

EXAM GENIUS

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GENIUS CURRENT AFFAIRS

In English

06 March 2026



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Ques: The Government of India, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), plans to conduct a ₹25,000-crore switch auction of which financial instrument to manage public debt efficiently?

- A) Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
- B) Dated Government Securities (G-Secs)
- C) Sovereign Gold Bonds
- D) State Development Loans (SDLs)
- E) Corporate Bonds

Answer: B) Dated Government Securities (G-Secs)

Explanation:

- The Government of India, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India, will conduct a ₹25,000-crore switch auction of Dated Government Securities (G-Secs) to manage public debt efficiently.
- The main objective of the switch auction is to smooth the government's redemption and repayment profile.
- It helps reduce near-term repayment pressure, spread debt obligations over a longer period, lower rollover risk, and improve liability management.
- The auction will be conducted using the Multiple-Price Auction format, where successful bidders receive allotment at their quoted prices.
- In a switch operation, the government exchanges short-maturity bonds for longer-tenor securities to avoid immediate cash repayment and distribute repayment liabilities over a longer period.
over future years.
- Earlier similar debt conversion and switch operations were conducted with the RBI, where short-term securities were bought back and equivalent long-term securities were issued based on prices determined by Financial Benchmarks India Pvt Ltd (FBIL).





Ques: The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed April 1 for insurers to adopt which accounting standard?

- A) IFRS
- B) GAAP
- C) Ind AS
- D) IAS
- E) Basel Norms

Answer: C) Ind AS

Explanation:

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has proposed April 1 for insurers to adopt Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).
- The rule will apply to life, general, health insurers and re-insurers across the insurance sector.
- The objective is to improve transparency, consistency, and global comparability in financial reporting.
- IRDAI was established in 1999 under the IRDAI Act, 1999.
- The headquarters of IRDAI is located in Hyderabad.
- The current Chairperson of IRDAI is Ajay Seth.





Recent News Headlines Related to RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a proposal by SBI Mutual Fund to acquire an aggregate holding of up to 9.99% in Bandhan Bank.

New India Co-operative Bank Limited., Mumbai, Maharashtra has been removed from the Second Schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which lists scheduled banks in India, effective from February 2026.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued draft directions allowing AD Category-I banks to undertake Rupee Non-Deliverable Derivative Contracts (NDDCs).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has built a high-security data centre in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Airtel Money, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, has received a Certificate of Registration (CoR) from the Reserve Bank of India to operate as a Type II, non-deposit accepting NBFC.
- The Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India, announced that loans sanctioned by banks to the National Cooperative Development Corporation for on-lending to cooperative societies will be eligible for Priority Sector Lending classification with effect from 19 January 2026.





Ques: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced a new category called “Life Cycle Funds” under reforms in the mutual fund industry. Life Cycle Funds mainly relate to which of the following?

- A) Goal-based Funds
- B) Fixed Return Funds
- C) Infrastructure Funds
- D) International Funds
- E) Commodity Funds

Answer: A) Goal-based Funds

Explanation:

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced major reforms in the ₹81 lakh crore Indian mutual fund industry.
- The reforms aim to improve transparency, portfolio discipline, and investor protection.
- SEBI introduced a new category of funds called Life Cycle Funds.
- These funds automatically reduce equity exposure as investors approach their financial goal, following a predefined glide path.
- Life Cycle Funds can invest up to 10% in gold and silver ETFs, ETCs, and InvITs.
- These funds can be launched with a tenure ranging from 5 to 30 years in multiples of five years.
- Under the reforms, the number of mutual fund categories has increased from 36 to 40.
- SEBI has also enforced a stricter “true-to-label” regime requiring mutual fund portfolios to strictly follow their stated investment objective.





Ques: The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) recently raised ₹5,000 crore through the issuance of which short-term money market instrument?

- A) Treasury Bills (T-Bills)
- B) Commercial Paper (CP)
- C) Certificate of Deposit (CD)
- D) Sovereign Gold Bonds
- E) State Development Loans (SDLs)

Answer: C) Certificate of Deposit (CD)

Explanation:

- The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) raised ₹5,000 crore through a one-year Certificate of Deposit (CD) at a coupon rate of 6.95%.
- This issuance marked NaBFID's first-ever Certificate of Deposit issuance in the money market.
- The issue had a tenure of one year and was reportedly oversubscribed, indicating strong investor demand.
- The pricing was achieved 5–7 basis points lower than comparable issuers, reflecting favourable market confidence in NaBFID.
- A Certificate of Deposit (CD) is a short-term money market instrument issued by banks and financial institutions to raise funds from institutional investors.
- CDs generally have maturities ranging from 7 days to 1 year depending on the issuer and market conditions.





