

Daily Current Affairs 18 March 2025



 **Solve** 

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Daily Current Affairs: 18 March 2026

Q1. In March 2026, Union Minister C. R. Patil inaugurated the new office of the National Dam Safety Authority in which city?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Hyderabad
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Chandigarh

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) New Delhi

Solution: In March 2026, C. R. Patil, Union Minister of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, inaugurated the new office of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) at West Block II, R.K. Puram in New Delhi.

During the event, several digital initiatives for dam safety governance were also launched to improve monitoring, risk assessment, and data accessibility related to dams in India.

Information Booster:

- The NDSA website was launched with a GIS-based “Specified Dams” section to provide a map-based interface showing information on dams across India.
- An AI-enabled platform named NETRA was introduced to help users access dam safety regulations and policies through a conversational interface.
- The platform was developed in collaboration with the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment.
- Another system called Rashtriya Bandh Suraksha Darpan was launched by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing to support Dam Break Analysis (DBA) and improve risk monitoring and planning for dam safety.

Q2. In March 2026, Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy inaugurated a 5 MW Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant and flagged off defence equipment at which organisation’s facility in Haridwar?

- (a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- (c) Bharat Electronics Limited
- (d) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited

Solution: In March 2026, H. D. Kumaraswamy, Union Minister of the Ministry of Steel and the Ministry of Heavy Industries, visited the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited manufacturing facility in Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

During the visit, he dedicated several infrastructure projects and flagged off advanced indigenous equipment developed by BHEL.

Information Booster:

- A 5 MW Ground Mounted Solar Power Plant (GMSPP) was inaugurated to enhance renewable energy capacity at the facility.
- A 30-ton Electric Arc Furnace (EAF) was launched to strengthen domestic metallurgical manufacturing capabilities.
- An upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount was flagged off for the Indian Navy.
- The minister also flagged off the dispatch of a large Turbo Generator (TG) manufactured at the BHEL Haridwar facility.
- BHEL is one of India’s largest engineering and manufacturing companies in the power and heavy industrial sector.

Q3. In March 2026, the Government of India implemented the 6th phase of mandatory gold hallmarking, increasing the coverage to how many districts under the Bureau of Indian Standards hallmarking regime?

- (a) 361 districts
- (b) 373 districts
- (c) 380 districts
- (d) 400 districts

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) 380 districts

Solution: In March 2026, the Government of India implemented Phase VI of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts Order, effective 2 March 2026.

- With this phase, seven additional districts were brought under the hallmarking regime.
 - As a result, the total coverage increased to 380 districts under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) hallmarking system.
 - The initiative aims to ensure the purity and authenticity of gold jewellery and strengthen consumer protection.
- Information Booster (Exam-Oriented Facts):

• The seven districts added in Phase VI are:

- Rupnagar
- Banda
- Beed
- Gomati
- Katihar
- Beawar
- Neemuch

Phases of Mandatory Gold Hallmarking:

- Phase I: 23 June 2021 – 256 districts
- Phase II: 4 April 2022 – 288 districts
- Phase III: 8 September 2023 – 343 districts
- Phase IV: 5 November 2024 – 361 districts
- Phase V: 31 July 2025 – 373 districts
- Phase VI: 2 March 2026 – 380 districts

Q4. In March 2026, India Post released a special cover to commemorate the birth centenary of which legendary Hindustani classical musician?

- (a) Kishori Amonkar
- (b) Annapurna Devi
- (c) Gangubai Hangal
- (d) Girija Devi

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Annapurna Devi

Solution: In March 2026, India Post, under the Ministry of Communications, released a special cover to commemorate the birth centenary of Annapurna Devi.

- The special cover was released at the Kolkata General Post Office in collaboration with the Annapurna Devi Foundation.
- Annapurna Devi was a legendary Hindustani classical musician, known especially for her mastery of the surbahar (bass sitar) and her dedication to teaching.

Information Booster :

- She was known for her reclusive personality, rarely performing publicly and focusing mainly on training disciples.
- She received several prestigious awards, including:
 - Padma Bhushan in 1977.
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1991.
 - Desikottama, honorary doctorate from Visva-Bharati University in 1999.
 - Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 2004.

Q5. In March 2026, Oil India Limited signed an MoU with which organisation to upgrade healthcare infrastructure in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh?

- (a) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes
- (b) National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation
- (c) Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India
- (d) National Health Authority

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation

Solution: In March 2026, Oil India Limited (OIL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, a Section 8 company under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

- The MoU was signed at the OIL corporate office in Noida.
- The collaboration aims to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in tribal-dominated regions of Madhya Pradesh.

Information Booster:

- OIL sanctioned ₹86.27 lakh for improving healthcare facilities in Rajgarh, an Aspirational District.
- The initiative will upgrade Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs).
- Medical facilities will be equipped with:
 - Ambulances and diagnostic equipment
 - Ventilators
 - Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines
 - Bilevel Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) machines
 - Ultrasonography (USG) machines.
- The initiative supports the vision of “Viksit Bharat”, aiming to ensure equitable healthcare access for tribal communities and promote inclusive development.

