



MARCH- 2026

RAPID

CURRENT AFFAIRS

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MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

INDEX:

1.	Important Days	2
2.	Appointments	3
3.	Defence	4
4.	Science and technology	5
5.	Sports	6
6.	Awards	7
7.	Miscellaneous	8



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

IMPORTANT DAYS:

- Zero Discrimination Day is observed on 1 March to promote equality, inclusion, and eliminate stigma based on factors like gender, caste, and HIV status under the theme "People First."
- World Civil Defence Day is observed on 1 March to raise awareness about disaster preparedness and environmental risk management under the theme "Managing Environmental Risks for a Resilient and Sustainable Future."
- World Wildlife Day is celebrated on 3 March to promote conservation of biodiversity and endangered species with the 2026 theme focusing on medicinal and aromatic plants.
- National Safety Day is observed on 4 March in India to promote workplace safety and accident prevention through industry-specific themes.
- International Women's Day is celebrated on 8 March to promote gender equality and women empowerment under the theme "Give To Gain."
- Dandi March Anniversary on 12 March commemorates Mahatma Gandhi's 1930 Salt March symbolizing civil disobedience against British rule.
- World Consumer Rights Day is observed on 15 March to protect consumer rights and promote awareness under the theme "Safe Products, Confident Consumers."
- International Day of Action for Rivers is observed on 15 March to highlight river conservation and environmental protection under the theme "Protect Rivers, Protect People."
- National Vaccination Day is observed on 16 March in India to mark the launch of the Pulse Polio Programme in 1995 and promote universal immunization.
- International Day of Happiness is celebrated on 20 March to emphasize well-being and development beyond GDP under the theme "Caring and Sharing."
- World Sparrow Day is observed on 20 March to raise awareness about the conservation of declining house sparrow populations.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- International Day of Forests is observed on 21 March to promote forest conservation and economic importance under the theme "Forests and Economies."
- World Poetry Day is celebrated on 21 March to promote linguistic diversity and literary expression.
- World Water Day is observed on 22 March to highlight sustainable water management and water equity under the theme "Where water flows, equality grows."
- World Meteorological Day is celebrated on 23 March to promote awareness about climate and weather systems under the theme "Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow."
- Shaheed Diwas is observed on 23 March to honor the sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev for India's independence.
- World Tuberculosis Day is observed on 24 March to raise awareness about TB elimination and marks Robert Koch's discovery of TB bacteria under the theme "Yes! We Can End TB."
- World Theatre Day is celebrated on 27 March to promote performing arts and cultural peace under the theme "Theatre and a Culture of Peace."

APPOINTMENTS:

- K. V. Ramana Murthy has been appointed as Whole-Time Member of SEBI to strengthen regulatory oversight in India's growing capital markets.
- Jasprit Bumrah has been appointed as brand ambassador for Uniqlo India to enhance brand visibility and align with performance-driven marketing.
- Deepak Gupta has assumed charge as Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL to lead India's gas-based economy transition and infrastructure expansion.
- Saba Shawl has become the first woman to head Central Jail Srinagar, marking progress in gender representation in security administration.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

DEFENCE:

- Operation Urja Suraksha is an Indian Navy mission aimed at securing energy supply routes and protecting oil tankers in critical sea lanes like the Strait of Hormuz.
- Prahar Light Machine Guns inducted into the Indian Army enhance infantry firepower and support indigenous defence manufacturing under Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- INS Taragiri is a Project 17A stealth frigate equipped with advanced radar evasion and missile systems to strengthen India's maritime combat capability.
- CAPF Bill 2026 aims to enhance IPS control over Central Armed Police Forces and improve coordination and command structure in internal security.
- IOS Sagar 2026 is a maritime initiative under India's SAGAR doctrine to promote regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- Sea Dragon 2026 is a multilateral anti-submarine warfare exercise involving India, the US, Japan, and Australia to enhance Indo-Pacific security cooperation.
- Pralay is an Indian tactical ballistic missile with a range of 150–500 km designed for precision strikes, while Iran's Zolfaghar missile has a range of about 700 km.
- Iron Dome is a short-range air defence system, THAAD is designed for high-altitude missile interception, and Bavar-373 is a long-range surface-to-air missile system.
- Exercise Lamitiye 2026 is a joint military exercise between India and Seychelles focusing on counter-insurgency and maritime security.
- B. P. Singh has been appointed as Director General of Naval Armament responsible for procurement and maintenance of naval weapon systems.
- Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026 is an Indian Air Force firepower demonstration showcasing combat readiness, precision strikes, and coordinated air operations near the India–Pakistan border.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Cushing's syndrome is a hormonal disorder caused by prolonged excess cortisol leading to metabolic abnormalities and systemic complications.
- Long-term corticosteroid use is the most common cause of Cushing's syndrome, while tumors in pituitary or adrenal glands cause endogenous cases.
- Moonshot Project by IISc Bengaluru aims to develop AI-based brain co-processors to restore neural functions using brain-computer interface technology.
- Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a clean-burning alternative fuel to LPG and diesel with low emissions and multiple production sources.
- NASA Artemis II mission (April 2026) is a crewed lunar flyby using SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft to test deep-space systems.
- Artemis II marks the first human deep-space mission since the Apollo era and prepares for future Moon landing missions.
- MXene-based material developed by IIT Guwahati enables efficient hydrogen production and desalination due to high conductivity.
- A new plant species discovered in Northeast India is named after Zubeen Garg, highlighting biodiversity and cultural recognition.
- Kolli Hills is declared Tamil Nadu's first Dark Sky Park to promote astro-tourism and reduce light pollution.

SPORTS:

- Gurjant Singh retired from international hockey after a decade-long career including Tokyo 2020 Olympic bronze.
- International Olympic Committee introduced SRY gene testing for transgender eligibility in Olympics 2028 female category.
- India won 2 bronze medals in Asia Cup Archery Stage 1 showing consistency in global archery performance.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- India hosted its first indoor athletics championships at Kalinga Stadium to boost year-round training infrastructure.
- Sahibzada Farhan won ICC Men's Player of the Month for February 2026 for outstanding batting performance.
- Anahat Singh won India Open 2026 squash title defeating Hana Moataz with a 3–1 scoreline.
- Arundhati Reddy won ICC Women's Player of the Month February 2026 for all-round performance.
- Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 aims to promote sports participation among tribal youth and identify talent.
- India will host World Indoor Athletics Championships 2028 for the first time boosting global sporting status.
- Chandrika Pujari won gold at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 highlighting India's rising women's boxing talent.
- India won 208 medals at World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2026 showing dominance in para-athletics.
- Andrea Kimi Antonelli won Chinese Grand Prix becoming one of the youngest Formula 1 race winners.
- Shailesh Kumar won gold at Para Athletics Grand Prix contributing to India's medal tally.

