

Daily Current Affairs

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Ojaswa Gajraj Wins Silver Medal



Why in News?

- Ojaswa Gajraj from Jaipur secured a silver medal at the Khelo India Kalaripayattu Championship, organized by the Sports Authority of India in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.



Key Points:

- **Time and Venue** – March 27 to 29, 2026; Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala). 24 states, 450+ athletes.
- **Category** – Chuvadugal event in the Junior Boys' category.
- Ojaswa had also won a silver medal at the Khelo India Youth Games held in Gaya (Bihar) in 2025.

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10% Increase in Honorarium for Anganwadi Workers

Why in News?

- The Government of Rajasthan transferred Rs 1,000 each—intended for uniforms—directly into the bank accounts of 122,000 Anganwadi workers and helpers via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). During this event, the Chief Minister also handed over cheques to beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Lado Protsahan Yojana, and Kalibai Bhil Yojana.



Key Points:

- The government has announced a 10% increase in the honorarium for all honorarium-based personnel—including Anganwadi workers, helpers, and Mid-Day Meal cooks-cum-helpers—effective from April 1, 2026.
- Strengthening and repair works for Anganwadi centers.
- Provision for free eye check-ups and spectacles in the future.
- **Chief Minister's 'Viksit Gram-Ward' (Developed Village-Ward) Campaign:** The State Government is conducting the 'Viksit Gram-Ward' campaign from March 19 to May 15. Under this campaign, a development roadmap aligned with local aspirations is being formulated for all Gram Panchayats and urban wards across the state. Anganwadi workers will provide suggestions for local development within the framework of this initiative.

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Operation Vajra Prahar



Why in News?

- The Rajasthan Police is conducting a special campaign, 'Operation Vajra Prahar,' aimed at preventing drugs and narcotics abuse, curbing trafficking, and enhancing public awareness. Through this initiative, strict action will be taken against criminals to ensure public safety and expedite the disposal of pending legal cases.



Key Points:

- State-level campaign for the destruction of seized drugs and narcotics – from April 1 to April 30, 2026.
- Disposal of vehicles utilized in trafficking activities.
- Exclusion of individuals engaged in illicit cultivation from availing benefits under public welfare schemes.
- Public awareness campaigns conducted in schools, colleges, and departments of social justice.
- Promotion and operational testing of the MANAS (Narcotics Prohibition Intelligence Centre) Helpline – 1933.

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Dilip Singh Wins Silver Medal at All India Police Tennis Championship

Why in News?

- Dilip Singh, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) posted in the Police Telecommunications wing, Jodhpur Range, Rajasthan, secured a silver medal at the 26th All India Police Lawn Tennis Championship (2025-26).



Key Points:

- **Date and Venue:** March 24–28, 2026, R.K. Khanna Stadium, New Delhi.
- **Organizer:** Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- **Category:** Open Doubles Event.
- Prior to this, he was also a winner at the 10th (2024-25) and 11th (2025-26) C.S. Challenger Cup Tennis Championships, organized under the aegis of the Rajasthan State Civil Services.

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Economic Developments



World Trade Organization (WTO)



Why in News?

- The 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) of the World Trade Organization concluded in Yaoundé, Cameroon.



Key Points:

- The Ministerial Conference is the highest decision-making body within the WTO. This conference is held every two years to make decisions regarding global trade rules.

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Key Decisions Taken at MC14

- **Integration of Small Economies:** Ministerial representatives from member countries agreed to better integrate small economies into the global trading system.
- **Strengthening the Principle of Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT):** Emphasis was placed on strengthening the implementation of S&DT provisions within agreements concerning Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade.
- The objective of the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) is to ensure that technical regulations, standards, and conformity assessment procedures are not discriminatory and do not create unnecessary obstacles to trade.
- **Negotiations on Fisheries Subsidies:** Ministers from member countries agreed to continue negotiations until the 15th Ministerial Conference (MC15) in order to formulate comprehensive rules regarding fisheries subsidies.

Sociology

Maternal Mortality Rate in India

Why in News?

- According to a report by The Lancet, India ranks among the countries with the highest maternal mortality rates in the world.



Key Points:

- Out of the 240,000 maternal deaths recorded globally in 2023, approximately 24,700 cases were reported in India.

Maternal Mortality

- **Definition:** According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a maternal death is the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration or site of the pregnancy, provided the death is caused by the pregnancy or its management/care; it does not include deaths resulting from accidents or incidental causes.

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- **Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR):** This is the primary indicator used to measure maternal mortality. It is defined as the number of maternal deaths occurring per 100,000 live births during a specific period.
- **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3.1:** The target is to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

Key Causes of High Maternal Mortality in India

- Medical causes
- Cultural and social factors
- Lack of healthcare facilities

Measures to Reduce Maternal Mortality in India

- **Achievement of National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 Targets:** India successfully achieved the target of reducing the MMR to less than 100 per 100,000 live births by the year 2020.
- **National Health Mission (NHM):** This encompasses strategies for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health, as well as Nutrition. Key programs implemented under this mission include:
 - **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY):** Under this scheme, pregnant women are provided with financial assistance to encourage institutional deliveries (childbirth in a hospital setting).
 - **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY):** The objective of this scheme is to provide maternity benefits (cash assistance).

