



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 20, 2026

TAMILNADU

- **Tamil Nadu Overtook Gujarat in Textile Export**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu has emerged as India's top textile exporter in 2024-25, with exports worth \$7,997.17 million, surpassing Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- ✓ The state recorded over 29% growth in four years, driven by strong policy support, infrastructure, and a skilled workforce.
- ✓ It now contributes 21.84% to India's total textile exports, reflecting its dominant role in the country's trade economy.
- ✓ The rise highlights Tamil Nadu's focus on value-added products, innovation, and a robust export ecosystem, strengthening India's textile sector globally.

NATIONAL

- **RELIEF Scheme 2026**
- ✓ Government of India launched the ₹497 crore Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF) scheme to provide credit insurance cover for exporters whose goods are stranded due to the West Asia crisis.
- ✓ For upcoming shipments between 16 March and 15 June 2026, exporters can avail up to 95 per cent risk coverage with government support.
- ✓ Additionally, MSME exporters without insurance cover during the disruption period will receive up to 50 per cent reimbursement of freight and insurance surcharges, subject to a ceiling of ₹50 lakh per exporter.

- ✓ RELIEF scheme is launched under the Export Promotion Mission (EPM).
- ✓ The initiative seeks to protect exporter confidence, prevent order cancellations and maintain India's competitiveness in global trade during periods of external disruption.
- **'BHAVYA scheme'**
- ✓ Indian Government approved Rs 33,660 crore to Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojna (BHAVYA) scheme for developing 100 plug-and-play industrial parks across the country.
- ✓ This newly approved scheme aims to develop world-class industrial infrastructure, unlocking manufacturing potential and driving India's growth story.
- ✓ Industrial parks ranging from 100 to 1000 acres will be undertaken for development.
- ✓ The Government of India will provide up to Rs1 crore per acre for Internal infrastructure. For external infrastructure decided to allocate a maximum 25% of the project cost.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Argentina Formally Withdraws from WHO**
- ✓ Argentina formally withdrew from the World Health Organization (WHO), completing the process one year after notifying the United Nations.
- ✓ The decision to withdraw was announced in February 2025 by Argentina President Javier Milei.
- ✓ The withdrawal was carried out under the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties, which permits exit after a one-year notice period.
- ✓ The move reflects a broader shift toward decentralised governance, following the United States of America (USA), which exited the WHO.

APPOINTMENTS

- **India's New Ambassador to China**
- ✓ Vikram K Doraiswami has been appointed as India's next ambassador to China to stabilise relations with Beijing.

- ✓ A 1992-batch IFS officer and currently India's high commissioner to the UK. He has also served as India's envoy to Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and South Korea.
- ✓ This appointment comes amid ongoing efforts to mend India-China relations following border tensions, with both sides looking to restore stability and rebuild trust.
- ✓ Vikram Doraiswami has a deep understanding of China's diplomatic landscape, having served in Hong Kong and Beijing earlier in his career.

IMPORTANT DAYS

➤ International Day of Happiness 2026

- ✓ The International Day of Happiness is celebrated annually on March 20 to recognize happiness as a fundamental human goal.
- ✓ It was established by the United Nations in 2012 to recognise happiness and wellbeing as important goals for individuals and societies.
- ✓ Theme of this year “Caring and Sharing,” emphasising kindness, empathy, and meaningful human connections.
- ✓ It encourages individuals, communities, and governments to prioritise mental health awareness, kindness, and positive living, helping to create healthier and more supportive societies.

➤ World Sparrow Day - March 20

- ✓ World Sparrow Day, observed on March 20, was launched in 2010 by the Nature Forever Society of India and the Eco-Sys Action Foundation.
- ✓ The day aims to raise awareness about the threats faced by house sparrows and other urban birds.
- ✓ The initiative provides a platform for conservationists to connect, collaborate, and share ideas, promoting the protection of common biodiversity.
- ✓ The theme for 2026 is “Creating Bird-Friendly Cities & Communities”. This focus highlights the need for urban planning, increased green spaces, and community action to reverse the decline of sparrow populations in modern, concrete-dominated environments.

