

Daily Current Affairs 31 March 2025



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Daily Current Affairs: 31 March 2026

Q1. In March 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the revamped UDAN Scheme. Consider the following statements:

1. It aims to improve air connectivity in underserved and unserved regions.
2. The scheme will be implemented from FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36.
3. The total financial outlay is ₹28,840 crore.
4. It targets connecting around 120 new destinations.

- (a) Only 1, 2 and 3
(b) Only 1, 3 and 4
(c) Only 2 and 4
(d) All of the above

Ans.(d)

Sol. Answer (d) All of the above

Solution

The revamped UDAN scheme approved under the leadership of Narendra Modi is focused on strengthening regional air connectivity and expanding aviation infrastructure across India.

- It targets unserved and underserved regions to improve accessibility
- The implementation period is 10 years (FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36)
- The scheme has a financial outlay of ₹28,840 crore
- It aims to connect around 120 new destinations and increase passenger reach

Hence, all statements are correct.

Information Booster

UDAN is a flagship initiative under India's regional connectivity framework to make air travel affordable and inclusive.

- Full form: Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik
- Provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to airlines
- Focus on Tier-2, Tier-3 cities, hilly and remote areas
- Encourages tourism, trade and regional economic growth

Additional Knowledge

Important static points frequently asked in SSC/Railway exams:

- Launched in 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy
- Implemented by the Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Supported by Airports Authority of India (AAI)

Q2. In March 2026, the Union Cabinet approved the extension of the IVFRT Scheme. Consider the following statements:

1. The scheme has been extended till March 31, 2031 with a budget outlay of ₹1,800 crore.
2. It is implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs through the Passport Seva Programme.
3. The scheme is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
4. It aims to streamline immigration, visa, and foreigner registration processes.

- (a) Only 1, 3 and 4
(b) Only 1 and 2
(c) Only 2 and 3
(d) All of the above

Ans.(a)

Sol. Answer(a) Only 1, 3 and 4

Solution

The IVFRT Scheme extension approved under Narendra Modi focuses on modernizing India's immigration system using advanced digital infrastructure.

- The scheme is extended for 5 years (April 2026–March 2031) with an outlay of ₹1,800 crore
- It aims to integrate immigration, visa processing, and foreigner registration systems
- It is a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP)
- Implemented by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) via Bureau of Immigration (BoI)

Statement 2 is incorrect because the scheme is not implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Information Booster

The IVFRT Scheme is a key initiative for digital governance in border and immigration management.

- Full form: Immigration, Visa, Foreigners Registration & Tracking
- Ensures real-time data sharing across immigration checkpoints
- Enhances national security and monitoring of foreign nationals
- Supports online visa and registration services
- Integrated with Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025

Additional Knowledge

- Initially approved in May 2010 by Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)
- Original outlay: ₹1,011 crore
- Implementing body: Bureau of Immigration (BoI) under MHA
- Focus areas in new phase:
 - Emerging technologies (AI, biometrics, automation)
 - Core infrastructure transformation
 - Service optimization and efficiency

Q3. With reference to the BRICS CCI Women Empowerment Summit 2026, consider the following statements:

1. The 6th edition of the summit was held in New Delhi in March 2026.
2. The theme of the summit focused on women in innovation, science leadership, and entrepreneurship (WISE).
3. The summit was organized by the BRICS Women Business Alliance alone.
4. Veteran actress Shabana Azmi was honoured with the Trailblazer: Living Legend award.

- (a) Only 1, 2 and 4
(b) Only 1 and 3
(c) Only 2 and 4
(d) All of the above

Ans.(a)

Sol. Answer(a) Only 1, 2 and 4

Solution

The BRICS CCI Women Empowerment Summit 2026 was an important international event promoting women leadership and entrepreneurship among BRICS nations.