Recent News Headlines Related to SEBI

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) issued a consultation paper, proposing to shift Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) to a T+1 reference price system to reduce pricing lag and improve alignment with underlying asset movements.
- ASK Asset & Wealth Management Group received regulatory approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to start operations as an Investment Manager for the Mutual Fund (MF) business in India.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has constituted a dedicated working group to review the regulatory framework for ESG Rating Providers (ERPs).
- A SEBI survey revealed that out of 33.72 crore Indian households, only 3.21 crore households (9.5%) invest in securities such as equities, mutual funds, and corporate bonds.
- PhonePe has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch its IPO.
- SEBI proposed allowing Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to offset their purchase and sale obligations within the same trading day.





Ques: The ₹4,648 crore loan provided to the West Bengal Government for strengthening secondary education infrastructure has been given by which organization?

- A) World Bank
- B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- C) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- D) New Development Bank (NDB)
- E) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Answer: B) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Explanation:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a ₹4,648 crore loan to the Government of West Bengal.
- The objective of the loan is to strengthen secondary education infrastructure in the state.
- It will also help improve child nutrition and early childhood development services.
- The project follows a 70:30 funding model.
- Under this model, ADB will finance 70% of the project cost, while the West Bengal Government will contribute 30%.

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RECENT LOANS AND AGREEMENTS :

- IIFL Home Finance signed a \$300 million (approx. ₹2,700 crore) loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank.
- A JPY-equivalent \$400 million External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) has been given to Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd (IRFC).
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a senior secured debt financing package of up to USD 108 million (Mn) (about Rs 983 crore (Cr)) with Aavas Financiers Limited to expand affordable housing and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) lending in India.
- A guarantee of USD 197.67 million was provided to Citibank N.A..
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a USD 182 million loan to Assam.
- Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG) has extended a USD 1 billion (₹7,100 crore) loan to the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The World Bank approved USD 830 million for India's Pradhan Mantri – Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs (PM-SETU) programme.

X





Ques: The President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, visited India in March 2026 to attend which global conference in New Delhi?

- A) World Economic Forum
- B) Raisina Dialogue
- C) G20 Summit
- D) BRICS Summit
- E) ASEAN Summit

Answer: B) Raisina Dialogue

Explanation:

- The President of Finland, Alexander Stubb, visited India on a four-day official visit to strengthen bilateral relations.
- During the visit, he held talks with Narendra Modi focusing on trade, investment, and critical technologies.
- Alexander Stubb attended the Raisina Dialogue 2026 in New Delhi as the chief guest and delivered the keynote address.
- The Raisina Dialogue is India's flagship conference on geopolitics and geoeconomics.
- The capital of Finland is Helsinki and its currency is the Euro.





Ques: Dr. Bhargav Mallappa was conferred the royal honour “Dato” by which country’s traditional royal institution?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Thailand
- C) Indonesia
- D) Brunei
- E) Philippines

Answer: C) Indonesia

Explanation:

- Dr. Bhargav Mallappa, Founder and Chairman of MBRA Groups and a senior leader of the Indian National Congress (INC), received the royal honour “Dato”.
- The honour was conferred by Kerajaan Kutai Mulawarman, a traditional royal institution of Indonesia.
- He was recognised for his contributions to social development, humanitarian activities, international cooperation, agricultural development, and economic empowerment initiatives.

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Ques: What is the total proposed outlay for the modified UDAN scheme expected to start from April 2026?

- A) ₹20,000 crore
- B) ₹25,000 crore
- C) ₹30,000 crore
- D) ₹35,000 crore
- E) ₹40,000 crore

Answer: C) ₹30,000 crore

Explanation:

- The Union Government plans to implement a modified UDAN Scheme (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) from 1 April 2026 to expand regional air connectivity in India.
- The total proposed outlay is ₹30,000 crore.
- Out of this, ₹18,000 crore will be used for airport infrastructure development.
- ₹12,000 crore will be allocated as Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to support airlines operating on regional routes.
- The next phase aims to connect around 120 additional destinations, especially in remote, hilly, and aspirational districts.
- The UDAN scheme was launched on 21 October 2016 under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.





Ques: In February 2026, India upgraded its relations to a “Special Strategic Partnership” with which country?

- A) France
- B) Japan
- C) UAE
- D) Israel
- E) Singapore

Answer: D) Israel

Explanation:

- Following high-level talks between Narendra Modi and Benjamin Netanyahu in February 2026, India and Israel upgraded their ties to a Special Strategic Partnership.
- The upgrade is supported by 16 landmark agreements covering sectors such as fintech, defence, and green energy.
- NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) signed an agreement with MASAV, Israel’s central payment processor, for UPI integration.
- With this step, Israel joined countries such as Singapore, United Arab Emirates, France and Sri Lanka that have adopted India’s Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).
- Bilateral merchandise trade between India and Israel stood at \$3.62 billion in FY 2024–25.
- Both countries are moving toward a formal Free Trade Agreement (FTA).
- A pact was also signed to allow 50,000 additional Indian workers to work in Israel over the next five years, mainly in the manufacturing sector.





Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- **GSMA Lifetime Achievement Award : Sunil Bharti Mittal, Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises**
- **Award of Merit at the 2025 UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation : Our Lady of Grace Cathedral, located in Papydy village, Vasai in Maharashtra**
- **“Business Leader of the Year” award : Karan Adani**
- **FIPI Award 2025 for ‘Oil & Gas Production Company of the Year’ : Oil India Limited**
- **Chang–Crandall Humanitarian Award 2026 : Dr. Haripriya Aravind and Dr. R. Venkatesh from Puducherry**
- **Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025 : Paradip Port Authority (PPA), Odisha**
- **22nd Upendra Nath Brahma ‘Soldier of Humanity’ Award 2025 : Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Queen Mother of Bhutan**
- **Global Teacher Prize 2026 : Rouble Nagi, an Indian teacher and social activist**





Ques: The Geological Survey of India (GSI), which recently celebrated its 176th Foundation Day, was established in which year?

- A) 1845
- B) 1851
- C) 1860
- D) 1875
- E) 1881

Answer: B) 1851

Explanation:

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) recently celebrated its 176th Foundation Day.
- The organisation was established in 1851.
- GSI functions under the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.
- It plays a crucial role in mineral exploration, geological mapping, and geoscientific research in India.
- The headquarters of GSI is located in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The first Director of GSI was Sir Thomas Oldham.

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Ques: The Tirumala Temple Complex in Andhra Pradesh is establishing an advanced food testing laboratory worth ₹25 crore with support from which organisation?

- A) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- B) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- C) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)
- D) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- E) NITI Aayog

Answer: C) Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

Explanation:

- The Tirumala Temple Complex in Andhra Pradesh will establish a ₹25 crore advanced food testing laboratory to ensure the quality and safety of prasadam and ingredients such as ghee, dry fruits, and spices.
- The initiative was introduced after concerns over adulterated ghee in Tirumala laddus in 2024 and is supported by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The laboratory will use advanced technologies such as E-Nose (Electronic Nose) to detect odours and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) released by food.
- An E-Nose is a sensor-based device that converts odour signals into electrical data and uses AI-based pattern recognition to identify odour fingerprints.
- It helps detect spoilage, contamination, fermentation changes, and adulteration, and is widely used in dairy, edible oil, and processed food industries.
- An E-Tongue (Electronic Tongue) is a device used to analyse taste-related chemical components in liquids. It uses electrochemical sensors to detect dissolved substances responsible for sweet, salty, sour, and bitter tastes and applies machine learning and statistical models for classification. It is commonly used for testing oils, beverages, and dairy products for quality and adulteration.





Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The Government of India has reduced duty benefits under the RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products) scheme by 50% with immediate effect.
- The “Rah-Veer” scheme has been announced by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta.
- The ‘Meri Rasoi’ scheme has been launched by the Punjab government.
- The scheme ‘Banglar Yuva Sathi’ has been launched by Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal.
- The Government of India has launched the PM RAHAT (Road Accident Victim Hospitalization and Assured Treatment) Scheme from the Prime Ministerial office, Seva Teerth.
- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, launched the ‘Sthree Suraksha Scheme’.
- The Delhi Lakhpati Bitiya Yojana has replaced the Delhi Ladli Scheme (2008) and supports girls from birth to graduation.
- दिल्ली लखपति बिटिया योजना ने 2008 की दिल्ली लाडली योजना की जगह ली है और जन्म से स्नातक तक बालिकाओं को है।





Ques: The RAJMARG PRAVESH web portal, launched to enable hassle-free issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for facilities along National Highways, has been launched by which Union Minister?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) Piyush Goyal
- E) Ashwini Vaishnaw

Answer: C) Nitin Gadkari

Explanation:

- Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, launched the upgraded RAJMARG PRAVESH web portal.
- The portal has been developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) to promote digital governance and ease of doing business in India.
- It enables hassle-free online issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for facilities along National Highways.
- The platform simplifies the approval process for establishing facilities such as fuel stations, wayside amenities, rest areas, private properties, connecting roads, and industrial access points along highways. 🚧





Recent News Headlines Related to launched Apps/portals :

- On the 40th Foundation Day of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, launched “SUJVIKA”, an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven Biotech Product Data Portal.
- Teacher App 2.0 was launched by Union Minister of Education Dharmendra Pradhan.
- The Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, launched the Provincialization Management System (PMS) portal.
- Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Ministry of Minority Affairs, launched the NIGRANI App at Nalanda University, Bihar.
- Indian Army showcased ‘EKAM’, an indigenous AI-as-a-Service (AlaaS) cloud platform.
- India launched iLive Connect, the world’s first doctor-led, Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered healthcare ecosystem, aimed at providing 24×7 medical monitoring from patients’ homes.
- Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, inaugurated the STQC Lab Automation Portal named ‘SATYA’.