AWARDS:

- Sheetal Devi won World Archery Para Archer of the Year becoming the first armless female elite archer.
- Ramnath Goenka Awards recognise excellence in journalism across multiple categories in India.
- Nandamuri Balakrishna received Lifetime Achievement Award at IFFD 2026 for contribution to Telugu cinema.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- William Dalrymple's "The Golden Road" gained global recognition for highlighting Asia's historical influence.
- Sahitya Akademi Award is given annually for outstanding literary works in 24 Indian languages.
- Animated film "Chyimi" won Best Director at NYSAF 2026 boosting India's animation recognition globally.
- Oscars 2026 Best Picture was awarded to "One Battle After Another."
- Jessie Buckley won Best Actress at Oscars 2026 for "Hamnet."
- Michael B. Jordan won Best Actor at Oscars 2026 for "Sinners."
- Jnanpith Award 2025 was awarded to Vairamuthu for contribution to Tamil literature.
- BCCI Naman Awards 2026 Best Male Cricketer was Shubman Gill and Best Female Cricketer was Smriti Mandhana.
- India won T20 World Cup 2026 securing its third title.
- Sanju Samson was Player of the Tournament in T20 World Cup 2026 scoring 321 runs.
- Sahibzada Farhan was top run scorer with 383 runs in T20 World Cup 2026.
- Varun Chakravarthy and Jasprit Bumrah were joint highest wicket-takers with 14 wickets each.
- Amol Palekar received META Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 for contribution to theatre.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Gitichak nakana is a newly discovered groundwater-dwelling (phreatobitic) fish found in Assam; it belongs to family Cobitidae (loaches) and shows troglomorphic adaptations such as absence of eyes, depigmented translucent body and extreme miniaturization, typical of organisms living in subterranean aquifer ecosystems, which are nutrient-poor and oxygen-limited environments; fewer than 10% of subterranean fishes globally inhabit aquifers, most being cave-dwellers, making such discoveries rare.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Aquifer ecosystems are underground water-bearing geological formations that store and transmit groundwater; organisms living here are called stygofauna, adapted to darkness and low energy conditions, and are indicators of groundwater health and contamination.
- Troglomorphism refers to evolutionary adaptations in cave or subterranean organisms such as loss of eyesight, reduced pigmentation, enhanced sensory organs, and is seen in species like cave fish and blind salamanders.
- AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) is the advanced stage of infection caused by Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), which attacks CD4+ T lymphocytes, weakening the immune system and making individuals vulnerable to opportunistic infections; untreated HIV progresses to AIDS over time.
- HIV transmission occurs through unprotected sexual contact, blood transfusion, contaminated needles, and mother-to-child transmission, but not through casual contact, making awareness critical for prevention.
- NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) is the nodal agency in India responsible for HIV/AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment programs, functioning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) is the standard treatment for HIV infection, which suppresses viral replication but does not cure the disease; early ART significantly reduces mortality and transmission.
- Yadava Dynasty was a medieval Indian dynasty ruling parts of the Deccan with capital at Devagiri (Daulatabad); they were patrons of Marathi culture and temple architecture, and were eventually defeated by Alauddin Khalji, marking expansion of the Delhi Sultanate into the Deccan.
- Hypercapnic hypoxia in mangroves refers to a condition where high carbon dioxide concentration (hypercapnia) and low oxygen levels (hypoxia) coexist in mangrove sediments due to waterlogging and microbial respiration, forcing mangroves to evolve adaptations like pneumatophores (breathing roots) and aerenchyma tissues for gaseous exchange.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Mangroves are halophytic plants found in intertidal coastal zones, capable of surviving in saline, anaerobic soils through adaptations such as salt excretion, vivipary (seed germination on parent plant), and specialized root systems.
- Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project is located in Assam on the Kopili River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra; hydroelectric projects convert potential energy of stored water into electricity, and are classified as renewable energy sources, though they can cause ecological issues like displacement and sediment disruption.
- Bascule Bridge is a type of movable bridge with a counterweight system that allows the span to be raised for passage of ships; commonly used in ports and waterways, it operates on the principle of lever and counterbalance mechanics.
- Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) is a viral disease affecting cassava crops caused by CBSV and UCBSV viruses, transmitted mainly by whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) and infected cuttings, leading to root necrosis and crop failure, posing a major threat to food security in Africa.
- Cassava is a tropical root crop rich in carbohydrates, widely grown in Africa and parts of India; it is drought-resistant but vulnerable to viral diseases like CBSD and Cassava Mosaic Disease.
- Whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) is an agricultural pest that acts as a vector for multiple plant viruses, especially in tropical regions, affecting crops like cotton, cassava, and vegetables.
- *Musa sikkimensis* is a wild banana species native to the Eastern Himalayas and Northeast India, important for genetic diversity and climate resilience in banana cultivation, though not widely used for edible fruit.
- Genetic diversity in crops is crucial for disease resistance, climate adaptability, and food security, and wild relatives of cultivated plants serve as important genetic resources.
- Strait of Hormuz is a strategic chokepoint connecting the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, through which nearly one-fifth of global oil trade passes, making it one of the most critical maritime routes for global energy security.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Chokepoints in global trade are narrow sea routes like Hormuz, Malacca, Bab-el-Mandeb, whose disruption can significantly impact global supply chains and energy prices.
- 1979 Islamic Revolution (Iran) replaced the monarchy with a theocratic republic led by a Supreme Leader, fundamentally altering West Asian geopolitics and triggering events like the oil shock of 1980.
- Theocratic state is a system where political authority is based on religious leadership, as seen in Iran where the Supreme Leader holds ultimate authority over elected institutions.
- Oil shock refers to a sudden disruption in oil supply leading to sharp price increases, historically seen in 1973 (OPEC embargo) and 1979 (Iranian revolution).
- Global energy security depends on stable supply of fossil fuels, diversification of energy sources, and strategic reserves; India imports over 80% of its crude oil, making it highly vulnerable to disruptions in regions like West Asia.
- Phreatobitic species like Gitchak nakana highlight the importance of groundwater biodiversity, which is often neglected compared to surface ecosystems but plays a crucial role in hydrological cycles and ecological balance.
- Bab-el-Mandeb Strait is a critical maritime chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden, lying between Yemen (Arabian Peninsula) and Djibouti/Eritrea (Horn of Africa); it forms a key link between the Mediterranean Sea (via Suez Canal) and the Indian Ocean, making it vital for global oil and trade flows, and disruption here directly impacts Europe-Asia shipping routes; it is narrower and more vulnerable than the Strait of Hormuz, increasing its geopolitical sensitivity.
- Strategic chokepoints of global trade include Strait of Hormuz, Malacca Strait, Bab-el-Mandeb, Bosphorus and Suez Canal, where congestion or conflict can disrupt global supply chains and spike energy prices, forming a recurring theme in UPSC questions linking geography with geopolitics.
- Solar Radio Burst refers to intense bursts of radio waves emitted by the Sun during solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CMEs), which can interfere with satellite communication, GPS signals, aviation navigation systems, especially on the sunlit side of Earth; they are



