

March - 29

TNPSC BITS

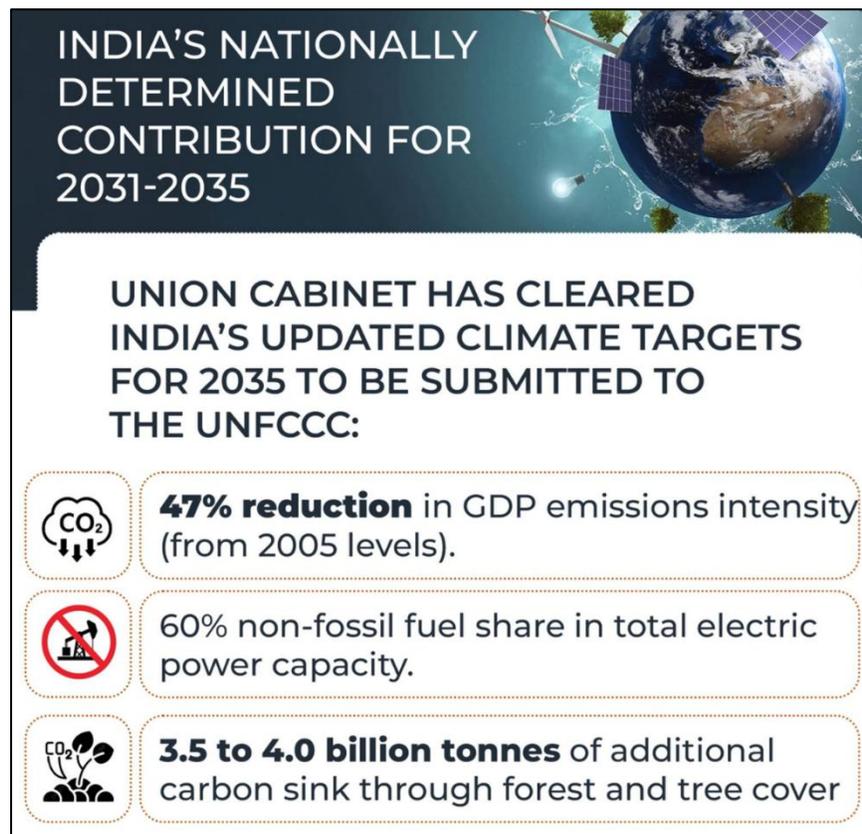
- ❖ The Zoological Survey of India discovered a new cockroach species, *Neoloboptera peninsularis*, using DNA-based taxonomy in Pune, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Indian Navy launched Operation Urja Suraksha to protect India-bound energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz amid tensions in West Asia.
- ❖ Balendra Shah was sworn in as the youngest democratically elected Prime Minister of Nepal.
- ❖ The Government of India launched the Model Context Protocol (MCP) server to link Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools with the e-Sankhyiki portal for real-time official data access.
 - MCP is an open-source standard introduced by Anthropic (2024) that connects AI models to external data sources securely, improving accuracy.
- ❖ Elon Musk announced the Terafab project, a large semiconductor facility in Austin, to boost Artificial Intelligence (AI) chip production.
- ❖ Agnikul Cosmos test-fired a first-of-its-kind 3D-printed booster engine using the Akasha300 3D printer.
- ❖ The US is set to introduce a historic change in its currency design by adding the signature of President Donald Trump on future US dollar notes for the first time.
- ❖ Kerala launched 'MLATrack.com', India's first digital platform to track the legislative performance of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).
- ❖ The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways launched the PRISM-SG (Portal for Rail-Road Inspection and Stages Management – Steel Girders) Portal in New Delhi to streamline inspection and approval processes in bridge construction.
- ❖ India marked 20 years of Earth Hour with nationwide participation by switching off the lights of major monuments and buildings on March 28, 2026, from 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM.
 - Earth Hour is an annual global event organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature to promote climate action and energy conservation.

NATIONAL NEWS

India's Climate Targets 2031–2035

- ❖ The Government of India approved new climate targets (Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)) for 2031–2035 under global climate agreements.