Q6. World Rotaract Day 2026 is observed every year on which date?

- (a) 10 March
- (b) 12 March
- (c) 13 March
- (d) 15 March

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) 13 March

Solution: World Rotaract Day is celebrated every year on 13 March to recognise the community service and leadership contributions of Rotaract members (Rotaractors) worldwide.

- 13 March 2026 marked the 58th anniversary of the establishment of the first Rotaract club in North Carolina in 1968.
- The observance highlights the impact of young volunteers in community development, social initiatives, and leadership activities.

Information Booster:

- World Rotaract Day is celebrated during World Rotaract Week.
- World Rotaract Week 2026 was observed from 9–15 March 2026.
- Rotaract clubs operate under the umbrella of Rotary International and focus on youth leadership, professional development, and community service projects.
- Rotaract members are typically young adults aged 18 years and above, working on local and international service initiatives.

Q7. In March 2026, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship signed an MoU with which organisation to strengthen global skill mobility and overseas employment opportunities for Indian workers?

- (a) Global Access to Talent from India Foundation
- (b) World Economic Forum
- (c) International Labour Organization
- (d) Confederation of Indian Industry

Ans.(a)

Sol. Correct Answer: (a) Global Access to Talent from India Foundation

Solution: In March 2026, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Global Access to Talent from India Foundation to enhance overseas employment opportunities for skilled Indian workers.

- The GATI Foundation operates under the SFI Impact Foundation.
- The agreement will remain valid for three years on a non-financial collaborative basis.
- The initiative aims to position India as the global skills capital by 2047 by facilitating structured access to international job markets.

Information Booster :

- Under the MoU, MSDE will coordinate with:
 - Ministry of External Affairs
 - Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Support provided to workers includes:
 - Foreign language training
 - Cultural orientation
 - Documentation assistance for overseas placements.
- The GATI Foundation will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) at Kaushal Bhawan.
- The collaboration will also strengthen Skill India International Centres and partnerships with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics to improve global job placement opportunities for Indian youth.

Q8. In March 2026, the Indian Space Research Organisation conducted a sea-level hot test of which cryogenic engine at 22-tonne thrust at the ISRO Propulsion Complex in Tamil Nadu?

- (a) CE7.5
- (b) SCE-200
- (c) Vikas Engine
- (d) CE20

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d) CE20

Solution: In March 2026, ISRO successfully conducted a 165-second sea-level hot test of the CE20 Cryogenic Engine at 22-tonne thrust at the ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.

- The test used a Nozzle Protection System (NPS) and multi-element igniter to ensure safe testing conditions.
- The upgraded engine will support the uprated Cryogenic Stage (C32) for future missions of Launch Vehicle Mark3.
- Increasing thrust from 19 tonnes to 22 tonnes will enhance the rocket's payload carrying capability.

Information Booster :

- Sea-level testing of cryogenic engines is challenging because the high area-ratio nozzle can cause flow separation and vibration.
- The Nozzle Protection System (NPS) helps control flow separation and protect the engine during testing.
- The tested CE20 engine completed a record 20 hot tests, allowing validation of multiple technologies using the same engine.
- The CE20 engine powers the upper cryogenic stage of LVM3, India's heaviest launch vehicle used for missions such as Chandrayaan3 and future human spaceflight missions.

Q9. In March 2026, Jose Antonio Kast was sworn in as the 38th President of which country?

- (a) Peru
- (b) Uruguay
- (c) Argentina
- (d) Chile

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d) Chile

Solution: In March 2026, Jose Antonio Kast Rist, founder and leader of the Republican Party of Chile, was sworn in as the 38th President of Chile.

- He assumed office for a four-year presidential term after winning the 2025 Chilean presidential election.
- The inauguration ceremony was held at the National Congress of Chile.

Information Booster:

- During the ceremony, Jose Antonio Kast received the Piocha de O'Higgins, symbolising the transfer of presidential authority.
- The insignia was handed over by the outgoing President Gabriel Boric.
- Kirti Vardhan Singh represented the Government of India at the inauguration ceremony.
- The ceremony took place in Valparaiso, the location of Chile's National Congress.

Q10. In March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India launched the campaign "Thoda Dhyan Se" as part of which awareness initiative?

- (a) Financial Literacy Week
- (b) Digital Payments Awareness Week
- (c) Cyber Security Awareness Programme
- (d) Digital India Financial Campaign

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Digital Payments Awareness Week

Solution: In March 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched a pilot programme titled "Awareness Program on Digital Payments" to promote safe and widespread adoption of digital payments in India.

- The programme was launched by Sanjay Malhotra.
- It was part of the 6th edition of the Digital Payments Awareness Week, observed from 9–13 March 2026.

Information Booster :

- During the initiative, the RBI launched a multi-media awareness campaign titled "Thoda Dhyan Se", encouraging users to remain cautious while making digital payments.
- The campaign focuses on safe online transactions, fraud prevention, and awareness about digital payment risks.
- The initiative supports the Government of India's broader goal of promoting a secure and inclusive digital payment ecosystem across the country.

