regulatory body for regional rural banks and cooperative banks in India.

Q6. India's first Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant, reviewed in March 2026, is being developed in which location?

- (a) Kavaratti, Lakshadweep
- (b) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- (c) Kochi, Kerala
- (d) Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu

Ans.(a)

Sol. Answer: (a)

Solution

- In March 2026, Jitendra Singh reviewed the progress of India's first Integrated Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) plant.
- The project is being developed in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- OTEC technology generates electricity using the temperature difference between warm surface seawater and cold deep seawater.
- The project will provide clean power and desalinated drinking water for island communities.

Information Booster

- The plant includes systems such as seawater intake, deep-sea cold-water pipeline, turbine-generator unit, and desalination modules.
- Designed to support sustainable energy solutions for remote island regions.

Additional Knowledge

- The project is supported by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Implemented by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), headquartered in Chennai.

Q7. Who presented the ₹4.48 lakh crore Karnataka State Budget for the Financial Year 2026–27 in March 2026?

- (a) Basavaraj Bommai
- (b) D. K. Shivakumar
- (c) Siddaramaiah
- (d) H. D. Kumaraswamy

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer: (c)

Solution

- In March 2026, Siddaramaiah presented the Karnataka State Budget for FY 2026–27.
- The total budget size was ₹4,48,004 crore.
- The budget emphasized technology-driven growth, infrastructure development, and environmental sustainability.
- The budget was presented in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru.

Information Booster

- Estimated revenue receipts: ₹3,15,050 crore.
- Estimated capital expenditure: ₹74,682 crore (4.6% increase from FY26).
- Fiscal deficit: ₹97,449 crore (about 2.95% of GSDP).

Additional Knowledge

- Key sector allocations:
 - Agriculture & allied sector: ₹8,373 crore
 - Health & family welfare: ₹17,817 crore
 - Animal husbandry & fisheries: ₹4,084 crore
 - Women & child development: ₹36,929 crore
 - Energy sector: ₹29,947 crore allocation.
 - Tourism: ₹100 crore for Chamundi Hill development.

Q8. The DRDO research project sanctioned in March 2026 for developing antidotes against toxic organophosphorous compounds was awarded to which university?

- (a) Anna University
- (b) Bharathiar University
- (c) Madras University
- (d) IIT Madras

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer: (b)

Solution

- In March 2026, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sanctioned a research project worth ₹99.15 lakh.
- The project titled “*Development of Novel Antidote(s) for Highly Toxic Organophosphorous Compounds*” was awarded to Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.
- The research will be conducted under the DRDO Industry Academia–Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE) at the university.
- The project duration is 36 months.

Information Booster

- The research aims to develop antidotes against toxic organophosphorous compounds.
- These compounds are highly harmful and can affect the nervous system.

Additional Knowledge

- Principal Investigator: Dr. N. Jayakumar, Professor and Head at Bharathiar University.
- Co-Principal Investigator: Dr. S. Suja, Professor in the Department of Biochemistry.

Q9. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU in March 2026 with which company to boost indigenous defence manufacturing and exports?

- (a) Larsen & Toubro
- (b) Tata Advanced Systems
- (c) SASMOS HET Technologies Limited
- (d) Bharat Dynamics Limited

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer: (c)

Solution

- In March 2026, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with SASMOS HET Technologies Limited.
- The agreement aims to strengthen indigenous defence manufacturing and expand the export potential of defence systems.
- The MoU was exchanged between BEL CMD Manoj Jain and SASMOS CMD H. G. Chandrashekar.
- The event was held in the presence of Rajnath Singh in Bengaluru.

Information Booster

- The collaboration focuses on advanced defence electronics and aerospace technologies.
- During the event, an installation-ready subsystem for a naval radar communication network was demonstrated.

Additional Knowledge

- The subsystem was developed by the SASMOS engineering team within six months.
- The MoU signing event was held at the SASMOS Aerospace Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Q10. Who has been appointed as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) of India, set to assume office on 1 April 2026?

- (a) Lt Gen P. P. Singh
- (b) Lt Gen Manoj Pande
- (c) Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth
- (d) Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer: (c)

Solution

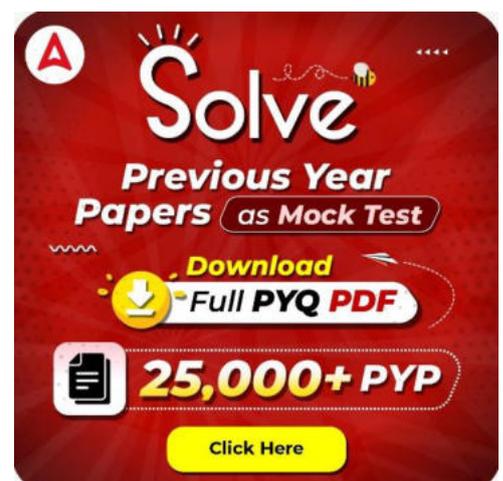
- In March 2026, the Indian Army announced the appointment of Dhiraj Seth as the next Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS).
- He will assume office on 1 April 2026, succeeding P. P. Singh.
- The VCOAS is the second-highest position in the Indian Army, after the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).
- The role includes oversight of operational readiness, modernization, and coordination among Army commands.

Information Booster

- Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth currently serves as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) of Southern Command.
- Southern Command is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra.

Additional Knowledge

- He was commissioned into the Armoured Corps in December 1986.
- Previously commanded the XXI Strike Corps (Mathura, Uttar Pradesh), one of the Indian Army's major strike formations.



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