Ques: The EMI scheme for importers, allowing monthly payment of customs duty, is implemented by which organization?

- A) RBI
- B) SEBI
- C) CBIC
- D) NABARD
- E) SIDBI

Answer: C) CBIC

Explanation:

- The Eligible Manufacturer Importers (EMI) scheme will be implemented from 1 April by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- Under this scheme, eligible importers can clear imported goods without paying customs duty immediately.
- The customs duty can be paid later in monthly instalments, improving liquidity for businesses.
- The scheme operates under the Deferred Payment of Import Duty Rules, 2016.
- This initiative is expected to improve cash flow and reduce financial burden on manufacturers and importers in India.
- CBIC works under the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) and is headquartered in New Delhi. 💰





Ques: What was the theme of the 12th Zero Discrimination Day observed on March 1, 2026?

- A) End Inequality
- B) People First
- C) Equal Rights
- D) Stop Stigma
- E) Unity for Equality

Answer: B) People First

Explanation:

- Zero Discrimination Day is observed every year on March 1 worldwide.
- In 2026, the world celebrated the 12th Zero Discrimination Day.
- The theme for 2026 was “People First.”
- The butterfly is the official symbol of Zero Discrimination Day. 🦋
- The day aims to promote equality, dignity, and human rights for all people regardless of gender, race, age, disability, or other differences.
- The observance is strongly promoted by UNAIDS to encourage inclusive societies free from discrimination.

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Important days :

- 1 February : Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG)
- 2 February : 50th World Wetlands Day (Theme 2026 Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage)
- 4 February : World Cancer Day (theme : “United by Unique”)
- 9 February : International Epilepsy Day (Theme 2026 #EpilepsyPledge campaign)
- 10 February : 8th World Pulses Day (WPD) (theme for 2026 is “Pulses of the World: From Modesty to Excellence.”)
- 11 February : World Unani Day (theme 2026 is “Innovation and Evidence in Unani Practice”.)
- 11 February : International Day of Women and Girls in Science (Theme : 2026 is “Synergizing AI, Social Science, STEM and Finance: Building Inclusive Futures for Women and Girls”.)
- 13 February : World Radio Day (theme of World Radio Day 2026 is “Radio and Artificial Intelligence: AI is a tool, not a voice.”)
- 13 February : National Women’s Day
- 15 February : International Childhood Cancer Day 2026
- 16 February : 79th Raising Day ceremony of Delhi Police
- 17 February : 3rd Global Tourism Resilience Day (GTRD) (First Observance in 2023)
- 20 February : World Day of Social Justice (Theme for 2026: “Renewed Commitment to Social Development and Social Justice”)
- 20 February : Arunachal Pradesh Foundation Day (India’s 24th state in 1987)
- 20 February : Mizoram Foundation Day (23rd state of India in 1987)
- 21 February : International Mother Language Day (Theme 2026 – “Youth voices on multilingual education.”)
- 21 February (third Saturday of February) : World Pangolin Day
- 22 February : 100th World Thinking Day (Theme 2026 Our Friendship)
- 23 February : World Peace and Understanding Day 2026
- 24 February : Central Excise Day
- 27 February : International Polar Bear Day





IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

The JM Financial Hurun India Unlisted Gems 2026 report highlights India's largest privately held (unlisted) companies, revealing a massive "parallel economy" valued at ₹28.5 lakh crore, comparable to the GDP of Finland.

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) formalised a Framework for Action (FFA) in New Delhi. The initiative will develop global solar talent through Solar Technology Application Resource-Centre (STAR-C) trainer programmes.

Ellinas Finance, a Cyprus-based financial services firm, will become the first overseas company to list equity shares on the NSE International Exchange (NSE IX) at GIFT City, Gujarat.

India is in the final phase of launching its first comprehensive carbon trading programme under the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS). The initiative is being implemented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE). The first compliance cycle of the scheme runs from April 2025 to March 2026.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) and the State Election Commissioners jointly adopted the National Declaration 2026 during the National Round Table Conference held in New Delhi. The conference was significant as it was held after a gap of 27 years, and it was decided that the Round Table Conference will now be organised annually.

India and Germany have strengthened their climate partnership with a new €20 million initiative. The funding will be provided by Germany's International Climate Initiative (IKI).

