



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 23, 2026

### NATIONAL

- **Coal Production in India Crosses 1 Billion Tonnes**
  - ✓ India achieved a major milestone by crossing 1 billion tonne coal production on March 20, 2026 for the second consecutive year, reflecting strong growth in the energy sector and improved efficiency in mining and supply chains.
  - ✓ The increased production ensures stable fuel supply to thermal power plants and industries, supporting reliable electricity, reducing power shortages, and lowering dependence on coal imports.
  - ✓ Coal continues to play a crucial role in India's energy mix, with higher stock levels helping meet rising power demand and sustain economic activities across sectors.
  - ✓ Driven by policy reforms and government efforts, this achievement aligns with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision, strengthening energy security and promoting long-term economic growth.
  
- **MSP Funding to Strengthen Cotton Procurement and Support Farmers**
  - ✓ The Government of India approved MSP funding of ₹1,718.56 crore to Cotton Corporation of India for the 2023–24 cotton season to support farmers.
  - ✓ The funding ensures direct price support as the government procures cotton at MSP when market prices fall, providing a safety net to farmers based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.
  - ✓ The Cotton Corporation of India has set up over 508 centres in 152 districts and introduced tech initiatives like Bale Identification and Traceability

System (BITS) and the “Cott-Ally” mobile app for better transparency and farmer outreach.

## **MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES/ SUMMITS**

### ➤ **Prakriti 2026**

- ✓ The Prakriti 2026 Summit, held in New Delhi from March 19–22, marked a major step in climate action and green finance, where the Bureau of Energy Efficiency launched the Indian Carbon Market Portal to strengthen carbon trading and emission tracking.
- ✓ It is the second international conference on carbon markets, brought together global policymakers and industry leaders to promote sustainability, climate finance, and align India’s environmental goals with digital innovation.
- ✓ The Indian Carbon Market Portal aims to track, verify, and trade emissions efficiently while supporting the Carbon Credit Trading Scheme (CCTS), ensuring transparency and encouraging emission reduction through financial incentives.

## **DEFENCE**

### ➤ **INS Taragiri**

- ✓ The INS Taragiri will be commissioned on April 3, 2026 in Visakhapatnam, with Rajnath Singh attending, marking a major step in India’s maritime strength under Project 17A.
- ✓ Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, the frigate highlights India’s self-reliance with over 75% indigenous content and support from 200+ MSMEs, boosting Make in India and defense manufacturing.
- ✓ The 6,670-tonne warship features advanced stealth, reduced radar visibility, and powerful weapons including supersonic missiles, air defense systems, and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- ✓ Equipped with a CODOG propulsion system, it ensures high speed, fuel efficiency, and operational flexibility, strengthening India’s naval power and security.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### ➤ **World Meteorological Day**

- ✓ World Meteorological Day 2026 was observed globally on 23 March 2026 to highlight the importance of meteorology and weather-related services in protecting lives and supporting sustainable development.
- ✓ The theme for 2026 is “Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow”, emphasizing the role of weather observations and forecasting systems in safeguarding the future.
- ✓ On 23 March 1950, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) was officially established, replacing the International Meteorological Organization.
- ✓ The first World Meteorological Day was observed on 23 March 1961, marking the anniversary of the organization’s establishment.

### ➤ **Martyrs' Day/ Shaheed Diwas - March 23**

- ✓ Shaheed Diwas 2026, also known as Martyrs’ Day, is observed on 23rd March every year in India.
- ✓ This day is dedicated to remembering the brave freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country.
- ✓ The Government of India organised a nationwide Shaheed Diwas Padyatra on 23 March 2026 to honour Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev.
- ✓ The initiative, based on the theme “MY Bharat, My Responsibility”, aims to transform remembrance into active participation in nation-building.

