

March - 23

TNPSC BITS

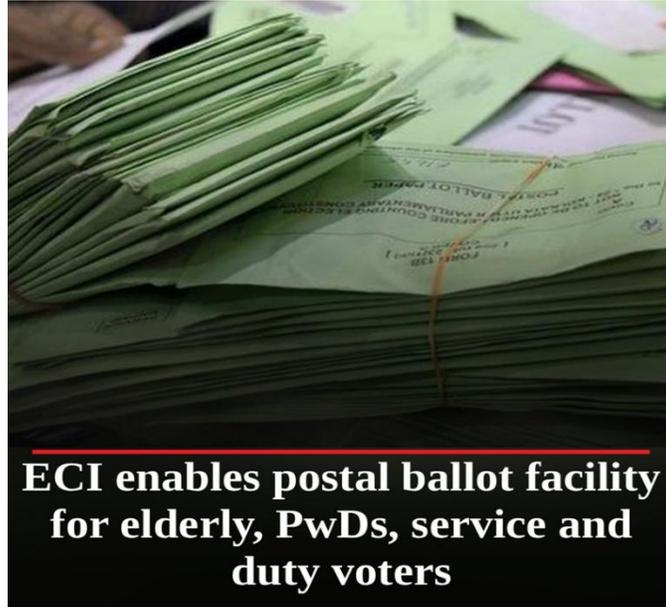
- ❖ Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited launched India's first LPG ATM at Gurugram under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- ❖ Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 was held in New Delhi focusing on renewable energy, smart grids and energy storage with the theme "Electrifying Growth, Empowering Sustainability, Connecting Globally".
- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India won the 'Initiative of the Year Award' from Central Banking for launching the .bank.in domain.
- ❖ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Amogh Jwala in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, under Southern Command to test combat readiness and mechanised warfare capabilities.
- ❖ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed every year on 21 March to promote equality and end racism.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Mobilizing Political Will: 60 Years of Commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".
- ❖ The International Day of Forests is observed every year on 21 March to highlight the importance of forests.
 - The theme for the year 2026 is "Forests and Economies".

NATIONAL NEWS

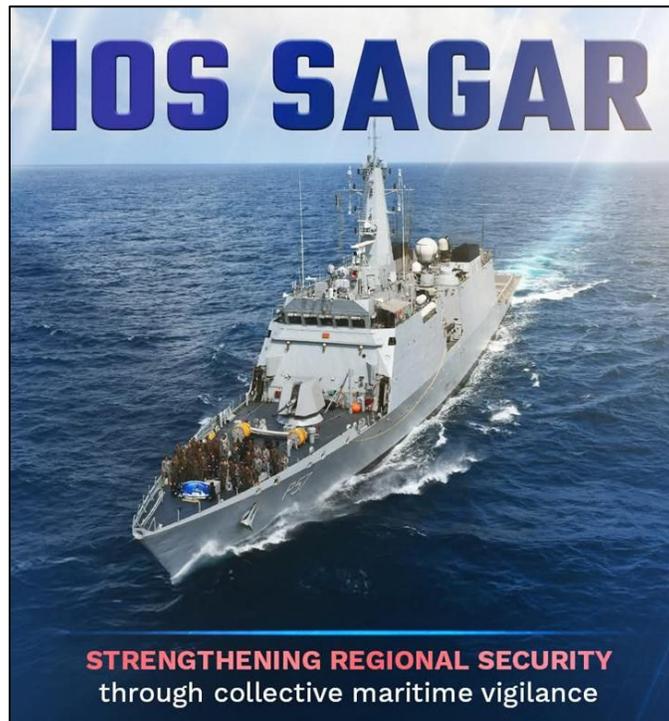
Postal Ballot Voting 2026

- ❖ The Election Commission of India has allowed postal ballot voting for senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PwDs), service voters, and essential service workers in Assembly elections.
- ❖ The facility is provided under the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to improve voter participation.
- ❖ Voters above 85 years and PwDs can cast votes through postal ballots after submitting Form 12D via Booth Level Officers.
- ❖ Service voters will receive ballots electronically through the Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System (ETPBS).

- ❖ Postal ballots must reach the Returning Officer before counting day to be considered valid.



