

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 16 March 2025

### National Vaccination Day 2026

- National Vaccination Day 2026 is observed in India on the 16th March every year. This year observed to promote awareness about the importance of vaccination and recognize the efforts of healthcare workers and policymakers.
- This day commemorates the launch of the **Pulse Polio Programme in 1995** when the first dose of oral polio vaccine was administered across the country.
- The history of National Vaccination Day in India is closely linked with the **Pulse Polio Programme launched in 1995**. On the 16 March 1995 the first dose of oral polio vaccine was administered nationwide as part of this campaign.
- The concept of vaccination dates back to the work of **Edward Jenner** who was the British physician who made a groundbreaking discovery in 1798.
- Mr. Jenner found that exposure to **cowpox (vaccinia)** could protect people from smallpox and it is one of the deadliest diseases in history.



## Vairamuthu Wins 2025 Jnanpith Award

- The renowned Tamil poet and lyricist Vairamuthu has been conferred with the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2025. This award is recognizing his outstanding contribution for the Tamil literature and poetry.
- The Jnanpith Award 2025 for Vairamuthu honors his decades of literary and creative contributions. He is known for his unique style and poetic depth and he has played an important role to bring Tamil poetry and literature to the wider audience.
- Since the start of this award in 1961 the Jnanpith Award has honored many of India's most writers.
- To winning the award is considered a milestone achievement in the literary world.



## José Antonio Kast Rist Takes Oath as the President of Chile

- José Antonio Kast has officially taken office as the new President of Chile, marking a major political shift in the country. His victory represents one of the strongest moves toward conservative leadership in Chile in recent decades.
- After being sworn in, José Antonio Kast addressed thousands of supporters outside the presidential palace **in La Moneda Palace in Santiago**. He said the country is facing serious problems such as organized crime, weak finances, and growing insecurity.

- Kast's government plans to introduce a tax reform bill in April. The proposal includes reducing business taxes from **27% to 23%** over four years to encourage investment and economic growth.
- Kast has taken over leadership from former president Gabriel Boric. The transition comes during a period of economic uncertainty and increasing crime concerns across the country.



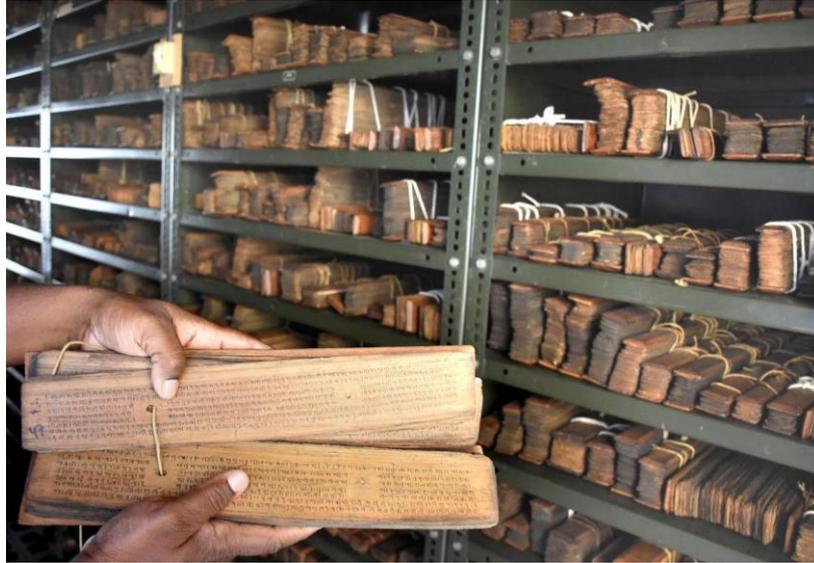
## Chandrika Pujari Wins Gold at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026

- At the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 India had finishing the tournament with five medals. Indian boxer Chandrika Pujari led the country's medal tally by winning gold in the women's 51kg category.
- The main highlight for India at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026 was the outstanding performance of Chandrika Pujari. She has claimed the gold medal in the women's 51kg boxing division after defeating Mardonova Nazokat of Uzbekistan in the final.
- **Indian Medal Winners at World Boxing Futures Cup 2026**
- Gold: Chandrika Pujari – Women's 51kg
- Silver: Gunjan – Women's 48kg
- Silver: Joyshree Devi – Women's 54kg
- Silver: Ambekar Meetei – Men's 50kg
- Bronze: Radhamani Longjam – Women's 57kg



## National Mission For Manuscripts

- Government has launched Gyan Bharatam Mission as a major initiative under the Ministry of Culture. It aims to Survey, Document, Conserve, Digitize, and make accessible Manuscripts located in academic Institutions, Museums, Libraries, and Private collections across India.
- To support the initiative, the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has sanctioned Rs.491.66 crore for the period 2025-2031.
- This Mission has been mandated to establish a nation-wide network of Cluster Centers (CCs) and Independent Centers (ICs) across the country to carry out above mentioned activities and more than 40 CCs and ICs have been onboarded so far in this direction.
- In addition, 28 States / UTs have also been onboarded so far to act as the Nodal Coordinating Authority for the mission's implementation within the State / UT concerned.
- Gyan Bharatam Mission uses a systematic, technology-driven framework to protect India's manuscript heritage.
- This framework includes scientific conservation & restoration through preventive and curative methods, high standard digitization of manuscripts, centralized access to digitized data through NDR, data security through LTO-9 tapes and cloud-based backup with disaster recovery systems.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. National Vaccination Day is observed in India every year on which date?**

- A. 10 March
- B. 12 March
- C. 16 March
- D. 20 March

**Answer: C. 16 March**

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**2. National Vaccination Day commemorates the launch of which programme in India?**

- A. Universal Immunization Programme
- B. Pulse Polio Programme
- C. Mission Indradhanush
- D. National Health Mission

**Answer: B. Pulse Polio Programme**

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**3. In which year was the Pulse Polio Programme launched in India?**

- A. 1992
- B. 1995

- C. 2000
- D. 2005

**Answer: B. 1995**

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**4. Who is known as the pioneer of vaccination after discovering the smallpox vaccine?**

- A. Louis Pasteur
- B. Robert Koch
- C. Edward Jenner
- D. Alexander Fleming

**Answer: C. Edward Jenner**

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**5. The Jnanpith Award for 2025 has been conferred on which Tamil poet and lyricist?**

- A. Gulzar
- B. Vairamuthu
- C. Javed Akhtar
- D. Vikram Seth

**Answer: B. Vairamuthu**

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**6. The Jnanpith Award was first instituted in which year?**

- A. 1955
- B. 1961
- C. 1970
- D. 1985

**Answer: B. 1961**

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**7. José Antonio Kast has taken oath as the President of which country?**

- A. Argentina
- B. Brazil
- C. Chile
- D. Peru

**Answer: C. Chile**

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**8. Chandrika Pujari won the gold medal in which category at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026?**

- A. Women's 48 kg
- B. Women's 51 kg
- C. Women's 54 kg
- D. Women's 57 kg

**Answer: B. Women's 51 kg**

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**9. How many total medals did India win at the World Boxing Futures Cup 2026?**

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

**Answer: C. 5**

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**10. The Gyan Bharatam Mission launched by the Government of India aims to preserve what?**

- A. Ancient temples
- B. Historical monuments
- C. Manuscripts and written heritage
- D. Traditional art forms

**Answer: C. Manuscripts and written heritage**