

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 28 March 2025

### Earth Hour 2026

- Earth Hour 2026 will be observed on March 28 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. The day observed globally on the last Saturday of the month of March. As millions of people across the globe switch off the non-essential lights for one hour.
- The day is Organized by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and this movement began as a symbolic act but now it has grown into one of the largest environmental campaigns worldwide and spanning the observance over 190 countries and territories. In the 2026 it steps into the 20th year of the observance.
- The story of Earth Hour began in Sydney in Australia. At that time WWF partnered with creative agencies to raise awareness about climate change.
- The first event was held on March 31, 2007, and where thousands switched off their lights in a unified act of environmental concern.



### Ramnath Goenka Awards 2026

- The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2026 which celebrate the outstanding contributions to Indian journalism has recognized the 24 journalists across 19 categories.

- Radhakrishnan. And he highlighted the critical role of the journalism in safeguarding democracy. The award is Instituted by the Ramnath Goenka Foundation and awards honor fearless reporting across print, digital and broadcast platforms.
- The awards are named after Ramnath Goenka a iconic figure in Indian journalism. He was known for his fearless stance during challenging political times and especially during the Emergency period.

Category	Winner(s)	Organization/Publication
Print (Hindi)	Avadhesh Akodia	Dainik Bhaskar
Broadcast/Digital (Hindi)	Sarvapriya Sangwan	BBC News Hindi
Print/Digital (Regional Languages)	Muhammad Sabith & Akhil Sivanand	Mathrubhumi
Broadcast/Digital (Regional Languages)	Fousiya Musthafa News	Malayalam 24*7
Environment, Science & Technology Reporting	Jayashree Nandi & Tannu Jain	Hindustan Times
Environment, Science & Technology Reporting (Broadcast/Digital)	Rohini Krishnamurthy & Dhruval Parekh	Down to Earth
Uncovering India Invisible	Vijay Pal Dudi	Dainik Bhaskar
Uncovering India Invisible (Broadcast/Digital)	Basant Kumar	NewsLaundry
Business & Economic Journalism	Praveen Paramasivam, Munsif Vengattil & Aditya Kalra	Thomson Reuters
Reporting on Politics and Government	Deeptiman Tiwary	The Indian Express

Reporting on Politics and Government (Broadcast/Digital)	Rishika Kashyap	Deccan Herald
Sports Journalism	Srikanth Dhasarathy	DT Next
Investigative Reporting (Print/Digital)	Mridulika Jha	Aaj Tak
Investigative Reporting (Broadcast)	Sreya Chatterjee	India Today
Feature Writing	Vidheesha Kuntamalla	The Indian Express
Civic Journalism	Sandip Dighe	The Times of India
Civic Journalism	Sreya Chatterjee & Arvind Ojha	India Today
Photojournalism	Praveen Jain	The Print
Books (Non-Fiction)	Aparajith Ramnath	Penguin Random House



## Japan's 275 kmph Cargo Bullet Train

- Japan has transformed the iconic bullet train into a freight-only high-speed carrier & it is marking a world's first in logistics innovation. It was developed by East Japan Railway Company, the train can transport goods at speeds of up to 275 kmph, redefining how speed and efficiency intersect in modern supply chains.
- This train was built on the renowned Shinkansen network and this initiative comes at a time when industries worldwide are seeking faster, more reliable and sustainable logistics solutions.
- The project is center around the E3 Series Shinkansen which is originally designed for passenger travel. Engineers have completely redesigned its interiors by removing seats and creating open cargo spaces.
- The upgraded train now features,
  - Reinforced flooring for heavy loads
  - Secure cargo fastening systems
  - Optimize layouts for maximum storage
- **What Does the Cargo Train Carry**
  - The system is designed primarily for high-value, time-sensitive goods rather than bulk commodities. Typical cargo includes,

- Fresh seafood and agricultural produce
- Dairy and ready-to-eat food products
- Medical supplies and pharmaceuticals
- Electronics and semiconductors
- High-value e-commerce shipments



## IIM Ahmedabad Launches Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI

- Major boost to India's education and technology ecosystem the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad has launched the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of Artificial Intelligence in the campus.
- This school initiative was announced on March 27, 2026 and it is backed by a generous ₹100 crore endowment from Chandrika Krishnamurthy Tandon and her husband Ranjan Tandon.
- The Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI is designed for the global platform that combines the cutting-edge artificial intelligence research with IIMA's strong foundation in management education.
- Primary goal is to transform the AI innovations into real-world solutions.
- With this it will improve decision-making, enhance productivity and address complex challenges across sectors.
- The school will also focus on the translational research and it means that research that directly translates into practical applications.



## India's First Hydrogen Train Completes Trial

- India has taken a major step toward the sustainable transportation as country's first hydrogen-powered trainset successfully completed oscillation trials. This milestone was confirmed by the Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.
- With this it will marking a breakthrough of clean energy adoption by Indian Railways. The trial was conducted by the Research Designs and Standards Organization which is the key part of safety and performance validation.
- The country's first hydrogen train will operate between Jind and Sonipat in Haryana.
- This is showcasing India's push toward green mobility and sustainable environment at the regional level.
- The train set has been developed by Integral Coach Factory which has designed and manufactured the prototype entirely within India.
- During this process engineers assess the,
  - Vibrations and dynamic behavior
  - Track interaction and balance
  - Passenger comfort and safety standards
- India's hydrogen train is not just a technological experiment but it sets new benchmarks globally.
- World's longest hydrogen train: 10 coaches
- Power output: 2400 kW (two driving power cars of 1200 kW each)
- Zero carbon emissions: Only water vapour is emitted

- Broad gauge compatibility: Designed for Indian rail infrastructure
- These features make it one of the most advanced hydrogen-powered trainsets in the world.