- ❖ India will reduce the emissions intensity of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 47% by 2035 from 2005 levels, showing a stronger climate action commitment.
- ❖ India will achieve 60% of its total electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel (like solar, wind) energy sources by 2035.
- ❖ India aims to create a carbon sink (absorption of carbon dioxide (CO₂)) of 3.5–4.0 billion tonnes through forests and tree cover.
- ❖ These targets are submitted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and align with the Paris Agreement goals.
- ❖ The targets support India's long-term goal of Net Zero emissions (no net carbon emissions) by 2070 and its sustainable development vision.



INDIA'S NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION FOR 2031-2035

UNION CABINET HAS CLEARED INDIA'S UPDATED CLIMATE TARGETS FOR 2035 TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE UNFCCC:

-  **47% reduction** in GDP emissions intensity (from 2005 levels).
-  **60% non-fossil fuel share** in total electric power capacity.
-  **3.5 to 4.0 billion tonnes** of additional carbon sink through forest and tree cover

Agricultural Production in India 2024–25

- ❖ India recorded its highest-ever agricultural production in 2024–25, with record output in foodgrains and horticulture.
- ❖ Foodgrain production reached 357.73 million tonnes (MT) and horticulture production reached 362.08 MT.
- ❖ India was ranked first globally in pulses, millets, dry onion, coconut, and spices production.

- ❖ India was ranked second globally in cereals, fruits and vegetables, and key cash crops like sugarcane, cotton, and tea.
- ❖ Agricultural exports increased to USD 51.1 billion in FY25.



Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2026



- ❖ The Government of India has notified the Electricity (Amendment) Rules, 2026, modifying provisions related to Captive Generating Plants (CGPs).
- ❖ Captive Generating Plants (CGPs) are power plants set up by industries to generate electricity mainly for their own use.
- ❖ The amendment clarifies ownership rules, including subsidiaries and holding companies, to remove legal ambiguity.

- ❖ It mandates annual verification of captive status and introduces designated nodal agencies at the State/UT level from 1 April 2026.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The American Revolution – 250th Anniversary Commemoration



- ❖ The United States (US) government has launched Task Force 250 and the “Story of America” video series to mark the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 2026.
- ❖ The American Revolution (1775–1783) was a struggle in which 13 British colonies in North America gained independence and formed the United States of America.
- ❖ Key causes included taxation without representation, Enlightenment ideas, British restrictions on westward expansion, and colonial opposition to mercantilist policies.
- ❖ Major events included the Boston Tea Party (1773), Battle of Saratoga (1777), and Treaty of Paris (1783), which formally ended the war.
- ❖ The revolution led to the creation of the first modern democratic republic and inspired global independence movements.

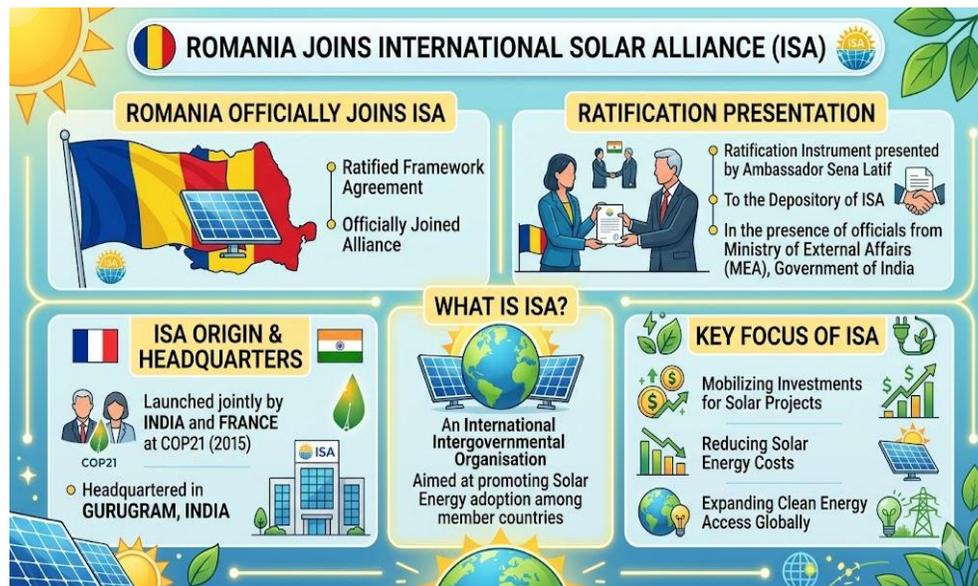
Cuba Power Crisis 2026

- ❖ Cuba experienced repeated nationwide blackouts in March 2026 due to a major collapse of its electricity grid.
- ❖ The crisis is driven by ageing power infrastructure, with many plants operating beyond their lifespan.

