

# Daily Current Affairs 20 March 2025



 **Solve** 

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## Daily Current Affairs: 20 March 2026

**Q1.** Exercise Sea Dragon 2026, in which the Indian Navy participated, primarily focuses on which type of warfare?

- (a) Cyber Warfare
- (b) Anti-Submarine Warfare
- (c) Desert Warfare
- (d) Space Warfare

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (b) Anti-Submarine Warfare

**Solution:** In March 2026, the Indian Navy participated in the USA-led multinational exercise Sea Dragon 2026, held at Andersen Air Force Base.

- The exercise is an annual maritime drill hosted by the United States Navy 7th Fleet.
- It focuses on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), involving detection, tracking, and neutralisation of enemy submarines.

**Information Booster :**

- Participating countries include:
  - India
  - Japan
  - Australia
  - New Zealand
  - United States
- The exercise begins with tabletop planning sessions, followed by coordinated operational drills.
- It enhances interoperability, coordination, and maritime security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Aircraft like the P-8I Poseidon are commonly used for ASW missions, equipped with sonobuoys, radar, and advanced sensors.

**Q2.** At the BCCI Naman Awards 2026, who among the following received the Colonel C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award?

- (a) Shubman Gill
- (b) Shafali Verma
- (c) Smriti Mandhana
- (d) Rahul Dravid

**Ans.(d)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (d) Rahul Dravid

**Solution:** At the BCCI Naman Awards 2026, the Colonel C. K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award (the highest honour of the Board of Control for Cricket in India) was conferred upon:

- Rahul Dravid
- Roger Binny

Thus, among the given options, the correct answer is Rahul Dravid.

**Information Booster :**

- Mithali Raj received the Lifetime Achievement Award (Women).
- Shubman Gill won the Polly Umrigar Award (Best International Cricketer – Men).
- Smriti Mandhana was named Best International Cricketer (Women) for the 5th time.
- Shafali Verma won the Jagmohan Dalmiya Trophy (Best Woman Domestic Cricketer).
- Deepti Sharma emerged as the highest wicket-taker in Women's ODIs.

These awards recognise outstanding performances and lifetime contributions to Indian cricket.

**Q3.** The Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025, announced in March 2026, recognise literary excellence in how many Indian languages?

- (a) 18
- (b) 22
- (c) 24
- (d) 26

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (c) 24

**Solution:** In March 2026, the Sahitya Akademi announced the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025, recognising literary excellence in 24 Indian languages.

- The awards are presented annually under the Ministry of Culture.
- They honour outstanding literary works across multiple genres such as poetry, novels, short stories, essays, memoirs, autobiography, and literary criticism.

**Information Booster :**

- Award components include:
  - ₹1 lakh cash prize
  - Engraved copper plaque (designed by Satyajit Ray)
  - Shawl
- Notable winners (2025):
  - Navtej Sarna (English – *Crimson Spring*)
  - Mamta Kalia (Hindi – *Jeete Jee Allahabad*)
  - Sa Tamilselvan (Tamil – Literary criticism)
  - Prasun Bandyopadhyay (Bengali – *Shrestha Kabita*)
  - Sadhu Bhadrashdas (Sanskrit – *Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah*)

These awards are among the most prestigious literary honours in India, promoting linguistic diversity and literary excellence.

**Q4.** In March 2026, India submitted its first National Report on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to which international body?

- (a) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- (b) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat
- (c) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- (d) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (b) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Secretariat

**Solution:** In February 2026, India submitted its First National Report (NR1) on the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat.

- The report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Authority.
- It covers the period from 1 November 2017 to 31 December 2025 and was submitted as per Article 29 (Monitoring and Reporting) of the protocol.

**Information Booster :**

- The Nagoya Protocol deals with Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits (ABS) arising from their use.
- India has issued 3,556 Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs), accounting for over 60% of the global total.

- A total of 12,830 ABS approvals were granted:
- 5,913 by NBA (for research and IPR-related use)
- 6,917 by State Biodiversity Boards (for commercial utilisation)
- Financial benefits generated include:
- ₹216.31 crore via NBA approvals
- ₹51.96 crore through State-level approvals

This reflects India's strong global leadership in biodiversity governance and compliance under international environmental agreements.

**Q5.** The Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA), launched in March 2026 in New Delhi, has been established as which type of organisation under the Companies Act, 2013?

- (a) Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organisation
- (b) Private Limited Company
- (c) Public Limited Company
- (d) Cooperative Society

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (a) Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organisation

Solution: In March 2026, the Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA) was launched in New Delhi by ambassadors, policymakers, and agribusiness leaders from multiple countries.

- The alliance has been established as a Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) under the Companies Act, 2013.
  - Its primary aim is to strengthen trade, investment, and agricultural cooperation between Asia and Africa.
- Information Booster :
- The AAAA focuses on building a structured framework for agri-food value chain cooperation.
  - Key pillars of the alliance include:
  - Trade and market access
  - Technology and innovation transfer
  - Investment and finance mobilisation
  - Policy, standards, and agricultural diplomacy
  - Capacity building and knowledge exchange
- Section 8 companies in India are non-profit entities formed to promote charitable, social, or developmental objectives.
  - The initiative promotes South-South cooperation, especially between developing regions like Asia and Africa.

**Q6.** The 24 Speed Post, launched by India Post in March 2026, guarantees delivery of consignments within how many days?

