

Daily Current Affairs 24 March 2025



 **Solve** 

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Q1. The 9th India–Italy Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) held in March 2026 took place in which city?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Milan
- (c) Rome
- (d) Venice

Ans.(a)

Sol. Correct Answer: (a) New Delhi

Solution:

- On 20 March 2026, India and Italy held the 9th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC).
- The meeting was conducted in New Delhi, India.
- It aimed to review the bilateral strategic partnership and discuss regional and global issues.

Information Booster :

- Indian Side: Sibi George (Secretary, West, MEA)
- Italian Side: Nicoletta Bombardiere (DG, Foreign Ministry)
- Key Framework:
 - Joint Strategic Action Plan (JSAP) 2025–29
 - Focus Areas:
 - Trade, Technology, Space, Defence
 - Renewable Energy, Education, Innovation
 - Culture & People-to-people ties
 - Security Initiatives:
 - Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT)
 - Maritime Security Dialogue (MSD)
 - Next Meeting:
 - 10th FOC to be held in Italy

Q2. Indian mountaineer Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma set a Guinness World Record in March 2026 for achieving which of the following feats?

- (a) Climbing Seven Summits (highest peaks of continents)
- (b) Fastest ascent of Mount Everest
- (c) Fastest climb of Seven Volcanic Summits
- (d) First Indian to summit all Himalayan peaks

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) Fastest climb of Seven Volcanic Summits

Solution:

- In March 2026, Bhupathiraju Anmish Varma set a Guinness World Record.
- He achieved the record for the fastest time to climb the Seven Volcanic Summits.
- He completed the challenge in 92 days, 4 hours, and 45 minutes.
- The record was officially recognized on 6 February 2026.

Information Booster :

- From: Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh
- Expedition Start: Mount Elbrus (Russia) – 23 Oct 2024
- Expedition End: Mount Sidley (Antarctica) – 23 Jan 2025
- Seven Volcanic Summits:
 - Mount Elbrus (Europe)
 - Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa)
 - Mount Damavand (Asia)
 - Pico de Orizaba (North America)
 - Ojos del Salado (South America)
 - Mount Giluwe (Oceania)
 - Mount Sidley (Antarctica)
- Recognition:
 - Guinness Record confirmed: 6 Feb 2026
 - Certificate received: 17 March 2026 (Delhi)

Q3. 'PRARAMBH 2026' IT awareness campaign, launched in March 2026, is associated with which of the following?

- (a) Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms
- (b) Implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025
- (c) Digital banking awareness
- (d) Corporate insolvency framework

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025

Solution:

- In March 2026, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched PRARAMBH 2026, a nationwide awareness campaign.
- It is organized by the Income Tax Department.
- The campaign is linked to the implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025.
- The new Act will come into force from 1 April 2026.
- The objective is to promote taxpayer awareness and ensure a citizen-centric tax system.

Information Booster:

- Full Form: Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat
- Theme: "Nagrik Devo Bhava"
- Key Features:
 - Multi-channel campaign (print, TV, radio, digital, social media)
 - Launch of Income Tax Website 2.0
 - AI-enabled chatbot "Kar Saathi"
- Framework: M.A.N.A.V.
 - Moral & Ethical Systems
 - Accountable Governance
 - National Sovereignty
 - Accessible & Inclusive AI
 - Valid & Legitimate Systems

Focus: Simple, transparent, and technology-driven tax administration.

Q4. Prambanan Temple, which India is collaborating to restore with Indonesia in 2026, is dedicated to which of the following?

- (a) Buddha
- (b) Jain Tirthankaras
- (c) Hindu Trimurti (Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma)
- (d) Sikh Gurus

Ans.(c)

Sol. Correct Answer: (c) Hindu Trimurti (Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma)

Solution:

- In March 2026, India and Indonesia agreed to collaborate on restoring the Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia.
- It was built in the 9th century by the Sanjaya dynasty.
- The temple is dedicated to the Hindu Trimurti—Shiva, Vishnu, and Brahma.

