



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 18, 2026

NATIONAL

➤ BIMSTEC Young Professionals Exchange Programme

- ✓ The Government of India organized the 1st Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Young Professionals Exchange Programme from 9 to 15 March 2026.
- ✓ The program was originally announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the 6th BIMSTEC Summit to strengthen youth engagement.
- ✓ The initiative aligns with India's "Neighborhood First" and "Act East" policies, focusing on building long-term partnerships among emerging leaders.
- ✓ The program provided a platform for participants to understand India's start-up ecosystem and explore collaborative opportunities in research and technology.

DEFENCE

➤ Naval Exercise - Sea Dragon 2026

- ✓ India is participating in the United States Navy-led multinational anti-submarine warfare (ASW) exercise 'Sea Dragon 2026' being held at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam (Western Pacific).
- ✓ The exercise brings together forces from the United States Navy, Indian Navy, Royal Australian Air Force, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force and Royal New Zealand Air Force aimed at enhancing coordination and combat readiness in undersea warfare.

- ✓ Focuses on Maritime surveillance, Submarine detection and tracking, Coordinated ASW operations.

SPORTS

➤ National Para Athletics Championship 2026

- ✓ The National Para Athletics Championship 2026 is set to take place at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar in Odisha.
- ✓ This event will show the participation from 1,460 athletes and it will representing 28 states.
- ✓ This championship will be held from March 19 to March 21, 2026 and the total 145 medal games to held.
- ✓ Top para-athletes including Mariyappan Thangavelu and Sumit Antil will compete, making it one of India's biggest para sports events.
- ✓ This event will play the crucial role in selecting probable for the Asian Para Games 2026 which are to be hosted in Aichi Nagoya, Japan.

➤ Mayank Chakraborty Becomes India's 94th Grandmaster

- ✓ The 16-year-old International Master, Mayank Chakraborty, has officially secured his final Grandmaster norm at the 8th Grandmaster Tournament in Hotel Stockholm North, Sweden.
- ✓ By defeating top seeds and maintaining an unbeaten streak in his final rounds, he crossed the mandatory 2500 Fédération Internationale des Échecs rating barrier to become a Grandmaster.
- ✓ He became the first-ever Grandmaster from Assam and the North East region.

AWARDS & HONOURS

➤ Sahitya Akademi Awards

- ✓ The 2025 awardees include 8 books of Poetry, 6 Short Stories, 4 Novels, 2 Essays, 2 Memoirs, 1 Autobiography, and 1 Literary Criticism.
- ✓ English: Navtej Sarna (Former Ambassador) for his novel "Crimson Spring".
- ✓ Hindi: Mamta Kalia for her memoir "Jeete Jee Allahabad".
- ✓ Tamil: Sa Tamilselvan for his work of literary criticism "Thamiz Sirukathaiyin Thadangal".
- ✓ Bengali: Prasun Bandyopadhyay for the poetry collection "Shrestha Kabita".

- ✓ Sanskrit: Sadhu Bhadreshdas (Mahamahopadhyay) for “Prasthanacatustaye Brahmaghosah”.
- ✓ Each winner receives a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl, and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Global Recycling Day - March 18**
- ✓ Ever year March 18 is observed annually as Global Recycling Day to promote the sustainable use of resources and highlight the role of recycling in protecting the environment.
- ✓ Theme for 2026 is "Don't Think Waste – Think Opportunity", focuses on reframing our perception of discarded materials. Instead of viewing waste as an end-product, it encourages individuals and industries to see it as an opportunity for innovation, economic growth, and resource conservation.
- ✓ Global Recycling Day recognizes recyclables as the "Seventh Resource," alongside water, air, coal, oil, natural gas, and minerals.