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

classified into Types I–V, with Type II and III being most disruptive to communication systems.

- Solar flares are sudden releases of energy from the Sun's surface due to magnetic reconnection, while Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) involve massive ejection of plasma into space, both contributing to space weather, which affects satellites, power grids and radio communication on Earth.
- National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) is a quasi-judicial body established under the Companies Act, 2013 to hear appeals against orders of NCLT (National Company Law Tribunal) and also acts as an appellate authority under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016; further appeals lie directly to the Supreme Court, making it a key institution in India's corporate insolvency framework.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 provides a time-bound mechanism for resolution of stressed assets, shifting control from debtors to creditors and establishing institutions like NCLT, NCLAT and Insolvency Professionals.
- Shyamji Krishna Varma was an Indian freedom fighter and revolutionary who founded India House in London (1905), which became a hub for nationalist activities; he also started the journal The Indian Sociologist and advocated complete independence long before it became mainstream, reflecting the early phase of revolutionary nationalism.
- India House was associated with revolutionaries like Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, and played a crucial role in spreading anti-colonial ideas among Indian students abroad.
- Balirajgarh Archaeological Site located in Bihar is associated with the ancient Mithila region, showing evidence of continuous habitation from early historical period to medieval times, and is linked with King Janaka and the Ramayana tradition, making it important for cultural geography and ancient history questions.
- Archaeological sites in UPSC are often linked with literary traditions (Ramayana, Mahabharata), requiring correlation between material evidence and textual sources, a common elimination-based question area.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- IONs Maritime Exercise (IMEX) is conducted under the framework of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which is a voluntary initiative of Indian Ocean littoral states to enhance maritime cooperation, security and interoperability; it is not a treaty-based alliance but a consultative forum.
- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) was launched in 2008 and includes navies of countries bordering the Indian Ocean, aiming to address issues like maritime security, piracy, disaster response and information sharing.
- Extracellular RNA (exRNA) refers to RNA molecules present outside cells in bodily fluids, playing a role in cell-to-cell communication, gene regulation and disease diagnostics, especially in cancer and viral infections, forming part of emerging fields like liquid biopsy and molecular diagnostics.
- RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) is involved in protein synthesis and gene expression, and unlike DNA, it is usually single-stranded and more reactive, enabling regulatory functions in biological systems.
- Jungle Cat (*Felis chaus*) is a medium-sized wild cat found in South and Southeast Asia, inhabiting wetlands, grasslands and scrub forests; it is listed under Schedule II of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Least Concern in IUCN Red List, but faces threats from habitat loss and hunting.
- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 categorizes species into schedules providing varying degrees of protection, with Schedule I and II offering highest protection, frequently asked in UPSC through species-based questions.
- Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) is a modern missile system designed for close-range aerial combat, using infrared homing technology for high accuracy and quick response, highlighting advancements in air combat capabilities and India's focus on modernizing its defence systems.
- Air-to-Air Missiles are categorized into short-range (within visual range) and beyond visual range (BVR) missiles, with BVR missiles like Astra enabling engagements without direct line of sight.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is a national-level award recognizing contributions in science, technology and innovation, replacing older awards to streamline recognition of scientific achievements and promote research culture in India.
- Science awards in India often aim to promote innovation ecosystem, research funding and scientific temper, aligning with constitutional duty under Article 51A(h).
- Zojila Pass is a high mountain pass in the Himalayas connecting Srinagar (Kashmir Valley) to Leh (Ladakh), strategically important for military logistics and civilian connectivity, and part of the NH-1 corridor; it remains snowbound in winters, leading to infrastructure projects like tunnels.
- Mountain passes in Himalayas (like Zoji La, Nathu La, Shipki La) are crucial for trade, military movement and strategic connectivity, often appearing in map-based questions.
- Red-Crowned Roofed Turtle (Batagur kachuga) is a critically endangered freshwater turtle native to India and Bangladesh, found in rivers like Ganga, and is protected under Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act and listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN, making it a high-priority conservation species.
- Conservation status classifications like IUCN Red List, WPA Schedules and CITES Appendices are commonly interlinked in UPSC questions to test conceptual clarity.
- Earth Hour is a global environmental movement organized by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) where individuals and organizations switch off lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation, symbolizing collective environmental responsibility.
- WWF is an international NGO working in conservation and environmental protection, often associated with campaigns like Earth Hour and biodiversity conservation programs.
- Cassava Brown Streak Disease (CBSD) is a viral disease caused by Cassava brown streak virus (CBSV) and Ugandan cassava brown streak virus (UCBSV), transmitted by whitefly vectors and infected planting material, leading to chlorosis, stem lesions and root necrosis, severely affecting food security in cassava-dependent regions.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Plant viral diseases are typically transmitted through vectors (insects), seeds or vegetative propagation, and are difficult to control once established, making prevention and resistant varieties crucial.
- Whitefly (*Bemisia tabaci*) is a major agricultural pest that transmits multiple plant viruses, particularly in tropical climates, affecting crops like cotton, cassava and vegetables.
- Cassava is a tropical tuber crop rich in carbohydrates, known for its drought resistance and ability to grow in poor soils, making it a staple in many developing countries but vulnerable to viral diseases.
- Dusky Eagle Owl (*Bubo coromandus*) is a large owl species belonging to the family Strigidae (true owls), recently sighted near Corbett Tiger Reserve after a long gap, indicating habitat stability; it inhabits dense riverine forests and old-growth trees, is crepuscular (active during twilight) and often uses abandoned nests of other birds like kites and vultures for breeding; despite being Least Concern in IUCN, its population is sensitive to deforestation and habitat fragmentation.
- Strigidae (true owls) differ from Tytonidae (barn owls) in having rounder facial discs, ear tufts (in many species), and more robust bodies, a common UPSC classification trap in environment questions.
- Bird nesting behavior (secondary nesting) where species reuse nests built by others is common among raptors and owls, reducing energy expenditure and increasing survival efficiency.
- Laccase enzyme is a multicopper oxidase enzyme found in fungi, bacteria and plants, capable of oxidizing phenolic and non-phenolic compounds, making it highly useful in bioremediation, lignin degradation, wastewater treatment and textile dye removal; it functions using molecular oxygen as an electron acceptor, producing water as by-product, thus considered environmentally friendly.
- Bioremediation involves use of microorganisms or enzymes to degrade pollutants, and is classified into in-situ (on-site) and ex-situ (off-site) methods, a recurring static concept linked to environmental technology.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Enzymatic oxidation using enzymes like laccase is preferred over chemical methods due to lower energy requirement, reduced toxic by-products and higher specificity.
- Gaganyaan Mission is India's first human spaceflight programme by Indian Space Research Organisation, aiming to send astronauts (Vyomanauts) into Low Earth Orbit (LEO ~400 km); it involves technologies like crew escape system, human-rated launch vehicle (LVM3), orbital module and life support systems, marking India's entry into the elite group of nations with human spaceflight capability.
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) ranges roughly between 160–2000 km altitude, where satellites experience low communication delay and are used for Earth observation, ISS and human missions, but also face risks like atmospheric drag and space debris.
- Crew Escape System is a critical safety feature designed to quickly pull astronauts away from the launch vehicle in case of failure, a standard feature in all human-rated missions.
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is a global initiative led by India to conserve seven major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma) through cooperation in habitat protection, knowledge sharing and anti-poaching strategies, reflecting India's leadership in global wildlife conservation.
- Big cats as umbrella species help conserve entire ecosystems because protecting their habitat ensures survival of multiple associated species, a concept frequently tested in ecology-based questions.
- Mains Electricity Act Amendment context revolves around reforms in India's power sector aiming at competition, renewable integration and financial sustainability of DISCOMs, with provisions related to open access, tariff rationalization and reducing cross-subsidies.
- DISCOMs (Distribution Companies) are responsible for last-mile electricity supply but suffer from high losses, subsidy burden and inefficiencies, making them a key bottleneck in India's energy sector.
- Open Access in electricity allows consumers to purchase power directly from producers instead of DISCOMs, promoting competition but challenging existing distribution structures. Coal Gasification is the process of converting coal into syngas (mixture of carbon monoxide,