## Jewar Airport Inaugurated

- PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated Phase-1 of the Noida International Airport at Jewar in Uttar Pradesh, marking a major milestone in India's aviation and infrastructure development. Built with an investment of approximately ₹11,200 crore, the airport is one of the largest greenfield airport projects in the country.
- The airport includes the system like,
- The energy-efficient building systems
- Renewabl energy usage of the several things
- Sustainable construction practices
- The airport has been developed as the second international airport for Delhi-NCR and it will be complement the existing Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
- This airport includes,
- The Multi-Modal Cargo Hub
- An Integrated Cargo Terminal
- Dedicated logistics zones to easy and smooth handling



## India Reports 24,700 Maternal Deaths in 2023

- India has reported 24,700 maternal deaths in 2023 and with it placed its position among countries who have the highest maternal mortality burden. These numbers are coming from the global analysis published in The Lancet.
- The study which is led by researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) has estimated India's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) at 116 per 1 lakh live births.
- Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) refers to the number of maternal deaths per 1 lakh live births which is the key indicator of a country's healthcare system.
- According to India's latest Sample Registration System (SRS) 2021-23 the country's MMR stands at 88 maternal deaths per 1 lakh live births.
- This figure shows important improvement then compared to earlier decades and shows the better access to healthcare services.
- But the global estimate of 116 suggests disparities in data sources and methodologies used by international studies.
- Key Data (2023)
  - India: 24,700 maternal deaths
  - Nigeria: 32,900
  - Ethiopia: 11,900
  - Pakistan: 10,300
- Key global insights are,
  - Total maternal deaths worldwide in 2023: 2.4 lakh
  - Global MMR: 190.5 per 1 lakh live births
  - Decline from 1990 levels: Over one-third reduction



## India To Establishes First Port of Refuge

- To strengthen the India's maritime security Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has operationalized India's first Port of Refuge (PoR). This initiative creates the structured system for the handling ships in distress and filling a long-standing gap in the country's maritime infrastructure.
- As India has over 11,000 km of coastline and India comes that category who have some of the world's busiest shipping lanes. As of today it lacked the structured mechanism to assist vessels during emergencies.
- A Port of Refuge (PoR) is a designated as the safe location where ships facing emergencies such as fire, collision or mechanical failure and with this they can seek shelter. The goal of PoR to stabilize the vessel, protect lives and minimize environmental damage.
- APSEZ has identified the two strategic ports as India's first Ports of Refuge,
- Dighi Port (West Coast): It will supports traffic in the Arabian Sea and routes towards the Persian Gulf
- Gopalpur Port (East Coast): Also serves vessels in the Bay of Bengal and routes towards the Malacca Strait
- The Ports of Refuge will provide the range of specialized services like including the,
  - Salvage and wreck removal
  - Firefighting support
  - Pollution control measures
  - Emergency coordination systems



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. When is Earth Hour 2026 observed?**

- A. March 25
- B. March 28
- C. April 1
- D. March 30

**Answer: B. March 28**

**2. Earth Hour is organized by which organization?**

- A. UNESCO
- B. Greenpeace
- C. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- D. UNEP

**Answer: C. World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**

**3. Earth Hour first began in which city?**

- A. London
- B. New York
- C. Sydney
- D. Tokyo

**Answer: C. Sydney**

**4. Ramnath Goenka Awards are related to which field?**

- A. Sports
- B. Literature
- C. Journalism

D. Science

**Answer: C. Journalism**

---

**5. Japan's cargo bullet train operates on which network?**

- A. Euro Rail
- B. Shinkansen
- C. Metro Rail
- D. Maglev Line

**Answer: B. Shinkansen**

---

**6. What is the maximum speed of Japan's cargo bullet train?**

- A. 200 km/h
- B. 250 km/h
- C. 275 km/h
- D. 300 km/h

**Answer: C. 275 km/h**

---

**7. Which institution launched the Krishnamurthy Tandon School of AI?**

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIM Ahmedabad
- C. IISc Bangalore
- D. AIIMS Delhi

**Answer: B. IIM Ahmedabad**

---

**8. India's first hydrogen train will run between which two places?**

- A. Delhi – Agra
- B. Mumbai – Pune
- C. Jind – Sonipat
- D. Chennai – Bengaluru

**Answer: C. Jind – Sonipat**

---

**9. What is the emission from a hydrogen-powered train?**

- A. Carbon dioxide
- B. Nitrogen oxide
- C. Water vapour
- D. Sulphur dioxide

**Answer: C. Water vapour**

---

**10. India's first Port of Refuge has been developed by which company?**

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Tata Group
- C. Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd
- D. L&T

**Answer: C. Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd**