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Current Affairs Today – March 24, 2026

24 March 2026

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Current Affairs Today — March 24, 2026

24 March 2026 · 19 min read

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WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY — INDIA'S 100-DAY INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN

The President of India, on World Tuberculosis Day (March 24, 2026), highlighted India's progress under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan and launched a 100-day intensified campaign leveraging AI diagnostics and Jan Bhagidari (people's participation).

Key Data

- India has achieved a **21% reduction in TB incidence** since 2015 — nearly double the global decline rate
- **25% decrease** in TB-related deaths over the same period
- Over **20 crore people** screened; **32 lakh cases** detected
- **50% of TB patients are asymptomatic**, making active screening critical
- Over **3,000 AI-powered handheld X-ray units** deployed across the country

Major Initiatives

SCHEME	PURPOSE
Ni-kshay Poshan Yojana	Rs 500/month nutritional support to TB patients
Ni-kshay Mitras	Community adoption programme for patient support
Ni-kshay Vahans	Mobile testing units for hard-to-reach areas
TruNat/CBNAAT	Molecular testing units for rapid diagnosis
Tele-MANAS	Mental health support for TB patients (Ministry of Health and Family Welfare)

Challenges

- Silent spread through asymptomatic carriers
- Social stigma deterring treatment-seeking behaviour
- Poor treatment adherence during 6-9 month drug courses
- Crowded housing in urban informal settlements accelerating transmission
- Difficulty tracking migrant workers across states

UPSC Angle

India's target is TB elimination by 2025 (five years ahead of the UN SDG target of 2030). The 100-day campaign combines technology (AI X-rays), community participation (Ni-kshay Mitras), and nutritional support — a multi-pronged approach relevant for GS2 (Health) and GS3 (Science & Technology).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY:

Observed: March 24 every year (commemorates Robert Koch's 1882 discovery of TB bacillus)

Theme 2026: "Yes! We can end TB"

India's TB incidence: ~27 lakh cases annually (highest globally)

Global TB deaths (2024 WHO report): ~1.25 million

TB MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAN:

Launched: 2018

Target: Eliminate TB by 2025 (5 years ahead of UN SDG 2030)

Ni-kshay portal: National TB information system

India's TB budget: ~Rs 4,500 crore annually

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

BCG vaccine: Bacillus Calmette-Guerin, given at birth in India

MDR-TB: Multi-Drug Resistant TB — resistant to rifampicin and isoniazid

XDR-TB: Extensively Drug Resistant TB — resistant to additional fluoroquinolones

DOTS: Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (WHO strategy)

WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT — EARLY DELIMITATION PROPOSAL USING 2011 CENSUS

The Union Government proposed conducting early delimitation based on 2011 Census data to implement the Women's Reservation Act (106th Constitutional Amendment, 2023) before the 2029 general elections, potentially increasing Lok Sabha seats from 543 to approximately 816.

Key Provisions of the Proposal

- **Lok Sabha seats:** 543 → approximately **816** (50% increase)
- **Women's reserved seats:** Approximately **273** (33% of total)
- No existing constituencies would be eliminated — expansion only
- Lottery system proposed for selecting which constituencies are reserved for women

- Amendments needed to **Article 81** (Lok Sabha composition) and **Article 170** (State Assembly composition)

Why 2011 Census and Not 2026 Census?

The 2026 Census has not yet been conducted. Waiting for it would delay women's reservation implementation by several years. Using 2011 Census data allows faster rollout while maintaining proportional state representation.

Southern States' Concern

States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka that successfully implemented family planning fear losing representation in a population-based expansion. The proposal addresses this by ensuring no state loses existing seats.

UPSC Angle

This touches the intersection of gender representation (Article 15(3)), federalism (state representation in Parliament), and democratic governance. Relevant for GS2 (Polity & Governance).