- The 6th edition was held in New Delhi from 21–23 March 2026
- Theme focused on WISE (Women in Innovation, Science Leadership & Entrepreneurship)
- It was organized by BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) WE vertical, with support from BRICS WBA (not solely by WBA)
- Shabana Azmi received the Trailblazer: Living Legend award for her contribution to Indian cinema

Thus, statement 3 is incorrect, while others are correct.

Information Booster

The BRICS CCI WE Summit is a platform to promote women-led growth and collaboration among BRICS nations.

- BRICS includes Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
- Focus on women entrepreneurship, innovation, and leadership
- Encourages cross-border partnerships and policy dialogue
- Mission ShakthiSAT launched to boost women participation in STEM and space sectors

Q4. BHASHINI and PFRDA signed an MoU in March 2026 to enable multilingual pension services under which initiative?

- (a) Digital India Pension Mission
- (b) BHASHINI for Seva-Sanchalan
- (c) National Language Pension Scheme
- (d) Unified Pension Interface

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer (b) BHASHINI for Seva-Sanchalan
Solution

The MoU was signed under the initiative 'BHASHINI for Seva-Sanchalan' to enhance accessibility of pension services through multilingual digital support across India.

- Integrates AI-based language tools into pension platforms
- Enables access in 22 Eighth Schedule languages
- Improves outreach for rural and first-time pension users
- Supports voice-based and real-time translation services

Information Booster

BHASHINI is India's flagship initiative for language-based digital inclusion.

- Stands for BHASHa Interface for India
- Part of National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)
- Acts as a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)
- Uses APIs and AI models for multilingual services

Additional Knowledge

- BHASHINI operates under Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- PFRDA is a statutory body regulating pension sector
- Supports schemes like National Pension System (NPS)
- Covers multiple Indian and foreign languages
- Promotes inclusive governance and financial accessibility

Q5. World Tuberculosis Day is observed annually on which date?

- (a) 22 March
- (b) 24 March
- (c) 25 March
- (d) 26 March

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer(b) 24 March

Solution

World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24 March to raise awareness about Tuberculosis (TB) and strengthen global efforts to eliminate the disease.

- The date marks the discovery of TB-causing bacteria by Robert Koch in 1882
- The day highlights that TB is preventable and curable
- 2026 theme: "Yes! We Can End TB! Led by Countries, Powered by People"
- First officially observed in 1983

Information Booster

World Health Organization plays a key role in global TB control initiatives.

- TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacteria
- Spreads through airborne droplets (cough/sneeze)
- Commonly affects the lungs (Pulmonary TB)
- India runs TB elimination programmes under National Health Mission

Additional Knowledge

Important facts for SSC/Railway exams:

- India aims to eliminate TB by 2025 (target ahead of SDGs)
- National campaign: TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan
- Key initiatives launched in 2026 event:
- TB Mukh Bharat App
- 100 Days Campaign
- Urban Ward TB Initiative
- Event led by Jagat Prakash Nadda

Q6. In the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, which Indian institute secured 21st rank globally in Engineering – Mineral and Mining?

- (a) IIT Bombay
- (b) IIT Delhi
- (c) IIT (ISM) Dhanbad
- (d) IIT Kharagpur

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer(c) IIT (ISM) Dhanbad

Solution

According to QS World University Rankings by Subject 2026, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad achieved a global rank of 21st in Engineering – Mineral and Mining, making it one of the top-performing Indian institutes in specialized fields.

- It is recognized globally for mining and mineral engineering excellence
- Marked one of India's highest subject-specific rankings
- IIM Ahmedabad also secured 21st rank in Business, Management & Marketing

Information Booster

The QS Rankings highlight India's improving global position in higher education.

- India has 99 ranked institutions (up from 79 in 2025)
- Achieved 27 positions in top 50 across subjects
- India became 4th largest system by entries globally
- Growth seen in engineering, management, and research fields

Additional Knowledge

- Rankings released by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)
- USA ranks 1st in 37 subjects, UK 2nd in 15 subjects
- Top Indian performers include:
- IIT Delhi → Engineering & Technology
- Jawaharlal Nehru University → Development Studies
- BITS Pilani → Pharmacy & Pharmacology
- Rankings are based on academic reputation, employer reputation, and research impact

Q7. The Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) signed an MoU in March 2026 with which country's chamber to strengthen bilateral trade?