IOS SAGAR Initiative 2026

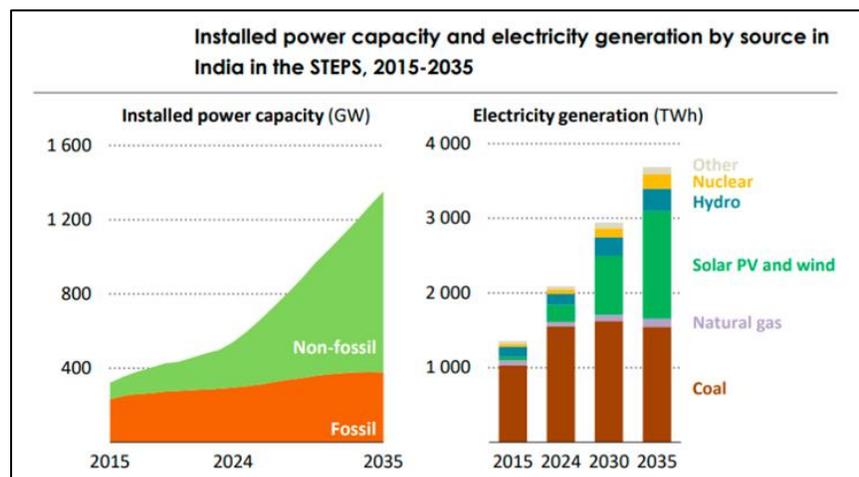


- ❖ The Indian Navy launched the second edition of the IOS SAGAR initiative to strengthen regional maritime ties.

- ❖ It aims to improve cooperation, security and stability in the Indian Ocean Region through joint naval engagement.
- ❖ SAGAR stands for “Security and Growth for All in the Region”.
- ❖ The initiative provides training to foreign naval personnel at Kochi, including seamanship, operations and maritime security practices.
- ❖ It involves participation from 16 member countries of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium to enhance coordination.
- ❖ The programme includes joint sea deployment, port visits and interaction to address common challenges like piracy, trafficking and disaster response.

India Power Capacity Projection 2035-36

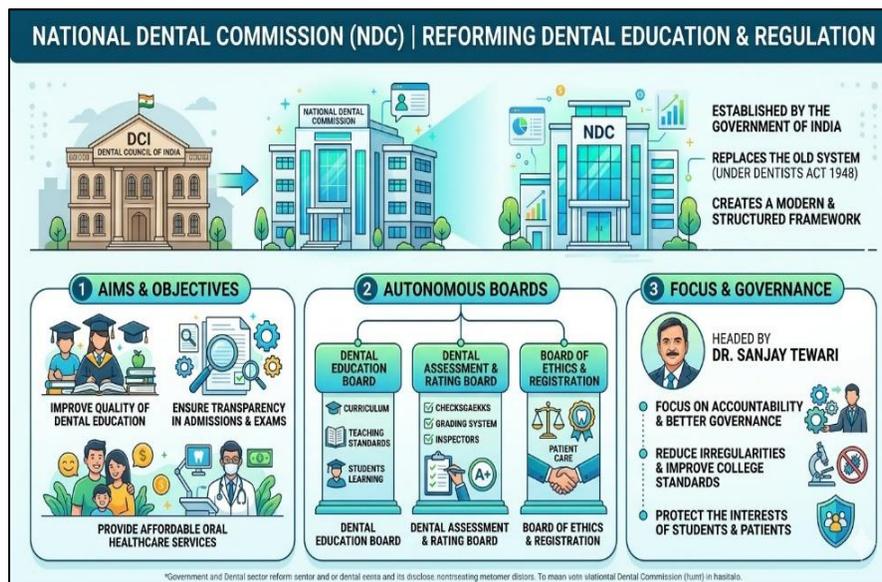
- ❖ The Central Electricity Authority released the 20th Electric Power Survey midterm review.
- ❖ India’s total installed power capacity is projected to increase to 1,121 gigawatts (GW) by 2035–36 from around 520 GW in 2026.
- ❖ Solar energy is expected to become the largest source with about 509 GW, leading the clean energy transition.
- ❖ Coal will remain a major source with around 315 GW, providing a stable baseload power supply.
- ❖ The share of non-fossil fuel energy is expected to reach nearly 70 % of total capacity by 2035–36.



National Dental Commission

- ❖ The Government of India established the National Dental Commission, replacing the Dental Council of India, to reform dental education and regulation.

- ❖ It aims to improve the quality of dental education, ensure transparency in admissions and exams, and provide affordable oral healthcare services to people.
- ❖ The commission has three autonomous boards that look after dental education, assessment of institutions, and professional ethics of dentists.
- ❖ It replaces the old system under the Dentists Act 1948, bringing a modern and structured regulatory framework.
- ❖ The commission is headed by Dr. Sanjay Tewari and focuses on accountability and better governance in the dental sector.
- ❖ It also works to reduce irregularities, improve standards in dental colleges, and protect the interests of students and patients.



ECONOMY NEWS

CGSMFI-2.0 Scheme

- ❖ The Government of India launched the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Microfinance Institutions 2.0 (CGSMFI-2.0) with a corpus of ₹20,000 crore.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide guaranteed support to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for lending to microfinance institutions.
- ❖ NBFC-MFIs provide collateral-free loans to households with annual income up to ₹3,00,000.
- ❖ The scheme is managed by the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company under the Ministry of Finance.

