



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 17, 2026

NATIONAL

- **Indian Post Launches The 24 Speed Post for Faster Deliveries**
- ✓ The Department of Posts launched the new 24 Speed Post on March 17, 2026, to provide guaranteed next-day delivery for urgent parcels and important documents. The launch event was held at the Rangbhawan Auditorium in New Delhi.
- ✓ In the first phase, the service will operate in six major cities: Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad, with plans to expand to more cities in the future.
- ✓ The service is designed for time-sensitive consignments and uses dedicated processing windows and priority air transportation to ensure faster delivery compared to standard postal timelines.
- ✓ Key features include next-day guaranteed delivery (D+1), a 48-hour delivery option (48 Speed Post), OTP-based secure delivery confirmation, end-to-end tracking with SMS alerts, a Buy Now Pay Later facility for business customers, free pickup for bulk consignments, API integration for companies, and a money-back guarantee in case of delivery delays.

- **India's Unemployment Rate Falls to 4.9%**
- ✓ India's unemployment rate declined slightly to 4.9% in February 2026, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey released by the National Statistical Office. The figure shows a marginal improvement compared to 5% in January 2026, indicating stable labour market conditions.

- ✓ The survey reported that the urban unemployment rate among people aged 15 and above fell to 6.6% in February from 6.7% in January, suggesting a slight recovery in job opportunities in cities. Meanwhile, the rural unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.2%, showing stable employment trends in rural areas.
- ✓ A notable improvement was seen in female employment, with the female unemployment rate declining from 5.6% in January to 5.1% in February 2026. Urban female unemployment dropped from 9.8% to 8.7%, while rural female unemployment decreased from 4.3% to 4.0%.
- **First National Report on Nagoya Protocol**
- ✓ India submitted its first national report on the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity on February 27, 2026.
- ✓ The protocol requires countries to report under Article 29 on how they implement Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) rules, ensuring that benefits from the use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge are shared fairly with local communities and provider countries.
- ✓ India's ABS framework is supported by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, along with the Biological Diversity Rules, 2024 and ABS Regulations, 2025.
- ✓ The governance system follows a three-tier structure involving the National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and local Biodiversity Management Committees.

AWARDS & HONOURS

- **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 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.
- ✓ Tamil author Sa. Tamilselvan received the award for literary criticism for "Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal".
- ✓ Each awardee will receive a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a ceremonial shawl, and prize money of ₹1,00,000. The awards will be

presented during a formal ceremony scheduled for 31 March 2026 in New Delhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **World Social Work Day - March 17**
- ✓ World Social Work Day 2026 will be observed on 17 March to recognize the contributions of social workers in building inclusive and resilient communities worldwide.
- ✓ The day is organized globally by the International Federation of Social Workers and is celebrated every year on the third Tuesday of March.
- ✓ The theme for this year is “Co-Building Hope and Harmony: A Harambee Call to Unite a Divided Society.”
- ✓ The concept of Harambee, originating from Kenya, means “pulling together” and emphasizes collective responsibility and unity.

