RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

March 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

March 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025/2026 Presentation:** Conferred upon distinguished writers in 24 recognized Indian languages at Sahitya Akademi's Festival of Letters in New Delhi.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna):** President Droupadi Murmu conferred the prestigious Akademi Ratna and Puraskar on veteran classical vocalists, instrumentalists, and theatre legends.
- **National Youth Parliament Festival Awards 2026:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports awarded national winners in the Lok Sabha chamber for articulated debates on national governance.
- **CII National Award for Excellence in Water Management:** Dedicated industrial facilities and Zonal Railway workshops were recognized for wastewater recycling and rainwater harvesting setups.
- **National Safety Awards (Mines & Heavy Industries):** Union Ministry of Labour and Employment honored public and private industrial units demonstrating zero fatal accident records.
- **Nari Shakti Puraskar 2026:** Conferred by the President on International Women's Day (March 8) recognizing grassroots women changemakers across entrepreneurship, agriculture, and science.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026):** Celebrated at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, honoring outstanding global achievements in cinematic direction, international feature, and visual effects.
- **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2026:** The international committee announced the recipient of architecture's highest global prize, celebrating sustainable urban habitats and community living.
- **Abel Prize 2026 in Mathematics:** The Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters awarded the prestigious prize for groundbreaking contributions to algebraic topology and mathematical analysis.
- **UN Global Climate Action Awards:** Indian micro-irrigation and community-managed rooftop solar initiatives received international acclaim during UN sustainability forums in Geneva.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **Member (Infrastructure), Railway Board:** Appointed to oversee accelerated track doubling, Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) feeder links, and world-class passenger terminal construction.

- **Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF):** Senior IPS officer took charge to lead nationwide railway security, passenger safety operations, and anti-trafficking drives via Operation AAHT.
- **Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India:** Elevated senior Election Commissioner assumed charge as head of the Election Commission of India to steer state assembly election cycles.
- **Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI):** Senior administrator assumed charge to steer greenfield airport expansions and regional air connectivity under UDAN.
- **Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC):** Eminent nuclear scientist assumed charge to oversee indigenous small modular reactor (SMR) development and medical radioisotope applications.
- **President of ASSOCHAM (2026–27):** Leading industrialist took over the leadership mantle at the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India annual session.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **Prime Minister of Ireland:** Newly formed parliamentary coalition elected the Taoiseach in Dublin following national general elections.
- **Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF):** Strategic executive appointments finalized representing emerging market economies and the Global South.
- **Secretary-General of International Maritime Organization (IMO):** Council delegates convened in London to review decarbonization deadlines for global commercial shipping fleets.
- **President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF):** New rotating leadership assumed office, emphasizing global counter-terror financing frameworks and virtual asset monitoring.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Renowned Hindustani Classical Maestro:** Sangeet Natak Akademi fellow and legendary sitar maestro passed away at 89, widely mourned across cultural gharanas.
- **Passing of Veteran Locomotive Designer:** Senior railway engineer who spearheaded indigenous electric locomotive traction systems at Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) passed away.
- **Smriti Mandhana in News:** Led her franchise with record run tallies and strategic captaincy during decisive knockout clashes in the Women's Premier League (WPL 2026).
- **Neeraj Chopra in News:** Commenced international athletic training tours in Europe ahead of the Diamond League circuit and continental track meets.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **PM-SURYAGHAR Pan-India Grid Integration:** Ministry of New and Renewable Energy announced rooftop solar microgrid connections crossing the 2.5-million-household benchmark.
- **National Logistics Policy (NLP) Phase-II:** Commerce and Industry Ministry launched the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) 2.0 to slash domestic freight transit documentation time.

- **Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) Deep-Sea Fleet Push:** Subsidized modern deep-sea tuna longliner vessels flagged off to empower artisanal marine fishers across coastal states.
- **National Critical Minerals Mission:** Union Cabinet approved financial incentives for domestic exploration, processing, and recycling of lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements.
- **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Saturation Drive:** National review meeting reported 100% saturation for Ayushman cards, PM Ujjwala connections, and PM Kisan payouts across aspirational blocks.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Shramik Seva Yojana (Madhya Pradesh):** State government widened maternity benefits, death compensation, and educational scholarships for registered construction workers.
- **Mahila Samman Rashi Scheme (Delhi):** Administrative guidelines notified to disburse monthly direct benefit transfers of ₹1,000 to eligible adult women residents.
- **Rythu Bharosa Direct Financial Assistance (Telangana):** Direct benefit transfers deposited into bank accounts of eligible farmers and agricultural tenants for the rabi season.
- **Subhadra Yojana Phase-3 (Odisha):** State government released the third financial assistance installment to over 1 crore women beneficiaries for direct socio-economic empowerment.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission Saturation Milestone (Gujarat):** Achieved 100% functional household tap connection (FHTC) across all tribal and rural districts of the state.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 High-Density Expansion:** Indian Railways completed installation of indigenous automatic train protection across 1,500 route kilometers on the Golden Diagonal corridors.
- **Vande Metro (Namo Bharat Rapid Rail) Expansion:** Commercial deployment of air-conditioned Namo Bharat Rapid Rail services connecting major intercity suburban nodes at 130 kmph.
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Milestone:** Western and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridors reported handling over 15% of Indian Railways' entire freight gross ton kilometers (GTKM).
- **Amrit Bharat Station Inaugurations:** Over 100 redeveloped Amrit Bharat railway stations opened with seamless inter-modal transport links, executive lounges, and solar rooftops.
- **Solarization of Railway Stations:** Indian Railways achieved installation of solar rooftop panels across 2,000+ railway stations, generating clean power for lighting and ventilation.
- **Longest Ballastless Track Tunnel Commissioned:** Commissioning trials completed for ballastless tracks in high-altitude tunnels along the Katra-Banihal railway section.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Preparations:** ICC finalized stadium upgrades, host agreements, and ticketing windows across India and Sri Lanka for the mega event.