Information Booster:

- Location: Sleman near Yogyakarta, Java, Indonesia
- Local Name: Roro Jonggrang
- UNESCO Status: World Heritage Site (1991)
- Architecture:
 - Blend of Javanese + South Indian Pallava style
 - Total 240 temples
- Art & Culture:
 - Carvings depict Ramayana and other Hindu epics

This initiative strengthens India-Indonesia cultural ties and heritage conservation efforts.

Q5. The National Productivity Council (NPC) signed an agreement in March 2026 to act as the Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA) under which of the following?

- (a) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- (b) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- (c) National Green Tribunal Act, 2010
- (d) Environment Audit Rules, 2025

Ans.(d)

Sol. Correct Answer: (d) Environment Audit Rules, 2025

Solution:

- In March 2026, the National Productivity Council (NPC) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- NPC was designated as the Environment Audit Designated Agency (EADA).
- This role is under the Environment Audit Rules (EAR), 2025.
- The EAR 2025 was notified on 29 August 2025.

Information Booster:

- Objective:
 - Strengthen environmental compliance
 - Enhance transparency

- Standardize auditing practices
- Key Responsibilities of NPC:
- Certification and registration of auditors
- Monitoring and performance evaluation
- Issuing guidelines and disciplinary actions
- Certification Types:
- Certified Environmental Auditors (CEA)
- Registered Environmental Auditors (REA)

Q6. The '5G Innovation Hackathon 2026', launched in March 2026, is an initiative of which ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- (b) Ministry of Communications
- (c) Ministry of Science and Technology
- (d) Ministry of Skill Development

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Ministry of Communications

Solution:

- In March 2026, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) launched the 5G Innovation Hackathon 2026.
- DoT functions under the Ministry of Communications.
- The hackathon aims to promote indigenous 5G-based solutions using AI and IoT technologies.

Information Booster :

- Edition: 2nd edition (1st held in 2025)
- Organised by: DoT under Ministry of Communications
- Program: Part of '100 5G Use Case Labs' initiative
- Duration:
- Start: 20 March 2026
- End: 17 April 2026
- Results: 1 October 2026
- Eligibility: Students, Startups, MSMEs, Innovators
- Financial Support:
- ₹50 lakh seed funding
- Access to 100 5G labs
- Prize Money:
- 1st: ₹5,00,000
- 2nd: ₹3,00,000
- 3rd: ₹1,50,000
- Best Idea: ₹50,000
- Special Support:
- IPR assistance to 25 teams
- Focus Areas (Important):
- Healthcare, Agriculture, Education
- Industrial Automation, Disaster Management
- NTN, FWA, Network Slicing, Telecom Security
- Outcome:
- Winning ideas showcased at India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2026

Q7. William Dalrymple won the Mark Lynton History Prize 2026 for which of the following books?

- (a) The Anarchy
- (b) White Mughals
- (c) The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World
- (d) The Last Mughal

Ans.(c)

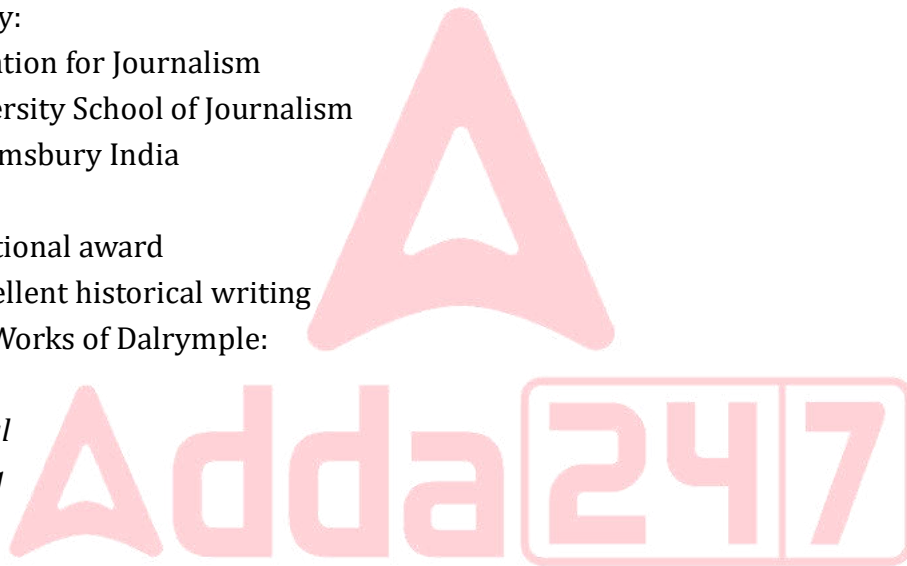
Sol. Correct Answer: (c) The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World

