

# EXAM GENIUS

Presents

# ***GENIUS CURRENT AFFAIRS***

**In English**

**18 March 2026**



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**Ques: 'Niveshak Shivir' organised by IEPFA and SEBI is mainly related to which of the following?**

- A) Agricultural Subsidy Distribution
- B) Unclaimed Dividends and Investor Grievance Redressal
- C) Digital Banking Expansion
- D) Export Promotion
- E) Insurance Claim Settlement

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The 'Niveshak Shivir' is organised by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- It serves as a one-stop platform to help investors recover unclaimed dividends and shares.
- The camp also provides grievance redressal services along with on-the-spot KYC updates and nomination services.
- The initiative aims to promote financial literacy, transparency, and investor protection.

**Static Facts:**

- IEPFA Established: 2016
- Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- SEBI Established: 1988 (Statutory Status: 1992)
- SEBI HQ: Mumbai





**Ques: The World Bank approved a \$300 million loan for which Indian state for a clean air project?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan
- E) Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The World Bank has approved a \$300 million loan for Uttar Pradesh.
- The loan is for a clean air transition project aimed at reducing air pollution.
- The project will help improve environmental quality and promote sustainable development.
- It will also support climate-friendly initiatives in the state.

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## RECENT LOANS AND AGREEMENTS :

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$1.2 billion loan to India to support climate resilience and sustainable infrastructure development.
- German development finance institution DEG and Citi jointly provided USD 76 million (about 630 crore) financing to Shriram Finance to support lending to underserved segments, including MSMES, smallholder farmers, and electric vehicle (EV) buyers.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has provided a loan of ₹4,648 crore to the West Bengal Government.
- 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.





**Ques: What is the total allocation earmarked by the Union Government for the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G)?**

- A) ₹86,000 crore
- B) ₹90,000 crore
- C) ₹1,00,000 crore
- D) ₹95,692 crore
- E) ₹1,25,000 crore

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced an allocation of ₹95,692 crore for the VB-G RAM G scheme under the Finance Bill.
- The new scheme will replace the existing MGNREGA framework.
- The allocation is around ₹10,000 crore higher than the previous allocation of ₹86,000 crore (2025–26).
- The scheme will provide up to 125 days of employment in rural areas.
- It will come into effect from 1 April after the Finance Bill is passed.
- Additionally, ₹30,000 crore has been allocated through supplementary grants to clear pending MGNREGA payments.
- Under the scheme, the Centre will bear 60% cost, while States will contribute 40%.





**Ques: Tuticorin Airport in Tamil Nadu has been renamed as what?**

- A) Thoothukudi Airport
- B) Madurai Airport
- C) Chennai Airport
- D) Coimbatore Airport
- E) Trichy Airport

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- The Central Government approved the renaming of Tuticorin Airport to Thoothukudi Airport in Tamil Nadu.
- The renaming was formally inaugurated by Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu.
- The airport is operated by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

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**Ques: Which film won the Best Picture award at the 98th Academy Awards?**

- A) Sinners
- B) Hamlet
- C) One Battle After Another
- D) Weapons
- E) Sentimental Value

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The 98th Academy Awards saw One Battle After Another win the Best Picture award.
- The film also won a total of 6 Oscars, making it the biggest winner of the event.
- Paul Thomas Anderson won Best Director.
- Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor, and Jessie Buckley won Best Actress.
- Other winners included Sean Penn (Best Supporting Actor), Amy Madigan (Best Supporting Actress), and Ludwig Göransson (Best Original Score).

**Static Facts:**

- Event: Academy Awards
- Started: 1929
- Presented by: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS)
- Venue: Dolby Theatre





## Recent News Headlines Related to Awards & Winners :

- **60th Jnanpith Award (2025) : Renowned Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu**
- **META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 : Veteran actor and filmmaker Amol Palekar at 21st edition of the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards, New Delhi**
- **CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award : Former India captain Rahul Dravid**
- **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**





**Ques: Which organization won the “Excellence in Innovation” category at the Governance Now 12th PSU National Award?**

- A) Indian Railways
- B) Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation
- C) Delhi Transport Corporation
- D) Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation
- E) Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) won the “Excellence in Innovation” category at the Governance Now PSU National Award (12th edition).
- The award was given for its initiative “Dhwani Spandana”.
- This system helps visually impaired passengers identify buses and travel independently.
- It has been implemented in 200 Mysuru City Transport buses.
- Technical support was provided by GIZ Germany.