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

hydrogen and CO₂) through controlled reaction with oxygen and steam, enabling production of clean fuels, chemicals and fertilizers, and is promoted in India to reduce dependence on imported natural gas.

- Syngas applications include production of methanol, ammonia, synthetic fuels and hydrogen, making it important for energy transition strategies.
- Gasification vs Combustion: gasification produces usable fuel gas with lower emissions compared to direct burning of coal, a common conceptual trap.
- Anji Khad Bridge in Jammu & Kashmir is India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, part of the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project; cable-stayed bridges use direct cables connected from tower to deck, unlike suspension bridges, making them suitable for deep gorges and high wind zones.
- Cable-stayed vs Suspension bridges: in cable-stayed bridges, cables are directly attached to pylons, whereas suspension bridges use main cables and suspenders, a frequent engineering-based elimination question.
- Dark Patterns in digital platforms refer to deceptive user interface designs that manipulate users into actions like unintended subscriptions, data sharing or purchases, raising concerns about consumer protection and data privacy.
- Dark patterns categories include bait-and-switch, forced continuity, hidden costs and confirm shaming, and are increasingly being regulated under consumer protection frameworks.
- Consumer Protection Act, 2019 empowers authorities like Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) to act against unfair trade practices, including misleading digital interfaces.
- Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) is a joint industry body established in 2010 by stakeholders including broadcasters, advertisers and advertising agencies, functioning as India's sole television audience measurement authority, headquartered in Mumbai; it provides data through a transparent system using BAR-O-meters installed in sample households to track viewership behaviour, forming the basis for Television Rating Points (TRPs) which influence advertising revenue and content strategy.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Television Rating Point (TRP) is a metric representing percentage of target audience viewing a program, calculated over a defined period (usually weekly), and is critical for advertisement pricing and media planning, but is prone to manipulation, leading to regulatory interventions; higher TRP does not necessarily indicate content quality but only viewership volume, a conceptual trap in media-related questions.
- Audience measurement systems globally include bodies like Nielsen (USA), and are based on sample surveys, statistical modelling and device-based tracking, making them probabilistic rather than absolute measurements.
- Green Hydrogen Certification Framework (GHCF) is aimed at standardizing and certifying hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources, ensuring that hydrogen qualifies as "green" only if produced via processes like electrolysis using solar/wind energy, with minimal carbon emissions; this is critical for India's National Green Hydrogen Mission, which targets becoming a global hub for hydrogen production and export.
- Green Hydrogen is produced by splitting water using renewable electricity, unlike Grey Hydrogen (from fossil fuels) and Blue Hydrogen (with carbon capture), making classification-based questions highly probable.
- Electrolysis process involves decomposition of water into hydrogen and oxygen using electric current, and its efficiency depends on energy source and electrolyser technology.
- Electrolyser is a device used to produce hydrogen through electrolysis, commonly using technologies like Alkaline Electrolysers, PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane) and Solid Oxide Electrolysers, with PEM being more efficient but costlier, a likely comparison-based trap.
- Miyawaki Method of Afforestation is a technique developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki, involving dense plantation of native species in small areas, leading to rapid forest growth (up to 10 times faster) and higher biodiversity; however, it is debated in Indian ecological contexts due to high water requirement and suitability issues for dry regions.
- Afforestation vs Reforestation: afforestation refers to planting trees on previously non-forested land, while reforestation is restoration of degraded forests, a standard conceptual distinction.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) occurs when a glacial lake breaches due to melting ice, moraine failure or external triggers like earthquakes, releasing large volumes of water downstream, causing catastrophic flooding; climate change accelerates glacier melting, increasing GLOF risk in Himalayan region.
- Moraine-dammed lakes are particularly vulnerable because they are formed by loose debris deposits, making them structurally weak compared to bedrock-dammed lakes.
- National Commission for Women (NCW) is a statutory body established in 1992 under the NCW Act, 1990, tasked with reviewing constitutional safeguards for women, addressing grievances and advising government on policy matters; it has recommendatory powers, not judicial authority, making it weaker compared to constitutional bodies.
- Statutory vs Constitutional bodies: statutory bodies derive power from acts of Parliament, while constitutional bodies are established directly under the Constitution (e.g., Election Commission), a frequent elimination trap.
- Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 mandates maintenance of religious character of places of worship as on 15 August 1947, prohibiting conversion of religious identity, except for Ayodhya dispute, which was exempted; it aims to preserve communal harmony and prevent historical disputes from resurfacing.
- Retrospective protection of status quo is a key legal principle under this Act, preventing litigation over historical religious claims.
- India–Japan relations are part of broader frameworks like QUAD (India, US, Japan, Australia) aimed at ensuring free and open Indo-Pacific, frequently linked in international relations questions.
- QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) is an informal strategic grouping of India, USA, Japan and Australia, not a formal military alliance, focusing on maritime security, supply chains and regional stability, making its non-treaty nature a common trap.
- Sea Surface Temperature (SST) refers to temperature of ocean's surface layer and plays a crucial role in weather systems, monsoons and cyclone formation, with higher SSTs contributing to intensification of tropical cyclones.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- El Niño and La Niña phenomena are driven by SST variations in the Pacific Ocean, affecting global climate patterns including Indian monsoon.
- Solomon Islands is an archipelagic country located in the south-western Pacific Ocean, consisting of two parallel chains of volcanic islands and coral atolls, situated southeast of Papua New Guinea and northwest of Vanuatu; it was a British protectorate before gaining independence in 1978, with capital at Honiara (on Guadalcanal island); the region lies along the Pacific Ring of Fire, making it highly prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity due to active tectonic plate boundaries.
- Pacific Ring of Fire is a horseshoe-shaped zone around the Pacific Ocean characterized by frequent earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and subduction zones, where tectonic plates converge, making island nations like Solomon Islands geologically unstable.
- Raisin Fort is located on a sandstone hill in Madhya Pradesh near Bhopal, built in the 11th century, and has witnessed rule of Rajput chiefs, Sultans of Mandu and Mughals under Akbar, where it served as a Sarkar headquarters in Ujjain Subah; the fort is protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is responsible for conservation of monuments of national importance under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.
- Subah and Sarkar were administrative divisions under the Mughal Empire, where Subah = province, governed by a Subedar, and Sarkar = district-level unit, forming part of the imperial administrative hierarchy.
- E-commerce Moratorium under the World Trade Organization (WTO) refers to the temporary ban on imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions, first agreed in 1998, and periodically extended; it benefits developing countries by enabling digital trade growth, but also raises concerns about loss of tariff revenue and regulatory challenges.
- WTO (World Trade Organization) is an international body established in 1995 to regulate global trade, replacing GATT (1947), and functions on principles like Most Favoured Nation (MFN) and National Treatment.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- G7 (Group of Seven) is an informal grouping of advanced economies including USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan, with the European Union as a non-enumerated participant; it focuses on global economic governance, climate change and geopolitical coordination, but excludes emerging economies like India and China.
- Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council (BRIC) is proposed as an umbrella body to integrate existing institutions like DBT-supported research organizations, aiming to streamline biotechnology research, innovation and commercialization in India.
- Department of Biotechnology (DBT) was established in 1986 under Ministry of Science & Technology to promote modern biology and biotechnology applications in India.
- Shigellosis is an infectious disease caused by Shigella bacteria, transmitted through contaminated food and water (fecal-oral route), leading to diarrhea, dysentery and abdominal cramps; it is highly contagious and common in areas with poor sanitation, and antibiotic resistance is an emerging concern.
- Bacterial diseases differ from viral diseases in that they can be treated with antibiotics, though resistance reduces effectiveness.
- Nyctibatrachus kali is a species of dancing frog endemic to the Western Ghats, part of genus Nyctibatrachus, known for unique foot-flagging behavior during mating, where males wave their legs to attract females in noisy stream environments.
- Endemism refers to species restricted to a specific geographic region, and the Western Ghats is a global biodiversity hotspot with high levels of endemism.
- Satpura Tiger Reserve located in Madhya Pradesh is part of the Satpura-Maikal landscape, featuring diverse ecosystems including sal forests, teak forests and grasslands, and is important for conservation of tigers, leopards and other fauna, functioning under Project Tiger launched in 1973.
- Project Tiger is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at conserving Bengal tiger populations and their habitats, with tiger reserves designated under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- Indonesia is the world's largest archipelagic country, located between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, comprising over 17,000 islands, and lies along the Ring of Fire, making it



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

volcanically active; it is also strategically located near Strait of Malacca, one of the busiest maritime trade routes globally.