- ❖ It promotes financial inclusion, supports small businesses and helps in poverty reduction in India.

Govt unveils Rs 20K-crore credit guarantee scheme for MFIs



PRARAMBH 2026 Campaign



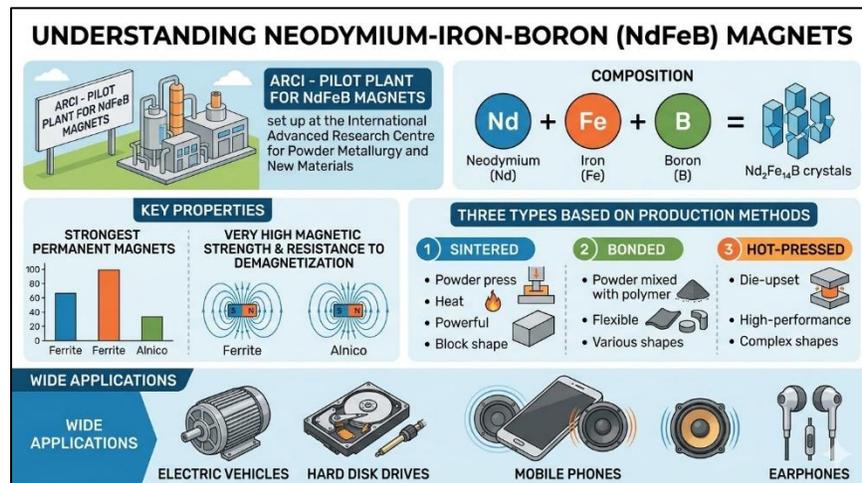
- ❖ The Government of India launched PRARAMBH 2026 to help people understand the Income Tax Act 2025, which will start from April 1, 2026.
- ❖ PRARAMBH means Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat, and it is a nationwide awareness campaign.
- ❖ It is conducted by the Ministry of Finance and the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

- ❖ The aim is to teach taxpayers about new tax rules and make tax filing easy and clear.
- ❖ It includes digital tools like Income Tax Website 2.0 and AI chatbot “Kar Saathi” to help people.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Neodymium-Iron-Boron Magnet

- ❖ A pilot plant to manufacture Neodymium-Iron-Boron (NdFeB) Magnet was set up at the International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials.
- ❖ NdFeB magnets are the strongest permanent magnets and are made from neodymium, iron, and boron.
- ❖ They have very high magnetic strength and strong resistance to losing magnetism.
- ❖ These magnets are of three types: sintered, bonded, and hot-pressed based on production methods.
- ❖ They are widely used in electronics like mobile phones, earphones, hard drives, and electric vehicles.

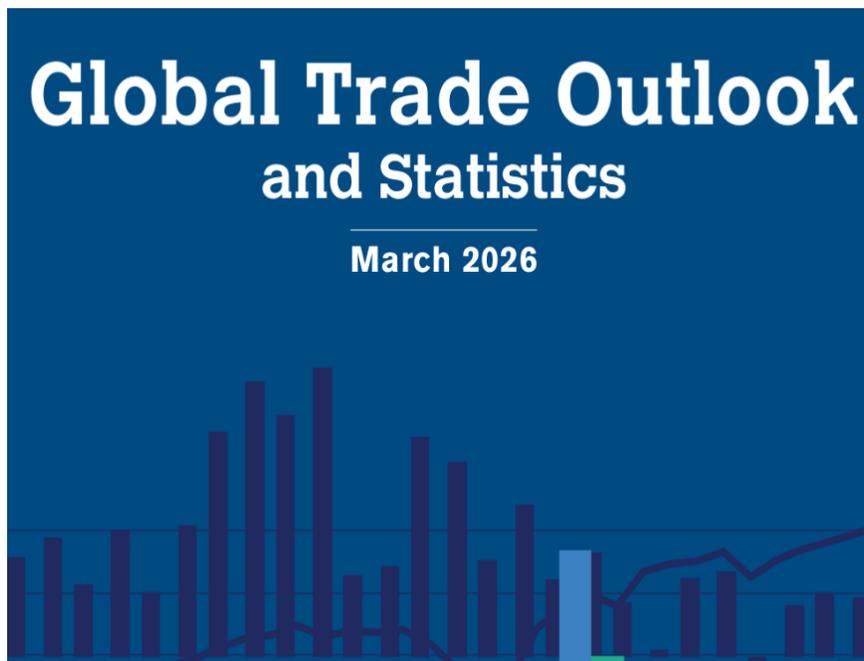


REPORTS AND INDICES

WTO Global Trade Outlook 2026

- ❖ The World Trade Organization (WTO) released the Global Trade Outlook report, highlighting a slowdown in world trade.