Solution:

- In March 2026, historian William Dalrymple was awarded the Mark Lynton History Prize 2026.
- He received the award for his book “The Golden Road: How Ancient India Transformed the World.”
- The book highlights India’s historical influence on global civilisation.

Information Booster:

- Prize: Mark Lynton History Prize
- Cash Award: USD 10,000
- Administered by:
 - Nieman Foundation for Journalism
 - Columbia University School of Journalism
- Publisher: Bloomsbury India
- Award Nature:
 - Annual international award
 - Recognises excellent historical writing
- Other Famous Works of Dalrymple:
 - *White Mughals*
 - *The Last Mughal*
 - *Return of a King*
 - *The Anarchy*



Q8. The book ‘*Karuna: The Power of Compassion*’, released in March 2026, is authored by whom?

- (a) Amartya Sen
- (b) Kailash Satyarthi
- (c) Raghuram Rajan
- (d) Shashi Tharoor

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Kailash Satyarthi

Solution:

- In March 2026, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Kailash Satyarthi released his book ‘*Karuna: The Power of Compassion*’.
- The book focuses on the importance of compassion as a transformative force.
- It introduces the concept of Compassion Quotient (CQ).
- Hence, option (b) is correct.

Information Booster :

- Author: Kailash Satyarthi (Nobel Peace Prize, 2014)
- Publisher: Harper Collins India
- Launched by: Satyarthi Movement for Global Compassion (SMGC)
- Key Concept:
- Compassion Quotient (CQ)
- Launch Presence:
- Justice Surya Kant
- Kiran Bedi
- Nobel Prize 2014:
- Shared with Malala Yousafzai
- For children's rights and education

Q9. The Floating LiDAR Buoy tested by NIOT in March 2026 is primarily used for which of the following purposes?

- (a) Deep-sea mining of rare minerals
- (b) Measuring offshore wind speed and direction
- (c) Tracking marine biodiversity
- (d) Submarine communication

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Measuring offshore wind speed and direction

Solution:

- In March 2026, the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) tested an indigenous Floating LiDAR Buoy off the coast of Muttom, Tamil Nadu.
- The buoy uses LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology.
- It measures offshore wind speed and direction at different heights.
- This data helps in weather forecasting, cyclone prediction, and offshore wind energy planning.

Information Booster:

- Developed by: NIOT (under Ministry of Earth Sciences)
- Location: Muttom, Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu)
- Technology:
- Uses laser pulses to measure wind data
- Works up to 300 metres above sea level
- Importance:
- Improves weather forecasting & cyclone prediction
- Supports offshore wind energy development
- Additional Benefit:
- Enhances maritime awareness for Indian Navy in Indian Ocean Region (IOR)

Q10. Which Indian actress was honoured with the Women Empowerment Award for Arts and Culture at the UK's House of Commons in March 2026?

- (a) Konkona Sen Sharma
- (b) Rituparna Sengupta
- (c) Vidya Balan
- (d) Tabu

Ans.(b)

Sol. Correct Answer: (b) Rituparna Sengupta

Solution:

- In March 2026, Rituparna Sengupta was honoured with the Women Empowerment Award for Arts and Culture.
- The award was presented at the House of Commons, London (UK).
- She received this recognition for her contribution to art and culture.
- The event was organised by GloWomen CiC on the occasion of International Women's Day (8 March).

Information Booster :

- Award Location: House of Commons, London (UK)
- Occasion: International Women's Day
- National Film Award:
- Best Actress for *Dahan (1998)*
- Notable Films:
- *Rajkahini (2015)*
- *Ahaa Re (2019)*
- *Parcel (2020)*
- Other Award:
- Filmfare Critics Award for *Alik Sukh (2014)*