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**Ques: The Padma Awards in India are announced on which occasion?**

- A) Independence Day
- B) Republic Day
- C) Gandhi Jayanti
- D) Constitution Day
- E) National Unity Day

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- The Padma Awards are among the highest civilian honours in India.
- These include Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri, instituted in 1954.
- The awards are announced every year on Republic Day.
- Nominations for Padma Awards 2027 have been invited by the Government of India.
- These awards are open to all (including NRIs, OCIs, foreigners) and allow self-nominations, except most government servants (except doctors/scientists).

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**Ques: Who released the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2025–26?**

- A) Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Piyush Goyal
- D) Nitin Gadkari
- E) Rajnath Singh

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, released the 2nd Advance Estimates for 2025–26.
- Kharif foodgrain production is estimated at 1741.44 LMT, while Rabi foodgrain production is estimated at 1745.13 LMT.
- This shows an increase of 46 LMT (2.8%) in Kharif and 53 LMT (3.2%) in Rabi compared to last year.
- Kharif rice production is estimated at 1239.28 LMT, higher by 11.56 LMT than 2024–25.
- Wheat production is estimated at 1202.10 LMT, which is 22.65 LMT higher than the previous year.





## News Headlines Related to Ministry :

- Jal Mahotsav 2026 was launched on 8 March 2026 by Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil.
- Giriraj Singh, Union Minister for Textiles, launched Bharat Tex 2026 in New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi said that the government aims to reduce India's logistics cost to below 10% of GDP by 2030, to strengthen economic competitiveness.
- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj launched a nationwide social media campaign titled "Say No To Proxy Sarpanch".
- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region has sanctioned the North Eastern Science and Technology (NEST) Cluster Project to build a strong research and innovation ecosystem across the North East.
- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a high-level review meeting of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED) to fast-track the Self-Reliance in Pulses Mission.





**Ques: Which cricketer is the only captain to have won ICC trophies at both junior and senior levels?**

- A) Babar Azam
- B) Sarfaraz Ahmed
- C) Kane Williamson
- D) Virat Kohli
- E) Joe Root

**Answer: Option B**

**Explanation:**

- Sarfaraz Ahmed has announced his retirement from international cricket.
- He is the only captain to win ICC trophies at both junior and senior levels.
- He led Pakistan to victory in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2006.
- He also captained the team to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017.

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**Ques:** Chapchar Kut, the spring festival, is celebrated by which community?

- A) Naga tribe
- B) Khasi tribe
- C) Bodo tribe
- D) Santhal tribe
- E) Mizo people

**Answer:** Option E

**Explanation:**

- Chapchar Kut is celebrated with great enthusiasm in Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram.
- It is the largest and most important traditional festival of the Mizo people.
- The festival is celebrated after clearing forests for jhum (shifting) cultivation.
- It marks the arrival of the spring season.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to Festivals & Fairs :

- The Indian Orchid Festival 2026 concluded in Pakyong district of Sikkim.
- The National Arogya Fair 2026 was held at Shegaon in Buldhana district of Maharashtra.
- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami virtually inaugurated the Khadi Holi Festival organised by the Kalash Sangeet Kala Samiti in Champawat (Kumaon region).
- Herath Poshte, or "Congratulations on Herath," is the traditional greeting for the Kashmiri Pandit celebration of Maha Shivaratri (Herath) in Jammu and Kashmir, celebrated on Phalgun Krishna Paksha Trayodashi.
- 'Spituk Gustor' : two-day annual monastic festival has begun at Spituk Monastery in Ladakh
- Dhanu Yatra : 11-day open-air theatre festival held annually in Bargarh, Odisha, depicting the mythological story of Lord Krishna and King Kansa.
- Losar : traditional New Year festival of Ladakh, celebrated with devotion and joy.
- Charaichung Festival : hosted on Majuli Island in Assam to revive awareness about Asia's first protected royal bird sanctuary.





**Ques: IIT Bombay signed an agreement with which company to establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for sustainability?**

- A) Infosys
- B) Tata Consultancy Services
- C) Wipro
- D) Honeywell
- E) Siemens

**Answer: Option D**

**Explanation:**

- Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) signed an agreement with Honeywell.
- Objective: To establish a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for sustainability skills and innovation at its Powai campus in Mumbai.
- Target: Train over 100,000 students by 2030 through industry-academia collaboration.
- Funded by: Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation.