- Strait of Malacca connects the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea, lying between Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore, and is one of the most critical chokepoints for global trade and energy transport.
- Raisen Fort incident context also highlights the role of ASI (Archaeological Survey of India), which operates under the Ministry of Culture and is responsible for archaeological research and conservation of heritage sites, often appearing in questions linking institutions with their functions.
- Digital trade and e-commerce regulations are emerging areas of global governance, where issues include data localization, taxation of digital goods and cross-border data flow, increasingly shaping trade negotiations.
- Anavaran Portal is a digital platform launched to provide transparent and accessible information on government initiatives, aimed at improving accountability, governance transparency and citizen participation, reflecting broader trends in e-governance and digital public infrastructure (DPI); DPI refers to foundational digital systems like Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker, which enable scalable and inclusive service delivery across sectors.
- Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) consists of interoperable digital systems that provide identity (Aadhaar), payments (UPI), and data exchange layers, forming the backbone of India's digital governance model.
- Bascule Bridge is a type of movable bridge that operates using a counterweight mechanism, allowing the span (called "leaf") to be raised for passage of ships; the counterweight balances the load, reducing energy required for lifting, and works on principles of lever and mechanical advantage, often using pulley and cable systems; it is also referred to as a drawbridge or lifting bridge, and can have single or double leaves, with double-leaf designs meeting in the middle.
- Mechanical advantage in such systems refers to amplification of force achieved using levers and pulleys, reducing effort required to lift heavy structures.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Devon Island is located in the Canadian Arctic Archipelago (High Arctic region) and is the world's largest uninhabited island, characterized by polar desert conditions, extremely low precipitation, short growing season (40–55 days) and temperatures dropping below -50°C in winters; it contains the Haughton Crater, formed by meteorite impact, and is used by space agencies like NASA for Mars simulation studies due to its barren, Mars-like terrain.
- Polar deserts are cold deserts with low precipitation, found in Arctic and Antarctic regions, where limited vegetation exists due to extreme temperatures and short growing seasons.
- National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) is a centrally sponsored health programme aimed at elimination of leprosy (Hansen's disease), focusing on early detection, multidrug therapy (MDT) and reducing stigma, as leprosy is caused by *Mycobacterium leprae*, affecting skin and peripheral nerves.
- Leprosy transmission occurs through prolonged close contact, primarily via respiratory droplets, and is curable with MDT, though untreated cases can lead to disability and deformities.
- Uniform Civil Code (UCC) refers to a common set of laws governing personal matters like marriage, divorce, inheritance and adoption, applicable to all citizens irrespective of religion; it is mentioned under Article 44 (Directive Principles of State Policy), which is non-justiciable but aims at legal uniformity and gender justice.
- Directive Principles (Part IV) are guidelines to the State for policy-making and are not enforceable in courts, unlike Fundamental Rights (Part III).
- Diversification of India's energy basket involves sourcing crude oil and energy resources from multiple countries (India imports from around 40 countries) to reduce dependency on any single region, enhancing energy security and supply stability, especially in context of geopolitical tensions.
- Energy security refers to availability of reliable, affordable and sustainable energy supply, influenced by factors like import dependence, diversification and strategic reserves.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) focuses on providing Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTC) in rural areas, with a shift toward sustainability, water quality monitoring and long-term service delivery, rather than only infrastructure creation.
- FHTC ensures assured supply of potable water at household level, reducing dependence on community water sources.
- Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955 empowers the government to regulate production, supply and distribution of essential goods; invocation for natural gas supply regulation allows government to ensure equitable distribution and price stability in critical sectors.
- Essential commodities include items critical for daily life such as foodstuffs, petroleum products and fertilizers, which can be regulated during shortages or crises.
- Beneficial Owner (BO) refers to the individual who ultimately owns or controls an asset or entity, even if it is held in another name, and is defined under frameworks like Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to ensure transparency and prevent financial crimes.
- Money laundering involves disguising illegal funds as legitimate income, typically through stages of placement, layering and integration.
- Savitribai Phule was a pioneering social reformer and India's first female teacher, associated with women's education, anti-caste movements and social reform in 19th century Maharashtra, working alongside Jyotirao Phule, and played a key role in establishing schools for girls and marginalized communities.
- Asteroid 2024 YR4 is a near-Earth object (NEO) belonging to the group of asteroids whose orbits bring them close to Earth's orbit, monitored by agencies like NASA and ESA for planetary defense purposes; asteroids are primarily found in the Asteroid Belt between Mars and Jupiter, but NEOs deviate due to gravitational perturbations; potential threat assessment is done using scales like Torino Scale, which classifies impact risk based on probability and kinetic energy.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Near-Earth Objects (NEOs) include both asteroids and comets that come within 1.3 astronomical units (AU) of the Sun, and those crossing Earth's orbit are called Potentially Hazardous Objects (PHOs) based on size and proximity.
- Fiscal Health Index (FHI) is an assessment framework developed by NITI Aayog to evaluate fiscal performance of states based on parameters like debt sustainability, revenue mobilization, expenditure quality and fiscal discipline, helping in comparative analysis and policy formulation across states.
- Fiscal deficit represents excess of total expenditure over total receipts (excluding borrowings), and persistent high deficits lead to debt accumulation and macroeconomic instability.
