



## **EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 21, 2026**

### **NATIONAL**

#### ➤ **National Highways Fee Rules 2026**

- ✓ The Government of India has notified the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026, effective from 17 March 2026.
- ✓ The amendment aims to strengthen digital enforcement and toll compliance, facilitating the transition toward a barrier-free tolling ecosystem.
- ✓ The rules introduce the term "unpaid user fee" for instances where a vehicle's passage is recorded by Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) infrastructure, but the payment is not received.
- ✓ The National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) system will be integrated with the VAHAN database for seamless vehicle identification.

### **APPOINTMENTS**

#### ➤ **SAIL's New Director - T. N. Natarajan**

- ✓ The Government of India has approved the appointment of Shri T. N. Natarajan as the next Director (Commercial) of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), one of India's largest public sector steel producers.
- ✓ He brings over 32 years of leadership experience across production, logistics, and sales. Since joining SAIL as a Management Trainee in 1993.
- ✓ He has held key roles spanning manufacturing operations, supply chain management, and strategic marketing.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### ➤ Chandrasekaran Conferred Honorary Knighthood

- ✓ Chandrasekaran, Chairman of Tata Group, has been awarded an honorary knighthood by the United Kingdom for strengthening India-UK business ties.
- ✓ He was conferred the title of Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (KBE), recognising his outstanding contribution to global business relations.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### ➤ World Poetry Day - March 21

- ✓ World Poetry Day 2026 is celebrated worldwide on March 21 to honor poets and the art of poetry.
- ✓ Established by UNESCO in 1999, it promotes reading, writing, and sharing poetry while encouraging linguistic diversity.
- ✓ The day highlights poetry as a powerful form of expression that connects people across cultures and generations.
- ✓ Celebrations include readings, writing events, and cultural programs that inspire creativity, preserve languages, and celebrate literary heritage.

### ➤ International Day of Forests - March 21

- ✓ The International Day of Forests, observed annually on March 21, aims to raise awareness about forest ecosystems and underline their importance.
- ✓ The United Nations General Assembly declared March 21 as the International Day of Forests in 2012.
- ✓ "Forests and Economies" has been selected as the theme for International Day of Forests 2026, highlighting the role of forests in supporting livelihoods and generating economic opportunities across sectors.
- ✓ On this day, countries are encouraged to carry out local, national and international activities linked to forests and trees, including tree planting drives.

### ➤ International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination - March 21

- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March since declared by the United Nations in 1966.

- ✓ Theme: "Mobilizing Political Will: 60 years of commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination".
- ✓ This theme focuses on accountability and accelerating action to dismantle systemic racism and inequality worldwide.