- (a) Same day
- (b) Next day (D+1)
- (c) Two days (D+2)
- (d) Three days (D+3)

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (b) Next day (D+1)

Solution: In March 2026, India Post launched the '24 Speed Post' premium express service to ensure next-day (D+1) guaranteed delivery for urgent consignments.

- The service became effective from 17 March 2026.
- It was initially launched across six metro cities:

- New Delhi
- Mumbai
- Chennai
- Kolkata
- Bengaluru
- Hyderabad

Information Booster :

- Related services include:
  - 24 Speed Post (D+1) – next-day document delivery
  - 48 Speed Post (D+2) – two-day delivery
  - 24 Speed Post Parcel (D+1) – next-day parcel delivery (up to 5 kg)
- Key features:
  - OTP-based secure delivery
  - End-to-end tracking with SMS alerts
  - Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) facility
  - API integration for businesses
  - Free bulk pickup and money-back guarantee
  - The service uses priority air transmission and digital logistics systems for faster delivery.

This initiative aims to modernise postal services and compete with private courier networks in India.

**Q7.** In March 2026, the Government of India approved the setting up of a ₹1,250 crore Special Economic Zone (SEZ) IT park in which Union Territory?

- (a) Chandigarh
- (b) Ladakh
- (c) Puducherry
- (d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (c) Puducherry

**Solution:** In March 2026, the Government of India approved the establishment of a ₹1,250 crore SEZ IT park in Puducherry.

- The project will be developed on 21.30 acres of government land near Thattanchavady.
- It aims to transform Puducherry into a major IT hub and attract global investors.

Information Booster :

- Around 70% of the SEZ area will consist of ‘plug-and-play’ office spaces, allowing companies to start operations quickly.
- The remaining 30% will include social infrastructure, such as:
  - Housing for employees
  - Shopping complex
  - Medical centre
  - Bank and fire station
- The SEZ will follow eco-friendly design principles, including:
  - Green buildings
  - Smart waste management
  - Modern utilities
- The project is expected to:
  - Generate around 30,000 jobs
  - Achieve ₹10,000 crore in service exports over 10 years

This initiative will boost IT sector growth, employment, and regional economic development in Puducherry.

**Q8.** In March 2026, the Zoological Survey of India discovered two new species of lichen moths in which region of India?

- (a) Eastern Himalayas
- (b) Western Ghats
- (c) Thar Desert
- (d) Deccan Plateau

**Ans.(a)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (a) Eastern Himalayas

Solution: In March 2026, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) announced the discovery of two new species of lichen moths—

- *Caulocera hollowayi*
- *Asura buxa*

These species were discovered in the Eastern Himalayas, enhancing India's biodiversity records.

- *Caulocera hollowayi* was identified from Sikkim.
- *Asura buxa* was discovered in West Bengal.
- The findings were published in the scientific journal *Zootaxa*.

Information Booster :

- Lichen moths are important bio-indicators of air pollution, as their larvae feed on lichens, which are highly sensitive to air quality.
- The species were identified based on wing patterns, body scales, and genital structures.
- The discovery highlights the rich biodiversity of the Eastern Himalayas, one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.
- The research was carried out by scientists including Navneet Singh, Santosh Singh, and Srishti Bhattacharya.

**Q9.** In March 2026, Gujarat's first sounding rocket launch near Dholera was conducted by which organisation?

- (a) ISRO
- (b) DRDO
- (c) Omspace Rocket and Exploration Pvt Ltd
- (d) Skyroot Aerospace

**Ans.(c)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (c) Omspace Rocket and Exploration Pvt Ltd

Solution: In March 2026, Gujarat marked its entry into the private space technology ecosystem with the successful launch of its first sounding rocket near Dholera.

- The launch was conducted by Omspace Rocket and Exploration Private Limited.
- The rocket was a single-stage sub-orbital sounding rocket that reached an altitude of around 3 km.
- It carried a mini-satellite payload for weather data collection.

Information Booster :

- The launch took place at Bavaliyari village near Dholera.
- The rocket was built using carbon fibre and advanced composite materials under the Make in India initiative.
- The launch was approved by IN-SPACE, which regulates private space activities in India.
- The initiative is supported by the Gujarat Spacotech Policy 2025–2030, promoting private participation in space technology and innovation.

This milestone highlights the growing role of private startups in India's space sector

**Q10.** According to data released by the Department of Commerce in March 2026, India's total merchandise and services exports during April–February 2025–26 were approximately how much?

- (a) USD 750 billion
- (b) USD 790.86 billion
- (c) USD 820 billion
- (d) USD 900 billion

**Ans.(b)**

**Sol.** Correct Answer: (b) USD 790.86 billion

**Solution:** In March 2026, the Department of Commerce under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry reported that India's cumulative exports (merchandise + services) during April–February 2025–26 reached USD 790.86 billion.

- This reflects a growth of 5.79% compared to the previous year.
- The export performance was driven by both goods and services sectors.

**Breakup of Exports:**

- Merchandise exports: USD 402.93 billion
- Services exports: USD 387.93 billion

**Information Booster:**

- Total imports during the same period were USD 900.51 billion, showing a 7.37% growth.
- Merchandise imports stood at USD 713.53 billion.
- The data highlights India's strong services export growth, especially in sectors like IT, finance, and business services.
- Monitoring exports and imports is crucial for assessing a country's trade balance and economic health.