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WOMEN'S RESERVATION ACT:

Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 — provides 33% reservation for women in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

Passed: September 2023 (in the new Parliament building)

Original bill: 81st Constitutional Amendment Bill, first introduced in 1996

Applies to: Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and NCT of Delhi

Does NOT apply to: Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils

Reservation to be rotated after each delimitation exercise

DELIMITATION:

Last delimitation: 2008 (based on 2001 Census, by Justice Kuldeep Singh Commission)

Article 82: Parliament to enact Delimitation Act after each Census

Delimitation Commission: Article 82 read with Delimitation Act

84th Amendment (2002): Froze delimitation until 2026 based on 1971 Census population figures

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Current Lok Sabha seats: 543 (530 states + 13 UTs)

73rd/74th Amendments: Already provide 33% reservation for women in Panchayats/Municipalities

Women MPs in 17th Lok Sabha: 78 out of 543 (~14.4%)

PM MODI'S PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ON WEST ASIA CONFLICT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Lok Sabha during the Budget Session, outlining India's position on the escalating West Asia conflict (now in its fourth week), emphasising that "dialogue and diplomacy are the only solutions."

Five Key Diplomatic Signals

- ❶ **Strategic autonomy** — India avoided condemning any specific party, maintaining equidistance
- ❷ **Diaspora protection** — Highlighted evacuation of 3,75,000+ Indians since the conflict began; 1,000 from Iran (including 700+ medical students)
- ❸ **Energy security** — Noted expansion of energy import sources from 27 to 41 countries over 11 years

- ④ **Maritime safety** – 700+ Indian seafarers stuck on ~22 ships in the Strait of Hormuz
- ⑤ **Humanitarian concern** – Called for de-escalation and protection of civilian populations

India's Energy Vulnerability

PARAMETER	VALUE
Indians in Gulf countries	~10 million
India's crude import dependence	~88%
LPG import dependence	~60%
SPR capacity	5.33 million tonnes
SPR current fill level	3.37 MT (64%)
Strait of Hormuz share of global energy	~20%

UPSC Angle

India's West Asia policy balances energy security, diaspora welfare, and strategic autonomy. The PM's statement is significant for GS2 (International Relations) and GS3 (Energy Security).

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INDIA-WEST ASIA RELATIONS:

- Indians in Gulf: ~10 million (largest diaspora concentration)
- Annual remittances from Gulf: ~\$40 billion
- India's top crude suppliers: Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Russia, UAE, Kuwait
- Energy import sources expanded: 27 → 41 countries (2014-2025)

STRAIT OF HORMUZ:

- Width: ~33 km (navigable lane: 3 km each way)
- Daily crude transit: ~20 million barrels
- Countries bordering: Iran and Oman (UAE nearby)

EVACUATIONS:

- Operation Vande Bharat (2020, COVID): Largest repatriation — 67 lakh Indians
- Operation Kaveri (2023, Sudan): 4,000+ Indians evacuated
- Current conflict: 3,75,000+ evacuated; 1,000 from Iran

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

- India's Look West Policy: Engages West Asia for energy, trade, and diaspora
- I2U2 Group: India, Israel, UAE, USA — strategic quad for West Asia
- IMEC: India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (announced at G20 2023)

CORPORATE LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL 2026 — REFERRED TO JPC

The Union Finance Minister introduced the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 in the Lok Sabha, seeking to amend the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 and the Companies Act, 2013. The Bill has been referred to a 31-member Joint Parliamentary Committee (21 Lok Sabha + 10 Rajya Sabha).

Key Provisions

PROVISION	DETAILS
Decriminalisation	Minor offences shifted from criminal to monetary penalties
CSR threshold	Raised from Rs 5 crore to Rs 10 crore net profit; CSR spending remains 2%
Virtual AGMs/EGMs	Allowed; minimum one physical AGM every 3 years
NFRA role	Enhanced powers for National Financial Reporting Authority
Trust conversion	Framework for SEBI/IFSC-registered entities

Concerns Raised

- Excessive delegation of rule-making to executive bodies
- Potential weakening of parliamentary oversight
- CSR dilution — raising the threshold may exempt many mid-sized companies from CSR obligations
- Opposition demanded detailed JPC scrutiny before passage

UPSC Angle

Corporate governance reform balances ease of doing business with regulatory oversight. The JPC referral mechanism under Article 118 reflects parliamentary democracy's scrutiny function. Relevant for GS2 (Governance) and GS3 (Economy).