- (a) Estonia
- (b) Lithuania
- (c) Latvia
- (d) Finland

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer (c) Latvia

Solution

The Cochin Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed an MoU with the Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry to enhance bilateral trade relations.

- Aims to boost trade and economic cooperation between India and Latvia
- Focus on sectors like pharmaceuticals, education, and wood industry
- Helps Indian businesses expand into European markets
- CCCI became first chamber in South India to sign such agreement

Information Booster

This MoU strengthens India's trade outreach in Europe through institutional collaboration.

- Latvia is a Baltic country in Northern Europe
- Agreement promotes business networking and investment opportunities
- Encourages market access and knowledge exchange
- Supports export diversification for Indian industries

Q8. Who has been selected for the Saraswati Samman 2025 for the novel *Hara Parbati Katha*?

- (a) Amitav Ghosh
- (b) Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay
- (c) Mahasweta Devi
- (d) Sunil Gangopadhyay

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer(b) Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay

Solution

Eminent Bengali writer Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay was selected for the 35th Saraswati Samman (2025) for his novel *Hara Parbati Katha (2020)*, recognizing his contribution to Indian literature.

- Awarded for outstanding literary work in an Indian language
- The novel falls within the eligible 10-year publication window
- Highlights the importance of regional literature, especially Bengali

Information Booster

Saraswati Samman is among the most prestigious literary awards in India.

- Instituted in 1991 by K. K. Birla Foundation
- Named after Goddess Saraswati (knowledge and learning)
- Awarded for works in 22 Schedule VIII languages
- Includes ₹15 lakh cash prize, citation and plaque

Q9. The International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims is observed annually on which date?

- (a) 21 December
- (b) 23 March
- (c) 24 March
- (d) 25 March

Ans.(c)

Sol. Answer (c) 24 March

Solution

This international day is observed every year on 24 March to promote truth, justice, and dignity for victims of serious human rights violations.

- Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 2010
- First observed in 2011
- Commemorates Oscar Arnulfo Romero, assassinated in 1980
- Focus on human rights awareness, justice, and victim dignity

Information Booster

This day highlights the importance of truth in addressing human rights abuses globally.

- Promotes transparency and accountability in governance
- Recognizes victims of oppression and violence
- Encourages documentation of human rights violations
- Strengthens international human rights frameworks

Additional Knowledge

- Adopted through UNGA Resolution A/RES/65/196
- Linked with global human rights protection efforts
- Often confused with World TB Day (same date: 24 March)
- Emphasizes justice, reconciliation, and rule of law
- Theme → Truth + Justice + Human Rights

Q10. The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed annually on which date?

- (a) 24 March
- (b) 25 March
- (c) 26 March
- (d) 27 March

Ans.(b)

Sol. Answer(b) 25 March

Solution

The United Nations observes this day on 25 March to honour staff members who face detention, abduction, or violence while serving in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

- The date marks the 1985 abduction of Alec Collett, a UN-associated journalist
- Recognizes risks faced by UN and humanitarian personnel worldwide
- Promotes safety, security, and protection frameworks for staff

Information Booster

United Nations observes this day to highlight the dangers faced by its personnel.

- Focus on solidarity with detained and missing staff
- Raises awareness about violence in conflict zones
- Strengthens international commitment to staff protection
- Encourages accountability for crimes against UN personnel

Additional Knowledge

- Linked to UN peacekeeping and humanitarian missions
- Key legal frameworks:
 - UNSC Resolution 868 (1993)
 - 1994 Convention on Safety of UN Personnel
 - 2005 Optional Protocol (expanded coverage)
- Alec Collett worked with UNRWA (Palestine refugee agency)
- Many UN staff have lost lives in line of duty since 1945

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