Best Practices from States:

- Tamil Nadu's 'Emergency Obstetric Care' facility.
- Madhya Pradesh's community-driven 'Dastak Campaign'.



E-3 Sentry



Key Points:

- Recently, Iran destroyed a U.S. E-3 Sentry aircraft. This is an 'Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS)' aircraft.
- AWACS is a mobile, long-range radar surveillance and control center for air defense.

IONS (Indian Ocean Naval Symposium)



Why in News?

- The Indian Navy hosted the IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) Tabletop Exercise (TTX) 2026 in Kochi.



Key Points:

IONS:

- IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to enhance maritime cooperation among the navies of littoral states in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Chairmanship:** The Chairmanship of IONS is selected on a rotational basis among members and by consensus.
- India has assumed the Chairmanship of IONS for 2026.
- **Members:** Littoral states of the Indian Ocean, or any other country whose territory lies within the Indian Ocean, are eligible to become members.
- Currently, it has 25 members, including India.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Red-crowned Roofed Turtle

Why in News?

- Due to the excessive hunting of adults and eggs, there has been a drastic decline in both the population and habitat of the Red-crowned Roofed Turtle.



Key Points:

Red-crowned Roofed Turtle (*Batagur kachuga*):

- It is a large river-dwelling turtle that was once found across India, Nepal, and Bangladesh.
- Currently, it is found exclusively within the Ganges River basin; specifically, it is found in the Chambal River basin.

Conservation Status:

- **IUCN Red List:** Critically Endangered.
- **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972:** Schedule I.
- **CITES:** Appendix I.

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PM E-DRIVE Scheme

Why in News?

- The Union Ministry of Heavy Industries has increased subsidies for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers under the PM E-DRIVE scheme.



Key Points:

PM E-DRIVE Scheme:

- **Launch:** 2024
- **Objective:** To accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles in the country and establish charging infrastructure. Additionally, to build a robust EV manufacturing ecosystem within the nation.

Key Components:

- **Subsidies:** Incentives for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, ambulances, trucks, and other new categories of electric vehicles.
- **Grants for Capital Asset Creation:** Financing for the procurement of e-buses, the establishment of a comprehensive network of charging stations, and testing facilities.
- **Implementing Agency:** Union Ministry of Heavy Industries.

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Earth Hour

Why in News?

- WWF India, in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Environment, observed Earth Hour. This year marked the 20th anniversary of Earth Hour.



Key Points:

Earth Hour:

- **Origin:** It began in Australia in 2007. It has now evolved into the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment. This campaign unites people across more than 190 countries worldwide.
- **Key Feature:** This day is symbolically recognized for the act of 'switching off lights' for the conservation of Planet Earth.
- **Initiative:** It is an initiative of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- **Timing:** Held annually on the last Saturday of March, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM.

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⌚ SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ⌚

Artemis II Mission

📣 Why in News?

- NASA is set to launch the Artemis II mission.



📌 Key Points:

Artemis II

- Artemis II is part of NASA's Artemis program.
- Under this mission, four astronauts will be sent to orbit the Moon.
- Artemis II is part of a broader effort to establish a long-term human presence on the Moon.
- This mission views the Moon not merely as a destination, but as a staging ground for deep space exploration.

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INDEXES AND REPORTS



Global Education Monitoring Report 2026



Why in News?

- According to UNESCO, one in six school-age children worldwide is deprived of education.



Key Points:

- This data is based on UNESCO's 'Global Education Monitoring Report 2026: Access and Equity, Countdown to 2030'.
- According to the report, only two out of every three students are able to complete secondary education.

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Key Recommendations for Ensuring Access to and Equity in Education

Reforms at the Systemic Level:

- **Legal Provisions:** There is a need to accord legal recognition to the 'Right to Education'. Legislation regarding compulsory schooling should be enacted, and the feasibility of waiving fees should be considered.
- **Example:** India's Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.
- **Government Financing:** Denmark has established an education system in which decision-making authority rests at the local level; while certain services have been entrusted to the private sector, their costs are borne by the government. The objective of this approach is to prevent the widening of inequality.

Reforms at the Demand-Side Level:

- **Cash Transfers:** In rural Karnataka, scholarships covering pre-school fees led to a 20% increase in educational participation.
- **Other Reforms:** Providing study materials, uniforms, school bags, etc., at schools; ensuring improved healthcare and nutritional status, among others.

Reforms at the Supply-Side Level:

- **Improvement in Public Infrastructure:** Emphasis should be placed on developing school infrastructure—specifically by increasing the number of seats in government pre-schools—to reduce parents' reliance on expensive private schools.
- **Open and Distance Learning:** Student enrollment in some of the world's largest open universities has contributed to the expansion of higher education.