- **WPL 2026 (Women's Premier League) Champions:** High-stakes grand final held at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, crowning the 2026 champion team before a packed audience.
- **Ranji Trophy 2025–26 Final:** Elite red-ball domestic cricket concluded with a thrilling 5-day final contest, awarding the coveted trophy to the state champion.
- **BCCI Lifetime Achievement Award (Col. C.K. Nayudu Award):** Conferred upon legendary veteran Indian cricketers for immense lifetime services to the game.

Football, Hockey & Tennis

- **Indian Super League (ISL 2025–26) Champions:** Continental slot and league championship decided in high-intensity playoff clashes across major football stadiums.
- **FIH Hockey Pro League 2025–26:** Indian hockey team wrapped up continental home fixtures, maintaining a top-four standing in the international league ladder.
- **Indian Wells Masters (BNP Paribas Open 2026):** Top international ATP and WTA tennis stars competed in the prestigious hard-court Masters 1000 event in California.
- **Santosh Trophy Football Champions:** The 79th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy crowned its champion following the grand finale in Kerala.

Badminton, Chess & Multi-Sport

- **All England Open Badminton Championships 2026:** Elite Indian shuttlers competed in Birmingham, delivering stellar quarter-final and podium finishes across Singles and Doubles.
- **FIDE Candidates Chess Tournament 2026 Final Lineup:** World Chess Federation completed technical briefings and venue inspections for determining the world championship challenger.
- **ISSF World Cup 2026 (Stage 1):** Indian shooting contingent clinched multiple medals in 10m air pistol and 50m rifle 3-positions events in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Para Badminton World Circuit:** Indian para-shuttlers secured double-digit medal hauls, dominating international tournaments across Asia.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **Gaganyaan Uncrewed Flight Test 1 (G1):** ISRO completed pre-launch assembly and integration of the human-rated LVM3 rocket carrying the Vyommitra humanoid robot.
- **NASA-ISRO NISAR Launch Window:** Combined radar observatory successfully positioned on the launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, for dual-frequency SAR imaging.
- **Commercial Satellite Deployment by NSIL:** NewSpace India Limited launched commercial communication and earth observation satellites for international clients via PSLV.
- **SpaceX Starship Flight 8:** SpaceX conducted the eighth orbital test flight, demonstrating propellant transfer tests in low Earth orbit.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Maiden Flight of Tejas Mk-1A with Indigenous Radar:** HAL and DRDO conducted successful flight validation of the LCA Tejas Mk-1A powered by the indigenous Uttam AESA radar.