- ❖ It projected global merchandise trade growth to fall to 1.9% in 2026 from 4.6% in 2025.
- ❖ The ongoing conflict in West Asia and rising energy prices are identified as major reasons.
- ❖ Disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz have increased oil prices and affected global supply chains.
- ❖ High energy costs are expected to impact sectors like transport, agriculture and manufacturing.
- ❖ India may face risks due to dependence on oil and fertiliser imports from the Gulf region.



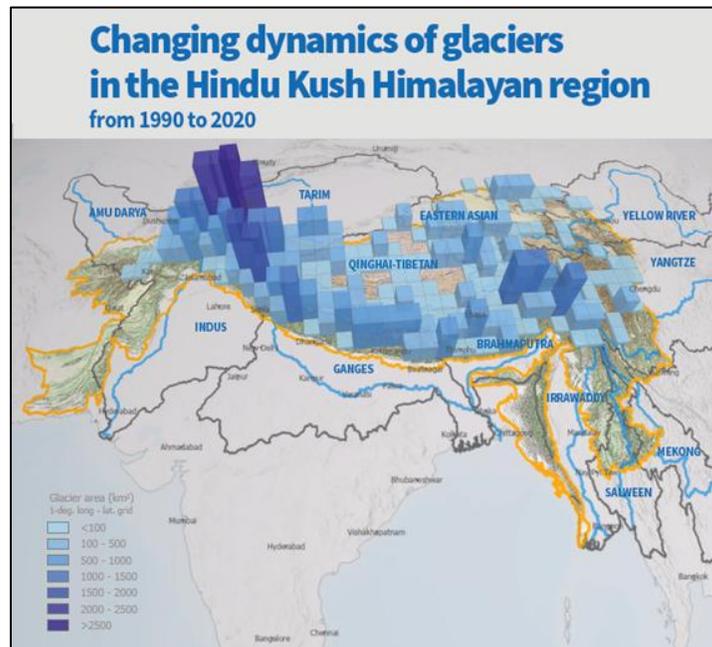
Global Terrorism Index 2026

- ❖ Global Terrorism Index 2026 was released by the Institute for Economics and Peace.
- ❖ Pakistan ranked 1st with the highest impact of terrorism, recording 1,139 deaths and 1,045 incidents in 2025.
- ❖ India ranked 13th with a score of 6.43, reporting over 142 incidents and more than 100 deaths.
- ❖ The report covers 163 countries, representing about 99.7% of the world's population.
- ❖ Globally, terrorism deaths decreased by 28% to 5,582, and incidents fell by 22% in 2025.

- ❖ The Islamic State was identified as the deadliest terrorist group worldwide.



Himalayan Glacier Loss Report 2026



- ❖ Changing Dynamics of Glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan Region from 1990 to 2020 was released by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development.

- ❖ The report shows glaciers in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region lost around 12% of their total area between 1990 and 2020.
- ❖ The ice loss rate has doubled after 2000, indicating faster glacier melting due to rising global temperatures.
- ❖ Glaciers have lost up to 27 metres of ice thickness since 1975, showing a long-term decline.
- ❖ The region is called the “Third Pole” because it stores large amounts of ice outside the Arctic and Antarctic.
- ❖ Melting glaciers affect major rivers like the Ganges River, Indus River and Brahmaputra River, impacting water supply.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Nowruz Day 2026

- ❖ The International Nowruz Day is observed every year on 21 March to celebrate the Persian New Year and the arrival of spring.
- ❖ It marks the vernal equinox, which represents the change of season from winter to spring.
- ❖ The word “Nowruz” means “new day”, symbolising renewal, hope and new beginnings in life.
- ❖ It was recognised by the United Nations in 2010 and celebrated in many regions, such as Central Asia and the Caucasus.



MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Göbekli Tepe – Oldest Known Temple Site

- ❖ Göbekli Tepe provides important new evidence about the origins of early human civilisation.

- ❖ It is located in Turkey and dates back to around 9600 BCE.
- ❖ It is considered the world's oldest known temple complex, older than the Egyptian pyramids and Stonehenge.
- ❖ The site has large T-shaped limestone pillars with detailed carvings of animals such as foxes, lions and birds.
- ❖ It was built by hunter-gatherers, showing that organised social life existed even before agriculture began.
- ❖ The site was deliberately buried around 8000 BCE, and the exact reason is still not known.



Neanderthal Factory Discovery



- ❖ A major archaeological discovery at Neumark-Nord shows that Neanderthals had organised methods of food processing.



- ❖ The site is located in Germany and dates back to around 125,000 years ago.
- ❖ Archaeologists found thousands of animal bones broken in a systematic pattern to extract marrow and fat.
- ❖ The bones were further crushed and heated to obtain grease, showing planned and repeated activity.
- ❖ This proves that Neanderthals had advanced survival skills and a proper understanding of nutrition.
- ❖ The site was used repeatedly, indicating it worked like a specialised processing area or “factory”.