- ❖ Severe fuel shortages and reduced oil imports have further weakened electricity generation capacity.
- ❖ Cuba relies heavily on imported fuel, meeting only about 40% of its needs domestically.



International Solar Alliance (ISA) – Romania



- ❖ Romania has ratified the Framework Agreement of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and officially joined the alliance.
- ❖ The ratification instrument was presented by Romania’s Ambassador Sena Latif to the Depository of ISA in the presence of officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India.
- ❖ ISA is an international intergovernmental organisation aimed at promoting solar energy adoption among member countries.

- ❖ It was launched jointly by India and France at COP21 in 2015 and is headquartered in Gurugram, India.
- ❖ The alliance focuses on mobilising investments, reducing solar energy costs, and expanding clean energy access globally.

ECONOMY NEWS

SEZ Policy Reform Committee



- ❖ Government of India has constituted a 17-member committee to suggest major reforms in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ) policy.
- ❖ The committee will prepare a concept paper and roadmap for the SEZ 2.0 policy.
- ❖ It will examine the SEZ Act, 2005 and assess its effectiveness in the current global trade and investment environment.
- ❖ It will study harmonisation of export promotion schemes such as SEZs, Export Oriented Units (EOUs), MOOWR (Manufacturing and Other Operations in Warehouse), EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) scheme, Advance Authorisation, and DFIA (Duty Free Import Authorisation).
- ❖ It will include members from Commerce Ministry, NITI Aayog, DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade), and CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs).

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Global Migratory Species Protection Initiative

- ❖ The Global Initiative on the Taking of Migratory Species (GTI) was launched at COP15 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) held at Campo Grande, Brazil.

- ❖ It is a global initiative involving governments, conservation organisations, and local communities to stop illegal and unsustainable taking of migratory species.
- ❖ It aims to improve data collection, strengthen laws and policies, increase community participation, and raise awareness.



REPORTS AND INDICES

NITI Aayog Report on Natural Farming

NATURAL FARMING

Anchoring a Sustainable Way of Farming!

It offers a solution to various problems and is being practised around **16 states** covering around **10.05 lakh ha.**

Benefits:

- » Employment Generation
- » Increased Farmer's Income
- » Ensure Better Health
- » Reduce Water Consumption
- » Rejuvenate Soil Health

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled “Empowering Farmers: Natural Farming Training Toolkit & Best Practices Guide.”
- ❖ Natural farming is a chemical-free, livestock-based farming system that integrates crops, trees, and animals to enhance biodiversity.

- ❖ It relies on natural ecological processes and avoids external chemical inputs, unlike conventional farming.
- ❖ The approach reduces cultivation costs, improves farm incomes, and enhances soil organic carbon and microbial activity.
- ❖ It also conserves water and electricity and reduces greenhouse gas emissions significantly.

NHAI Green Cover Index 2025–26



- ❖ NHAI released the first National Highways Green Cover Index (NH-GCI) 2025–26 in collaboration with ISRO’s NRSC(National Remote Sensing Centre).
- ❖ The index measures the percentage of green canopy along National Highway stretches using satellite data.
- ❖ It uses high-resolution multispectral imagery from ISRO’s Resourcesat-2/2A (LISS-IV) and Cartosat-2S for validation.
- ❖ The assessment covers around 30,000 km of highways across 24 states under the operation and maintenance phase.
- ❖ Data is published on the Bhuvan GIS platform for transparency and public access.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

Lviv’s Historic Centre – UNESCO World Heritage Site Damage

- ❖ A Russian drone strike damaged a residential building within the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Lviv’s Historic Centre in Ukraine, near the Bernardine Monastery.
- ❖ Lviv’s Historic Centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site inscribed in 1998 for its outstanding architectural and cultural value.
- ❖ The city reflects a unique blend of Baroque, Renaissance, Neoclassical, and Central–Eastern European architectural styles.
- ❖ It was founded in the mid-13th century by King Daniel of Galicia.

- ❖ The site includes over 2,000 protected monuments and the iconic Rynok Square with historic townhouses.
- ❖ UNESCO sites in conflict zones are protected under the 1954 Hague Convention for Protection of Cultural Property.

