



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 26, 2026

NATIONAL

➤ UDAN 2.0

- ✓ The Government of India has approved the Modified UDAN 2.0 scheme with a ₹28,840 crore outlay to enhance regional air connectivity across India.
- ✓ The plan includes developing 100 new airports (₹12,159 crore) and 200 helipads (₹3,661 crore), especially in remote and underserved areas, boosting tourism, trade, and accessibility.
- ✓ Support for seaplane and regional aircraft operations
- ✓ The government will provide the 80-90% Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for airlines and making routes commercially viable. A total of ₹10,043 crore has been allocated for this purpose.
- ✓ Additionally, Operations & Maintenance (O&M) support will be provided. Up to ₹3 crore per airport, Up to ₹90 lakh per helipad annually and Total O&M support is ₹2,577 crore.

➤ Akashvani To Broadcast Full Version Of National Song "Vande Mataram" From March 26

- ✓ Following the guidelines of Government of India, all Akashvani (formerly All India Radio) stations began broadcasting the full six-stanza version of the National Song, "Vande Mataram", effective from March 26, 2026.
- ✓ This new broadcast replaces the traditional two-stanza version (65 seconds) with the complete six-stanza rendition, lasting 3 minutes and 10 seconds.
- ✓ The inaugural full version being broadcast is performed by the renowned Hindi Classical Vocalist, Pandit Chandrashekhar Vaze.

- ✓ The composition is set in Raag Des, a classical melody traditionally associated with patriotic sentiments and the spirit of the Indian landscape.
- ✓ Akashvani is currently recording several other versions of the song to highlight a wide variety of regional musical instruments.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ World Youth Parliament 2026

- ✓ The World Youth Parliament is an international forum where young leaders from countries to discuss global challenges and propose youth-driven policy solutions.
- ✓ Stuti Pradhan from Sikkim has been selected to represent India at the World Youth Parliament 2026, after winning the Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament 2025.
- ✓ Stuti's selection highlights India's focus on nurturing youth leadership and ensures the country's voice in global issues like climate change, education, and sustainable development.
- ✓ Her journey reflects the growing role of Indian youth in international diplomacy and policymaking.

STATE

➤ Industrial Park Policy 2026

- ✓ The Rajasthan government has launched the Industrial Park Promotion Policy 2026, aiming to attract investment, generate jobs, and develop world-class industrial parks.
- ✓ The policy supports fully private, hybrid, and PPP frameworks, with a minimum 50-acre area and at least 10 units per park to create integrated industrial ecosystems.
- ✓ Key objectives include boosting domestic and foreign investment, promoting manufacturing, and encouraging balanced regional development.
- ✓ Incentives for clean energy, eco-friendly infrastructure, and 50% reimbursement for Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs), aligning with Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

➤ **NASA's Artemis 2 Set for April 2026 to Launch**

- ✓ NASA will launch Artemis 2 on April 1, 2026, marking the first crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit since Apollo 17.
- ✓ The mission will send four astronauts on a 10-day lunar flyby using the SLS rocket and Orion spacecraft.
- ✓ Crew members include Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen, highlighting global collaboration.
- ✓ Artemis 2 is a crucial step toward future Moon landings under the Artemis program, reviving deep-space human exploration.

DEFENCE

➤ **Operation Urja Suraksha**

- ✓ The Government of India has launched Operation Urja Suraksha, deploying naval warships to escort cargo vessels near the Strait of Hormuz amid rising tensions in West Asia.
- ✓ The mission aims to secure the safe transport of critical energy supplies like crude oil, LNG, and LPG, vital for India's energy security.
- ✓ Under this operation, the Indian Navy has deployed multiple frontline warships in the Gulf of Oman to escort India-bound vessels through high-risk zones.
- ✓ Under real-time monitoring and layered security, the operation ensures safe navigation and protection against threats.

MEETINGS/ CONFERENCES/ SUMMITS

➤ **9th PharmaMed 2026**

- ✓ The Department of Pharmaceuticals under Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, in association with the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI), will host the 9th PharmaMed 2026.
- ✓ The one-day conference is scheduled for March 27, 2026, in New Delhi.
- ✓ The central theme for the 2026 edition is 'Healthcare Equity: Reaching Every Citizen of Viksit Bharat.'

- ✓ The conference serves as a platform for dialogue between policymakers, regulators, and industry leaders to transition India from a volume-driven to a value-driven global pharmaceutical hub.

RANKING & REPORTS

➤ **8th World Air Quality Report 2025**

- ✓ World Air Quality Report 2025, published by the Swiss technology company IQAir, has ranked India as the 6th most polluted country in the world.
- ✓ The report is based on the analysis of PM2.5 data from over 40,000 monitoring stations across 9,446 cities in 143 countries.
- ✓ Pakistan topped the list as the world's most polluted country, followed by Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Chad, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- ✓ India sits at the 6th spot, China is ranked 20th, the United Kingdom is 110th, and the United States is 120th.
- ✓ Loni in Uttar Pradesh, India, recorded the highest pollution levels globally with an annual average PM2.5 concentration of 112.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.
- ✓ The world's 25 most polluted cities are all located in India, Pakistan, and China, with India hosting three of the top four.
- ✓ Nieuwoudtville in South Africa was identified as the world's cleanest city, with an average concentration of just 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