- Gross Domestic Product (GDP) base year revision involves updating the base year (now 2022–23) to reflect structural changes in the economy, incorporate new data sources and improve estimation accuracy; revisions may change sectoral contributions and overall GDP size, sometimes even reducing estimated GDP due to methodological corrections.
- GDP measures total value of final goods and services produced within a country, and is calculated using production, income and expenditure methods, which ideally yield the same value.
- Critical Minerals are essential raw materials required for modern technologies, renewable energy systems and strategic industries, including elements like lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements, with supply concentrated in a few countries, leading to concerns over resource security and geopolitical dependence.
- Rare Earth Elements (REEs) consist of 17 elements (15 lanthanides + scandium + yttrium) used in electronics, magnets and defence systems.
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is a policy tool (notably by the EU) that imposes carbon tariffs on imports based on their carbon footprint to prevent carbon leakage, where industries shift production to countries with weaker climate regulations.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Carbon leakage occurs when stricter environmental policies in one country lead to relocation of industries to countries with lax standards, undermining global emission reduction efforts.
- Blue Carbon refers to carbon stored in coastal and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses and salt marshes, which have high carbon sequestration potential and play a role in climate mitigation and coastal protection.
- Mangroves act as carbon sinks, storm barriers and nurseries for marine biodiversity, making them ecologically and economically significant.
- Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are non-native species that spread rapidly and cause ecological, economic or health damage, often outcompeting native species and disrupting ecosystems.
- Biological invasion is considered one of the major drivers of biodiversity loss globally, alongside habitat destruction and climate change.
- Ethanol Blending Programme (EBP) aims to blend ethanol with petrol (target E20) to reduce fossil fuel dependence and emissions, with ethanol produced from sugarcane, maize and other biomass sources.
- Biofuels are renewable fuels derived from biological materials and are classified into first-generation (food crops), second-generation (agricultural waste) and third-generation (algae-based fuels).
- Green GDP is an alternative measure of economic growth that accounts for environmental degradation and depletion of natural resources, unlike traditional GDP which ignores ecological costs.
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) measures poverty based on health, education and living standards, going beyond income-based poverty, and is used globally by UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI).
- BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) is a regional organization comprising 7 countries (India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand) aimed at promoting economic and technical cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Regional groupings like BIMSTEC act as alternatives to SAARC due to geopolitical constraints.
- Chicken's Neck (Siliguri Corridor) is a narrow stretch of land in West Bengal connecting mainland India with the Northeastern states, making it strategically sensitive due to proximity to Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China.
- Teesta River originates from Tso Lhamo Lake in Sikkim and flows through West Bengal into Bangladesh, where it joins the Brahmaputra (Jamuna), and is a subject of water-sharing disputes between India and Bangladesh.
- Ganga–Brahmaputra Delta (Sundarbans) is the world's largest delta and mangrove forest, shared by India and Bangladesh, and is home to the Royal Bengal Tiger.
- Space debris (orbital debris) consists of defunct satellites, fragments and particles orbiting Earth, posing risks to active satellites and space missions.
- Kessler Syndrome is a theoretical scenario where collision between objects in orbit creates a cascade, increasing debris exponentially and making space unusable.
- Low Earth Orbit (LEO) ranges from ~200 km to 2000 km, widely used for communication, Earth observation and human missions, but is most congested region for satellites and debris.
- Deendayal Port (formerly Kandla Port) is located in the Gulf of Kachchh, Gujarat, and is one of India's major ports under the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021, functioning as a key hub for petroleum, chemicals and bulk cargo handling; it operates on a tidal port system, where water levels fluctuate significantly with tides, unlike natural deep-water ports, affecting berthing schedules and navigation.
- Major ports in India are administered by the Central Government, whereas minor ports fall under State Governments, creating a dual administrative structure in maritime governance.
- Nevado Ojos del Salado is the highest active volcano in the world (~6,893 m) located in the Andes Mountains on the Argentina–Chile border, part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, though volcanic activity here is relatively low compared to other subduction zones.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Volcano classification includes active, dormant and extinct, based on eruption history and geological activity, and most active volcanoes are found along tectonic plate boundaries, especially convergent margins.
- Van Allen Radiation Belts are zones of charged particles trapped by Earth's magnetic field, discovered by Explorer 1 mission, and consist of inner (protons) and outer (electrons) belts, protecting Earth from solar and cosmic radiation but posing hazards to satellites and astronauts.
- Magnetosphere is the region around Earth dominated by its magnetic field, deflecting solar wind and preventing atmospheric erosion.
- Cobalt is a critical mineral used in lithium-ion batteries, superalloys and electronics, with major global reserves concentrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo, creating supply chain vulnerabilities and geopolitical dependence.
- Critical minerals are essential for clean energy transition, including lithium, cobalt, nickel and rare earth elements, with limited substitutes and uneven global distribution.
- Spotted Hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*) is a carnivorous mammal found in Africa, known for powerful jaws and scavenging behavior, often misunderstood as purely scavengers though they are efficient hunters; it exhibits matriarchal social structure, unlike most mammalian societies.
- Beas River originates from Beas Kund near Rohtang Pass (Himachal Pradesh) and flows into the Sutlej River, forming part of the Indus river system, and is covered under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960) as an eastern river allocated to India.