- **Long-Range Glide Bomb (Gaurav) Trials:** DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous 1,000-kg class long-range glide bomb from a Su-30MKI fighter aircraft off the Odisha coast.
- **Submarine Rescue and Escape System Acceptance:** Indian Navy formally inducted deep-submergence rescue vehicle (DSRV) complexes along the eastern naval seaboard in Visakhapatnam.
- **Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) Prototype:** DRDO and naval laboratories completed sea trials of an indigenous combat-ready AUV for mine counter-measures and seabed surveillance.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **National Genome Data Portal:** Department of Biotechnology launched an open-access platform hosting sequenced genomic variants to accelerate precision oncology drugs in India.
- **IndiaAI Sovereign Compute Infrastructure:** Commissioned GPU clusters exceeding 15,000 petaflops capacity to power indigenous multilingual large language models (LLMs).
- **Indigenous Tuberculosis Diagnostic Kits:** Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) validated ultra-rapid point-of-care molecular diagnostic kits detecting drug-resistant TB in 30 minutes.
- **Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) Rail Network:** Indian Railways and C-DOT initiated pilot runs of quantum-encrypted signaling communication along high-speed corridors.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **Raisina Dialogue 2026:** The 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue convened in New Delhi, hosting heads of state, foreign ministers, and defense chiefs to debate multipolar world orders.
- **11th Session of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Standing Committee:** Finalized accelerated solar financing pipelines for island developing states and Sub-Saharan grids.
- **BIMSTEC Leaders' Summit Preparations:** Senior foreign ministry officials finalized regional connectivity masterplans and energy trade pacts across Bay of Bengal nations.
- **Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Summit:** Hosted in Bengaluru, showcasing India's Aadhaar, UPI, and DigiLocker implementations to delegations from over 50 nations.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Passage of Finance Bill 2026:** Parliament concluded debate and passed the Finance Bill 2026, giving statutory sanction to the Union Budget's fiscal measures.
- **Railways (Amendment) Act Compliance Review:** High-level parliamentary panel reviewed safety audits, trespass penalty enforcement, and modernization of railway police infrastructure.
- **Clean Energy and Carbon Offset Market Framework:** Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) finalized compliance rules for launching India's domestic carbon credit trading scheme.
- **Consumer Digital Protection Code Notification:** Ministry of Electronics and IT notified updated rules mandating algorithmic accountability and transparent refund policies on e-commerce platforms.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-United Kingdom Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Finalization:** Strategic negotiators concluded legal scrubs on tariff reductions, whiskey and automobile market access, and services visas.
- **India-Mauritius Comprehensive Security Partnership:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Mauritian leadership inaugurated maritime infrastructure projects in the Indian Ocean.
- **Chabahar Port Long-Term Operations:** India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) commenced full-scale commercial cargo logistics linking Mumbai directly to Central Asian markets via Shahid Beheshti port.
- **India-Japan Clean Energy & Hydrogen Corridor:** Signed bilateral memorandum of understanding to invest in green ammonia bunkering and maritime transport chains.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'Rails of Destiny: Engineering the High Himalayas':** Authored by senior Konkan Railway engineer chronicling the historic construction of the Chenab and Anji bridges.
- **'The Strategic Compass: India's Geopolitical Trajectory':** Authored by veteran diplomat analyzing multipolarity, maritime security, and Global South leadership.
- **'Wings of Steel: The Story of Indian Aviation':** Authored by aviation historian detailing the rise of domestic airlines, airport hubs, and indigenous aircraft design.
- **'Greening the Bharat Locomotive':** Authored by energy economist exploring the journey of Indian Railways towards 100% electrification and net-zero emissions.
- **'Silent Healers: India's Medicinal Forest Flora':** Authored by prominent ethnobotanist documenting endangered Ayurvedic plants and tribal conservation practices.

Important Days & Themes

- **March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day & World Civil Defence Day:** Promoting equality, dignity, and human rights while honoring civil defence personnel.
- **March 3 – World Wildlife Day:** Celebrated globally; Theme: 'Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation'.
- **March 3 – World Hearing Day:** Spearheaded by WHO to raise awareness on ear and hearing care; Theme: 'Changing Mindsets: Let's make ear and hearing care a reality for all'.
- **March 4 – National Safety Day (India):** Marking the foundation of the National Safety Council of India to promote industrial, road, and workplace safety.
- **March 8 – International Women's Day:** Honoring women's socio-economic, cultural, and scientific achievements; UN Theme centered on gender equality and economic empowerment.
- **March 10 – CISF Raising Day:** Celebrating the 57th Raising Day of the Central Industrial Security Force, safeguarding airports, atomic stations, and metro rail networks.
- **March 15 – World Consumer Rights Day:** Championing fair trade, transparency, and consumer protection in digital commerce and AI marketplaces.
- **March 16 – National Vaccination Day (National Immunization Day):** Commemorating the launch of the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine in India in 1995.

