

Daily Defence Current Affairs

17 March 2025

World Social Work Day 2026

- World Social Work Day 2026 will be celebrated around the world on 17 March 2026. This day is to recognize the contributions of social workers in building stronger and more inclusive communities.
- The theme for the World Social Work Day 2026 is the **Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society,**
- The message behind the World Social Work Day 2026 highlights the crucial role of social workers in strengthening communities and promoting human dignity.
- Social work is the profession which is deeply rooted in the values of social justice, equality and community participation.



Oscars 2026

- Jessie Buckley has won the Best Actress award at the Oscars 2026. This award she won for her remarkable performance in Chloe Zhao's historical drama which named the Hamnet.

- Michael B. Jordan won the Best Actor award at the Oscars 2026. This award he win for his performance in Ryan Cooglers film 'Sinners'. This award was announced during the 98th Academy Awards ceremony in Los Angeles.
- The film '**One Battle After Another**' has won the Best Picture award at the Oscars 2026. This film win marking the biggest victory of the 98th Academy Awards. This film was produced by Adam Somner, Sara Murphy and Paul Thomas Anderson.



Sahitya Akademi Award 2025

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 are officially announced on 16th of march 2026. The award is recognizing outstanding literary works across the total 24 Indian languages. This prestigious literary honour is presented annually by Sahitya Akademi.
- It is India's National Academy of Letters and it is to celebrate excellence in literature. This year the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 includes the total 8 poetry collections, 4 novels, 6 short story collections, 2 essay books, 1 literary criticism work, 1 autobiography and 2 memoirs.
- Each recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 will receive,
 - ₹1,00,000 cash prize
 - A ceremonial shawl
 - An engraved copper plaque (casket)

- The Sahitya Akademi is the India's national academy and it is dedicated to promoting literature in multiple Indian languages.
- It was Established in 1954 and this institution works to support literary creativity, translation, publishing and cultural exchange.
- It recognizes outstanding books published in 24 languages officially recognized by the Akademi.



Arun Mammen Re elected as the ATMA Chairman

- The **Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA)** has announced that Arun Mammen has been re-elected as the ATMA Chairman. Arun Mammen is the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of MRF Ltd.
- The Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association (ATMA) was established in 1975.
- It is the apex industry body which is the representing tyre manufacturers in India.
- Since the establishment the organization has played a major role in policy advocacy, industry coordination and technological development within the tyre sector.



World Bank and India Launch \$299.66 Million Program

- The World Bank and the Government of India and the state Government of Uttar Pradesh have signed an agreement to improve air quality across the state. This initiative is known as the Uttar Pradesh Clean Air Management Program.
- It involves the investment of \$299.66 million. It will aim to address rising air pollution through integrated solutions across key sectors.
- The UP Clean Air Management Program is designed to address the air pollution through various actions across multiple sectors of the economy.
- This initiative focuses on reducing emissions from transport, agriculture and industrial activities.
- In which they are among the main contributors to air pollution in Uttar Pradesh.
- The World Bank air quality project in Uttar Pradesh is part of the broader partnership between international institutions and India to tackle environmental challenges.
- According to the World Bank this program will also attract the approximately \$150 million in private sector investment.
- Several private investments will support initiatives such as electric buses, electric three wheelers, emission monitoring systems.



Asia's Largest Tulip Garden Inaugurated By in Srinagar

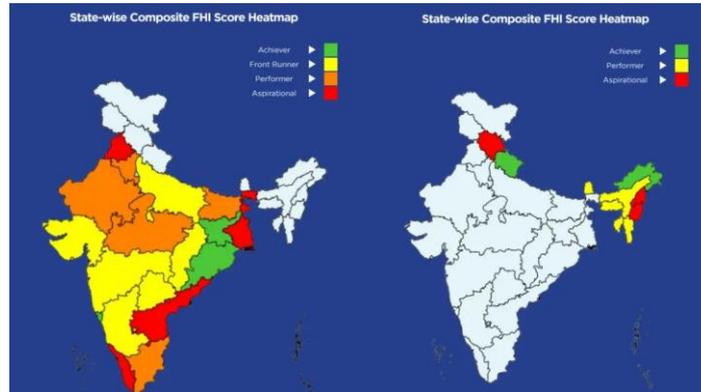
- The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar which is known as Asia's largest tulip garden. This garden was inaugurated for visitors by Jammu and Kashmir respectable Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on 16 March 2026.
- This opening marks the official beginning of the spring tourism season in Kashmir. This garden was located at the foothills of the Zabarwan Range overlooking Dal Lake.
- This inauguration of the Asia largest tulip garden Srinagar signals the start of Kashmir's much-awaited spring tourism season.
- Each year the blooming of tulips flowers transforms the valley into a colorful landscape and attracts visitors from across India and abroad.
- The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden holds the distinction of being the largest tulip garden in Asia.
- This garden has spread across 74 acres and the garden features an impressive variety of colorful tulips arranged in terraced patterns.
- This year the Srinagar tulip garden 2026 showcases more than 1.8 million tulips.



Fiscal Health Index 2026

- As per the latest Fiscal Health Index 2026 released by NITI Aayog, the state of Odisha emerging as the top performing state once again. This report evaluates the fiscal strength of states for FY 2023-24. Which is focusing on key indicators such as revenue, expenditure quality and debt sustainability.
- The Fiscal Health Index 2026 comes at a time when the states are account for nearly one third of India's total public debt and it making fiscal discipline crucial.
- State of Odisha has retained its position as the best performing state in the Fiscal Health Index 2026,.
- And it is continuing its status as an Achiever.
- The state achieved a score of 73.1 and which is significantly ahead of other states.

Rank	State	FHI Score
1	Odisha	73.1
2	Goa	54.7
3	Jharkhand	50.5
4	Gujarat	49.9
5	Maharashtra	45.0
6	Chhattisgarh	44.3
7	Telangana	44.3
8	Uttar Pradesh	41.9
9	Karnataka	41.7
10	Madhya Pradesh	37.8



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

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

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

- A. 1992
- B. 1995
- C. 2000
- D. 2005

Answer: B. 1995

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

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

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

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

Answer: B. 1961

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

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

Answer: C. Chile

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

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

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