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CORPORATE LAWS AMENDMENT BILL 2026:

Amends: LLP Act 2008 + Companies Act 2013

JPC: 31 members (21 LS + 10 RS)

JPC report due: First week of Monsoon Session

CSR IN INDIA:

Section 135, Companies Act 2013

Applicability: Net worth Rs 500 crore+ OR turnover Rs 1,000 crore+ OR net profit Rs 5 crore+

CSR spend: Minimum 2% of average net profit of preceding 3 years

India is the first country to mandate CSR by law

NFRA:

National Financial Reporting Authority

Established under Section 132, Companies Act 2013

Supervises auditors and audit firms

Headquartered: New Delhi

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

LLP Act 2008: Provides hybrid structure (partnership flexibility + limited liability)

SEBI: Securities and Exchange Board of India (est. 1992, statutory status)

IFSCA: International Financial Services Centres Authority (est. 2020, GIFT City)

ASSAM RIFLES CELEBRATES 191ST RAISING DAY

Assam Rifles commemorated its 191st Raising Day on March 24, 2026, with war memorial tributes held in Shillong, reaffirming its role as the “Sentinel of the North-East.”

Key Facts

- **Established:** 1835 (originally as Cachar Levy) — India’s oldest Central Armed Police Force
- **Nickname:** Sentinel of the North-East; also called “Friends of the Hill People”
- **Administrative control:** Ministry of Home Affairs

- **Operational control:** Indian Army
- **Border guarded:** ~1,643 km Indo-Myanmar border
- **Headquarters:** Shillong, Meghalaya
- **Primary roles:** Counter-insurgency, border security, civic action programmes in Northeast India

Dual Control Controversy

Assam Rifles operates under unique dual control — MHA for administration and the Army for operations. There have been long-standing debates about bringing it fully under one ministry for unified command.

UPSC Angle

Assam Rifles' dual control structure raises questions about organisational efficiency and accountability in internal security management. Relevant for GS3 (Internal Security).

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

ASSAM RIFLES:

Established: 1835 (as Cachar Levy)

Oldest CAPF in India (191 years as of 2026)

HQ: Shillong, Meghalaya

Director General: Reports to MHA

Border: 1,643 km Indo-Myanmar border

Motto: "Sentinel of the North-East"

OTHER CAPFS:

CRPF: Central Reserve Police Force (est. 1939, largest CAPF)

BSF: Border Security Force (est. 1965, India-Pakistan and India-Bangladesh borders)

ITBP: Indo-Tibetan Border Police (est. 1962, India-China border)

CISF: Central Industrial Security Force (est. 1969, critical infrastructure)

SSB: Sashastra Seema Bal (est. 1963, India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

All CAPFs under MHA except Assam Rifles (dual control)

Free Movement Regime (FMR): Along Indo-Myanmar border, allows tribes to cross 16 km without visa

India suspended FMR in February 2024 and began border fencing

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER 2026

The United Nations designated 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer (IYWF 2026), and India hosted the Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems (GCWAS-2026) in New Delhi to drive policy reforms recognising women's indispensable role in agriculture.