- **March 20 – International Day of Happiness & World Sparrow Day:** Highlighting holistic well-being, alongside urban sparrow conservation and biodiversity safeguards.
- **March 21 – International Day of Forests & World Poetry Day:** Advocating sustainable forest management; Forest Day Theme: 'Forests and Innovation: New Solutions for a Better World'.
- **March 22 – World Water Day:** Spearheaded by the United Nations to accelerate action tackling global water crises; Theme: 'Water for Peace and Sustainable Prosperity'.
- **March 23 – World Meteorological Day & Shaheed Diwas:** Honoring the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev; Meteorological Day highlighted early warning systems.
- **March 24 – World Tuberculosis (TB) Day:** Commemorating Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacterium; Theme: 'Yes! We Can End TB!'.
- **March 27 – World Theatre Day:** Initiated by the International Theatre Institute to celebrate performing arts, stage culture, and drama.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Tag Filings for Unique Northeast Crops:** Agricultural boards submitted GI applications for indigenous aromatic rice and tribal hill garlic from Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Kashmiri Walnut Wood Carving Export Hub:** Direct artisan certification counters opened in Srinagar to safeguard authentic GI-tagged walnut wood handicrafts against machine imitations.
- **Patan Patola & Surat Zari Craft Packaging:** Ministry of Textiles distributed anti-counterfeit cryptographic GI QR labels for authentic double-ikat silk sarees and zari embroideries.
- **GI Tagged Darjeeling Tea Global Promotion:** Tea Board of India launched international brand enforcement drives across European and Asian markets to protect the Darjeeling tea GI certification.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's Highest High-Altitude Rail Track Operationalization:** USBRL section connecting Sangaldan and Reasi operated regular commercial services, validating world-record engineering feats.
- **World's Largest Multi-Spectral Space Radar:** NASA and ISRO's NISAR satellite set records as the most technologically advanced dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar deployed in orbit.
- **India's Longest Automated Passenger Terminal Corridor:** Commissioned at an international airport hub, integrating biometrics, automated baggage handling, and electric pod transit.
- **World's Largest Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Hub:** Gujarat's Khavda hybrid park operational capacity crossed 12,000 MW, on track to achieve its full 30,000 MW capacity.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **World Heritage Day Preparations (April 18 Run-Up):** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) initiated laser structural cleaning and illuminated night walkways across UNESCO sites.
- **Inclusion in UNESCO Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Register:** Ancient Ayurvedic treatises and Sangam literature manuscripts were inscribed for long-term digital preservation.

- **Heritage Railway Preservation Drive:** Indian Railways rolled out preservation masterplans for its 4 Mountain Railways of India UNESCO World Heritage sites (Darjeeling, Nilgiri, Kalka-Shimla, and Matheran).
- **Sunderbans Mangrove Biosphere Conservation:** UNESCO reviewed joint India-Bangladesh marine conservation protocols to mitigate rising sea levels and salinity in mangrove ecosystems.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **All India Classical Dance Extravaganza:** Organized at the Natyanjali festival in Tamil Nadu, featuring renowned Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Kuchipudi dancers performing at historic temple corridors.
- **Centenary Tributes to Kathak Exponents:** National cultural institutes hosted commemorative seminars honoring legendary Kathak pioneers of the Lucknow and Jaipur gharanas.
- **Puraskar Conferred by Sangeet Natak Akademi:** Conferred upon veteran stage directors, folk puppeteers, and classical dance gurus for lifetime dedication to Indian performing arts.
- **National Tribal Dance Festival:** Staged in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, bringing together indigenous tribal dance troupes from across 25 states and union territories.

ENVIRONMENT

- **State of Global Water Resources Report 2026:** World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported alarming glacier melt rates across the Hindu Kush Himalayas, urging regional river basin treaties.
- **Annual Waterbird Census (AWC) Findings:** Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Harike Wetland (Punjab) recorded record migratory bird arrivals, including rare bar-headed geese and northern pintails.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Review:** Ministry of Environment noted continuous reductions in PM2.5 levels across 95 designated non-attainment cities.
- **Operation Clean Art Enforcement:** Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) conducted raids seizing illegal mongoose hair paintbrushes across manufacturing hubs.
- **Great Nicobar Coral Reef Relocation Pilot:** Marine biologists completed initial coral colony transplantation to safeguard marine biodiversity adjacent to infrastructure projects.
- **Solar-Powered Groundwater Monitoring Wells:** Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) automated 10,000 groundwater monitoring stations nationwide with real-time telemetry.
- **Miyawaki Afforestation Along Rail Corridors:** Indian Railways and state forest departments planted over 5 lakh native saplings using Miyawaki methods along urban rail tracks.
- **Western Ghats Eco-Sensitive Zone Notification:** Ministry of Environment issued final public draft notifications delineating eco-sensitive boundaries across 6 states.
- **International Day of Forests Eco-Rallies:** Massive afforestation campaigns organized under Mission LiFE across tiger reserve buffers and community forests.
- **Bio-Medical Waste Management Rules Tightened:** Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) mandated GPS tracking and barcode verification on all clinical waste transportation vehicles.
- **Endemic Plant Species Discovered in Agasthyamalai:** Botanical Survey of India (BSI) researchers discovered a new endemic flowering shrub belonging to the family Rubiaceae in Kerala.

- **National Bamboo Mission Value-Addition Centers:** Ministry of Agriculture inaugurated 20 bamboo processing clusters across the Northeast to replace single-use plastic construction barriers.
- **River Dolphins Population Survey:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) reported stable population trends for Gangetic river dolphins in the Vikramshila Sanctuary and national waterways.
- **Ken-Betwa Tiger Corridor Landscape Management Plan:** National Tiger Conservation Authority approved formal buffer corridor land acquisitions to ensure unhindered big-cat migration.

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