- Indus Waters Treaty divides rivers into Western (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab → Pakistan) and Eastern (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej → India), brokered by the World Bank.
- Chelonus (*Carinichelonus*) mahadeb is a newly identified parasitoid wasp species, belonging to family Braconidae, known for laying eggs inside host insects, eventually killing them, and plays a role in biological pest control.
- Parasitoids differ from parasites in that they ultimately kill their host, making them useful in controlling agricultural pests.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Ningbo-Zhoushan Port (China) is one of the world's busiest ports by cargo tonnage, located in the East China Sea, serving as a major hub for global maritime trade and reflecting China's dominance in shipping logistics.
- Tephra refers to fragmented material (ash, lapilli, volcanic bombs) ejected during volcanic eruptions, which can travel long distances and impact climate, aviation and agriculture.
- Kamakhya Temple located in Guwahati, Assam, is one of the Shakti Peethas, associated with Goddess Kamakhya (fertility cult), and is known for the Ambubachi Mela, symbolizing the annual menstruation of the goddess.
- Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is one of the largest wildlife sanctuaries in India, considered for cheetah reintroduction projects, featuring dry deciduous forests and grasslands.
- Jhelum River originates from Verinag spring in Jammu & Kashmir, flows through Wular Lake and into Pakistan, joining the Chenab River, and is part of the Indus river system.
- Mozambique is a country in southeastern Africa along the Indian Ocean, prone to cyclones and flooding, and rich in natural gas reserves, making it geopolitically significant for energy investments.
- Lower Kopili Hydroelectric Project is located in Assam on the Kopili River (tributary of Brahmaputra) and is part of India's push for hydropower generation, though issues like acidic water due to coal mining in upstream Meghalaya affect turbine efficiency and infrastructure.
- Hydropower converts potential energy of water into electricity and is considered renewable, though associated with ecological disruption and displacement.
- Coal Plant Inflexibility refers to the inability of coal-based thermal plants to quickly adjust output, creating challenges for integration of renewable energy sources like solar and wind, which are variable in nature.
- Base load vs peak load: coal plants traditionally provide base load, while renewables require flexible backup systems due to intermittency.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Security Dilemma is a concept in international relations where actions taken by a state to increase its security (like military buildup) lead to insecurity in other states, triggering an arms race despite no aggressive intent.
- National Green Hydrogen Mission aims to position India as a global hub for production, utilization and export of green hydrogen, targeting reduction in fossil fuel imports and decarbonization of sectors like fertilizers, refineries and heavy industry; green hydrogen is produced through electrolysis using renewable energy, unlike grey hydrogen derived from fossil fuels and blue hydrogen involving carbon capture.
- Electrolyser technologies include Alkaline, Proton Exchange Membrane (PEM) and Solid Oxide Electrolysers, differing in efficiency, cost and operating conditions, with PEM offering higher efficiency but requiring expensive materials.
- Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental body established in 1989 to combat money laundering and terrorist financing, issuing recommendations and grey/black lists to monitor compliance of countries; inclusion in the grey list increases scrutiny and affects capital flows, while blacklisting leads to severe economic isolation.
- Money laundering process involves placement (introducing illegal money), layering (complex transactions to hide origin) and integration (reintroducing as legitimate funds).
- Gene Editing Technology (CRISPR-Cas9) allows precise modification of DNA sequences by using guide RNA and Cas enzymes, enabling applications in medicine, agriculture and genetic research, but raises ethical concerns related to germline editing and unintended mutations.
- Genome editing vs genetic modification: genome editing makes targeted changes without necessarily introducing foreign DNA, whereas traditional GM techniques often insert external genes.
- Biofertilizers are substances containing living microorganisms that enhance soil fertility by increasing availability of nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, including organisms such as Rhizobium, Azotobacter and cyanobacteria, reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Nitrogen fixation is the conversion of atmospheric nitrogen (N_2) into usable forms like ammonia, primarily carried out by symbiotic bacteria in legume root nodules.
- Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) is a regional economic bloc comprising Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan, aimed at ensuring free movement of goods, services, capital and labour, functioning somewhat similar to a customs union.
- Sea Ice vs Glacial Ice: sea ice forms by freezing of ocean water and floats on the sea, while glacial ice originates from compacted snowfall on land, contributing to sea-level rise when it melts.
- Polar Amplification refers to the phenomenon where temperature increase is greater in polar regions compared to the global average, primarily due to feedback mechanisms like ice-albedo effect, where melting ice reduces reflectivity and accelerates warming.
- Blue Economy focuses on sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, livelihoods and ecosystem health, including sectors like fisheries, marine transport, renewable energy and tourism.
- Bioeconomy refers to economic activities derived from biological resources, biotechnology and renewable biological processes, integrating sectors like agriculture, health and industry.
- India's Logistics Sector is supported by initiatives like PM Gati Shakti (integrated infrastructure planning), National Logistics Policy (efficiency improvement) and digital platforms, aiming to reduce logistics costs and improve competitiveness.
- Logistics cost in India is estimated at around 13–14% of GDP, higher than global benchmarks, affecting export competitiveness.
- Drone Rules, 2021 regulate the use of drones in India by simplifying approvals, introducing Digital Sky Platform, and categorizing drones based on weight (Nano, Micro, Small, Medium, Large).
- Digital Sky Platform is an online system for registration, approval and tracking of drones, enabling ease of doing business and monitoring.
- IOS SAGAR (Indian Ocean Ship – Security and Growth for All in the Region) is an initiative aligned with India's SAGAR doctrine, aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, capacity



