



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 13, 2026**

### **TAMILNADU**

- **V.O. Chidambaranar Port Becomes India's First Port to Launch Digital Twin Platform**
  - ✓ V.O. Chidambaranar Port has launched a Digital Twin platform, becoming the first port in India to adopt this advanced technology for smart port management.
  - ✓ The Digital Twin system creates a real-time virtual replica of port infrastructure, vessel movement, cargo operations and maritime assets
  - ✓ It integrates advanced technologies such as IoT sensors, LiDAR mapping, GPS tracking, drone imaging and CCTV monitoring
  - ✓ The platform is expected to reduce vessel turnaround time by up to 25% while improving safety, efficiency and sustainability.
  
- **International Rail Coach Expo 2026**
  - ✓ The International Rail Coach Expo (IRCE) 2026 was inaugurated at the Integral Coach Factory in Chennai on March 12, 2026.
  - ✓ The expo will be held from March 12 to March 14 and brings together railway manufacturers, technology firms and industry experts
  - ✓ The exhibition focuses on sustainability, safety, indigenous railway manufacturing and advanced coach technologies
  - ✓ The expo supports India's railway modernization efforts and promotes collaboration between global and Indian companies.

## NATIONAL

### ➤ **India Plans ₹1 Trillion Fund to Boost Chip Manufacturing**

- ✓ India is planning to launch a ₹1 trillion semiconductor fund under the India Semiconductor Mission to strengthen domestic chip manufacturing
- ✓ The fund will support chip design, semiconductor fabrication, equipment manufacturing, and supply chain development
- ✓ It expands the \$10 billion semiconductor incentive programme launched in 2021
- ✓ Global companies like Micron Technology, Tata Group, and Foxconn have already announced semiconductor projects in India
- ✓ The initiative aims to reduce import dependency and position India as a global semiconductor hub.

### ➤ **AVATAAR**

- ✓ India has developed a new drone named AVATAAR, which is capable of operating in both the air and underwater using advanced sonar technology.
- ✓ The name AVATAAR stands for Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance.
- ✓ The drone is developed by AquaAirX Autonomous Systems and features a carbon-fiber structure that makes it highly resistant to corrosion.
- ✓ The drone is designed for multi-domain surveillance and threat detection across ports, harbors, and coastal approaches.
- ✓ It supports tactical reconnaissance, surveillance, and intelligence operations by transmitting data in real time in coastal and near-shore areas.
- ✓ To maintain durability and performance, AVATAAR must be rinsed with fresh water after every underwater mission to remove salt deposits.

## STATE

### ➤ **Andhra Pradesh Launches First Tribal Millet-Based Food**

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu launched “Araku Kouni”, the state’s first tribal millet-based food menu during the Collectors’ Conference at the State Secretariat
- ✓ The initiative aims to promote traditional tribal millet diets while supporting tribal farmers and preserving indigenous culinary heritage

- ✓ The menu includes traditional dishes like Korra Payasam, Ragi Chapati, Samala Pulihora, Kantla Ambali, Corn Vada and Toor Dal Curry
- ✓ The project was led by the Alluri Sitarama Raju district administration with support from Anganwadi workers, the Indian Culinary Institute and the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Department
- ✓ The initiative also aims to promote healthy diets and boost tribal food tourism in the Araku region.

## **MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES/ SUMMITS**

- **Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems - 2026**
- ✓ A three-day Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) will be held in New Delhi from 12-14 March 2026 to deliberate on strengthening ecosystems for women in agriculture.
- ✓ It is jointly organised by the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority (PPV&FRA) during the UN-declared 'International Year for Women Farmers' (2026).
- ✓ The programme includes a Women Farmers' Forum, a Youth Forum, and an exhibition showcasing women-oriented technologies and start-up innovations.
- ✓ Technical sessions will cover Gender Equality, Economic Inclusion, and Technology for Transformation (digital tools and climate-smart innovations).