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## Recent News Headlines Related to MoU and agreement:

- The WHO Foundation and Novo Nordisk have announced a collaboration to prevent childhood obesity in India.
- Global edtech platform Coursera has collaborated with the Government of India to provide advanced upskilling for civil servants and government officials.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the European Space Agency (ESA) signed a new agreement to strengthen cooperation in Earth observation missions. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was established on 15 August 1969.
- Google and Bharti Airtel announced a partnership on 1 March 2026 to enhance user protection against spam, phishing, and financial fraud messages. The initiative focuses on Rich Communication Services (RCS) chats available through the Google Messages app used on most Android smartphones.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) signed an agreement with Voltas to support startups.





**Ques: The Stand-Up India Scheme provides loans in which range to eligible beneficiaries?**

- A) ₹1 lakh – ₹5 lakh
- B) ₹5 lakh – ₹10 lakh
- C) ₹10 lakh – ₹1 crore
- D) ₹1 crore – ₹5 crore
- E) ₹50,000 – ₹5 lakh

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- The Stand-Up India Scheme provides loans ranging from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore to eligible beneficiaries.
- The scheme promotes entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women.
- Loans are provided for setting up new enterprises with a repayment period of 7 years and a moratorium up to 18 months.
- The scheme was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Finance.
- The government has announced a revamped version to improve benefits and implementation.

**Static Facts:**

- Scheme: Stand-Up India Scheme
- Launch Year: 2016
- Ministry: Ministry of Finance
- Expiry: 31 March 2025





## Recent News Headlines Related to Schemes

- The Orunodoi Scheme (Orunodoi 3.0) has been implemented by the Assam Government.
- President Droupadi Murmu dedicated four welfare schemes in New Delhi aimed at strengthening women empowerment and promoting social and economic inclusion of women. These are Lakhpati Bitiya Scheme, Saheli Pink Smart Card, Meri Poonji Mera Adhikaar and Free LPG Cylinder Scheme
- The Jal Jeevan Mission has been extended by the Union Cabinet of India until December 2028.
- Punjab Government, led by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), has announced a monthly financial assistance scheme for women. scheme named "Mukh Mantri Mawan Dhian Satikar Yojana", ₹1,000 permonth will be directly transferred
- Siddaramaiah, the Chief Minister of Karnataka, announced the Chief Minister Krishi Vistara Scheme in the Karnataka Budget 2026–27 to increase farmers' income.
- The SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion) scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at strengthening India's skill development ecosystem.





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**Ques: Which city will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery in 2027?**

- A) New Delhi
- B) Bangkok
- C) Ahmedabad
- D) Kolkata
- E) Beijing

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- New Delhi will host the second leg of the Asia Cup Archery in 2027.
- This will be India's first international archery event in 22 years since the Asian Archery Championships 2005 held in Delhi.
- Asia Cup Archery 2026 will begin in Bangkok, Thailand (21–26 March 2026).
- Other legs of the 2026 tournament will be held in Iraq and China.
- Ahmedabad will host the Asian Para Archery Championships 2026.
- Kolkata will host the South Asian Archery Championships 2026.
- The Archery World Cup 2026 will be held in Puebla, Mexico.

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## Recent News headlines related to Sports

- Goa will host the seventh season of Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) in July 2026. The tournament will be held at the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium.
- Mayank Chakraborty became India's 94th Chess Grandmaster (GM).
- Shubman Gill and Smriti Mandhana were named the Best International Cricketers at the BCCI Naman Awards 2026.
- India's badminton player Lakshya Sen finished runner-up at the All England Open Badminton Championships 2026.
- Iran announced its withdrawal from the FIFA World Cup 2026.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a cash reward of ₹131 crore for the entire Indian squad after its third title victory at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026.
- George Russell of the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team won the Australian Grand Prix 2026. It marked the opening race of the Formula One World Championship 2026 season.





**Ques: Which country has recently announced a four-day work week to conserve fuel?**

- A) Nepal
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Sri Lanka
- D) Maldives
- E) Myanmar

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Sri Lanka has announced a four-day work week, declaring Wednesday as a holiday.
- The decision aims to conserve fuel amid rising tensions and a possible energy crisis.
- The rule applies to government offices, schools, and universities.
- Essential services will continue daily, and the private sector is encouraged to adopt similar measures.

**Static Facts:**

- Capital: Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (Legislative), Colombo (Executive)
- President: Ranil Wickremesinghe
- Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee

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**Ques: Armand Duplantis, who recently set a new pole vault world record of 6.31 metres, belongs to which country?**

- A) Norway
- B) United States
- C) Sweden
- D) Germany
- E) France

**Answer: Option C**

**Explanation:**

- Armand Duplantis, a pole vaulter from Sweden, set a new world record of 6.31 metres.
- He achieved this feat at the Mondo Classic held in Uppsala, Sweden.
- This is the 15th time he has broken the pole vault world record.
- Earlier, he had set a record of 6.28 metres in Stockholm (2025).
- This is his fourth world record of the year.

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**Ques: Kimi Antonelli, who won the Chinese Grand Prix, is associated with which Formula 1 team?**

- A) Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team
- B) Ferrari
- C) Red Bull Racing
- D) McLaren
- E) Aston Martin

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- Kimi Antonelli, aged 19, won his first Formula 1 race at the Chinese Grand Prix.
- He became the second-youngest race winner in F1 history.
- The youngest winner remains Max Verstappen (2016, age 18).
- Antonelli drives for the Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula One Team.
- This victory marks a historic milestone for a young F1 talent.

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**Ques:** In 2025, which country became the largest exporter of cotton products to the United States?

- A) China
- B) Pakistan
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Vietnam
- E) India

**Answer: Option E**

**Explanation:**

- In 2025, India overtook China to become the largest exporter of cotton products to the United States.
- The data is based on analysis by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- US imports of cotton products from India reached around 0.6 million tonnes, surpassing China's ~0.5 million tonnes.
- This highlights India's growing strength in textile exports and global competitiveness.

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**Ques:** Arpita Patra, who recently climbed Nevado Ojos del Salado, is associated with which institution?

- A) Indian Institute of Science
- B) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- C) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- D) University of Delhi
- E) Banaras Hindu University

**Answer: Option A**

**Explanation:**

- Arpita Patra is a professor at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc).
- She successfully climbed Nevado Ojos del Salado, reaching its 6,893-metre summit.
- She became the second Indian woman to achieve this feat.
- The mountain is located in the Atacama Desert in the Andes, on the Chile–Argentina border, and is the highest peak in Chile.

**Previous Achievements:**

- Mount Kilimanjaro (Africa)
- Mount Elbrus (Europe)
- Mount Giluwe (Oceania)
- Pico de Orizaba (North America)





**Ques:** The International Day to Combat Islamophobia is observed on which date?

- A) 10 March
- B) 12 March
- C) 15 March
- D) 18 March
- E) 21 March

**Answer:** Option C

**Explanation:**

- The United Nations observes the International Day to Combat Islamophobia every year on 15 March.
- The day aims to raise awareness about discrimination and hatred faced by Muslims worldwide.
- The date commemorates the Christchurch mosque attacks (2019), in which 51 Muslim worshippers were killed.

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## Important days :

- 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
- 27 February : World non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Day 2026 (13th Edition)
- 27 February : 7th National Protein Day (started in the year 2020)
- 28 February : National Science Day (Theme 2026: Women in Science: Catalysing Viksit Bharat)
- 28 February : Rare Disease Day 2026 (2026 Theme: More than you can imagine: the realities behind rare diseases)
- 1 March : Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) celebrated its 79th Foundation Day as Khanij Diwas
- 1 March : Zero Discrimination Day (theme for 2026 was "People First")
- 1 March : World Seagrass Day
- 3 March : World Hearing Day (theme for 2026 is "From communities to classrooms: hearing care for all children.")
- 4 March : 18th World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation 2026 (Started in 2009)
- 4 March : National Safety Day 2026 (Theme 2026 Engage, Educate & Empower People to Enhance Safety)
- 7 March : Jan Aushadhi Diwas
- 8 March : International Women's Day (Theme "Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls.")





- 10 March : CISF Raising Day
- 10 March : 5th International Day of Women Judges (Theme 2026 Women Judges on the Bench and Beyond: Protecting Access to Justice)
- 11 March (second Wednesday of March) : No Smoking Day 2026
- 12 March (second Thursday of March) : World Kidney Day (theme for 2026 was “Kidney Health for All: Caring for People, Protecting the Planet.”)
- 14 March : Pi Day & International Day of Mathematics (Theme 2026 Mathematics and Hope)





## IMPORTANT ONE - LINER Current Affairs

The Mizoram Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution seeking the inclusion of the Mizo language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Global credit rating agency Fitch Ratings has raised India's GDP growth forecast for Financial Year 2025-26 to 7.5% and For 2026-27 to 6.7%.

Rashtrapati Bhavan hosted the Purple Fest to celebrate the talent, achievements, and aspirations of Divyangjan (persons with disabilities). The event was organized by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. More than 8,000 Divyangjan visited the Amrit Udyan, which was opened exclusively for them during the event.

SEBI has formed a high-level expert working group. The group will prepare short-term and long-term technology roadmaps for India's securities market ecosystem. It is chaired by D. B. Phatak, Professor Emeritus at IIT Bombay.