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

building and security coordination among Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries, involving deployment of Indian naval ships for training, humanitarian assistance and interoperability; SAGAR reflects India's vision of being a net security provider in the Indian Ocean, emphasizing inclusive and cooperative maritime security.

- SAGAR doctrine focuses on Security and Growth for All in the Region, integrating principles of freedom of navigation, maritime cooperation, disaster response and regional stability, without being a formal alliance structure.
- Force Majeure Clause in international trade refers to a contractual provision that allows parties to suspend or terminate obligations due to unforeseen events like wars, natural disasters or pandemics, which are beyond control; invocation of force majeure does not imply breach of contract but temporary legal exemption, and its applicability depends on precise contractual wording and jurisdictional interpretation.
- Contracts in international trade often include clauses like force majeure, arbitration and indemnity, which define risk allocation and dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Dimethyl Ether (DME) is a clean-burning fuel that can be produced from coal, natural gas or biomass, used as an alternative to LPG and diesel; it produces low particulate emissions and no sulfur oxides, making it suitable for reducing air pollution, but requires modifications in storage and transport infrastructure due to its physical properties.
- Alternative fuels like DME, hydrogen and biofuels are promoted to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and lower emissions.
- Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary located in Tamil Nadu (Western Ghats) is a biodiversity-rich region characterized by tropical evergreen forests, grasslands and river systems, forming part of the Periyar Tiger Reserve landscape, and supports species like elephants, tigers and endemic flora and fauna; the Western Ghats is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and global biodiversity hotspot.
- Biodiversity hotspots are regions with high species richness and endemism but significant habitat loss, such as Western Ghats, Himalayas and Indo-Burma region.



MARCH CURRENT AFFAIRS - ONELINERS

- Honey Bee Attacks highlight the ecological and behavioural significance of bees, which exhibit defensive swarming behaviour when threatened, and are crucial for pollination, contributing to agricultural productivity and ecosystem stability; decline in bee populations due to pesticides and habitat loss poses risks to food security.
- Pollination is the transfer of pollen from anther to stigma, essential for reproduction in flowering plants, with bees being primary pollinators.
- Sahitya Akademi Awards are literary honours given annually by the Sahitya Akademi (India's National Academy of Letters, established in 1954) recognizing outstanding works in 24 Indian languages, promoting cultural and linguistic diversity.
- West Asia Conflict and India's Energy Security highlights India's heavy dependence on imports of crude oil and LNG from Gulf countries, making supply chains vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions; India mitigates this through diversification of sources, strategic petroleum reserves and diplomatic engagement.
- Energy security involves ensuring reliable, affordable and uninterrupted supply of energy, influenced by import dependence, geopolitical risks and domestic production capacity.
- Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPR) are stockpiles of crude oil maintained by countries to cushion against supply disruptions and price volatility, and are typically stored in underground caverns.
- Maritime Security in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) is influenced by factors like chokepoints (Hormuz, Malacca, Bab-el-Mandeb), piracy, naval presence and trade routes, making naval initiatives like IOS SAGAR significant.