Key Statistics on Women in Indian Agriculture

PARAMETER	VALUE
Rural women in agriculture	80% of economically active rural women
Women as agricultural labourers	33%
Women as self-employed farmers	48%
PM-KISAN benefits to women	25% (Rs 1.01 lakh crore total)
Women trained in agro-ecology (2022-25)	2.58 crore
Women-led FPOs	1,175 (100% women shareholders)

Major Government Schemes for Women Farmers

- **Namo Drone Didi:** 15,000 drones to women SHGs with 80% subsidy
- **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP):** Sub-component of DAY-NRLM for women farmer empowerment
- **Krishi Sakhi Programme:** 70,000 women para-extension workers
- **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund:** 3% interest subvention
- **ICAR-CIWA:** Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar

Challenges

- Lack of land ownership and property titles for women
- High physical drudgery with traditional tools
- Limited access to institutional credit (most women borrow from informal sources)
- Extension services predominantly target male farmers
- Climate vulnerability with fewer adaptation resources

UPSC Angle

Women constitute the backbone of Indian agriculture but remain invisible in policy and statistics. The IYWF 2026 aligns with SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Relevant for GS1 (Society), GS2 (Social Justice), and GS3 (Agriculture).

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER:

Declared by: United Nations General Assembly

Year: 2026

India event: GCWAS-2026, New Delhi

WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE (INDIA):

Agriculture Census 2015-16: Women operational holdings — 13.87% (rose from 11.7% in 2010-11)

NSSO data: 80% of rural women workers in agriculture

PM-KISAN: Rs 6,000/year to farmer families (25% women beneficiaries)

KEY SCHEMES:

Namo Drone Didi: Launched 2024; 15,000 drones, 80% subsidy

MKSP: Under DAY-NRLM, focuses on sustainable agriculture training

Krishi Sakhi: 70,000 women para-extension workers by 2026

SHG-Bank Linkage: Largest microfinance programme globally

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

ICAR-CIWA: Central Institute for Women in Agriculture, Bhubaneswar

FPO: Farmer Producer Organisation — minimum 300 members (100 for hilly/tribal)

DAY-NRLM: Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission

HUDSONIAN GODWIT AND CMS — 42 MIGRATORY SPECIES PROPOSED FOR PROTECTION

At the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) meeting in Brazil in March 2026, the Hudsonian Godwit and 42 other migratory species were proposed for enhanced international protection due to rapid population decline.

About the Hudsonian Godwit

- **Scientific name:** Limosa haemastica
- **Annual migration:** ~30,000 km (Arctic breeding grounds to Patagonia, South America)
- **Population decline:** 95% over four decades

- **IUCN status:** Near Threatened
- **Threats:** Habitat loss at stopover sites, climate change disrupting food timing, coastal development

CMS/Bonn Convention

- **Full name:** Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- **Adopted:** 1979 in Bonn, Germany
- **Entered into force:** 1983
- **India is a signatory** — ratified in 1983
- **CMS COP14:** Held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan (2024)
- **Key finding:** 49% of CMS-listed migratory species show population decline

Significance for India

India is a critical flyway country — the Central Asian Flyway (CAF) passes through India, hosting millions of migratory birds. India launched the Central Asian Flyway Action Plan at CMS COP13 (2020, Gandhinagar).

UPSC Angle

Migratory species conservation requires transboundary cooperation. The CMS meeting highlights biodiversity loss under SDG 15 (Life on Land). Relevant for GS3 (Environment & Ecology).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGE PEDIA

HUDSONIAN GODWIT:

Migration: ~30,000 km annually (Arctic to Patagonia)

Population decline: 95% in 4 decades

IUCN status: Near Threatened

Family: Scolopacidae (sandpipers and allies)

CMS/BONN CONVENTION:

Adopted: 1979, Bonn, Germany

Parties: 133 countries (including India)

India ratified: 1983

COP13: Gandhinagar, India (2020) — India launched Central Asian Flyway Action Plan

COP14: Samarkand, Uzbekistan (2024)

49% of CMS-listed species declining

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Central Asian Flyway: Covers 30 countries, ~280 waterbird species

Ramsar Convention: Wetlands conservation (complements CMS for waterbirds)

India's Important Bird Areas (IBAs): 554 (identified by BirdLife International/BNHS)

Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS): India's premier ornithological body, est. 1883

INDIA'S ANTI-DUMPING PROBE ON CHINESE ETHYL CHLOROFORMATE

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) initiated an anti-dumping investigation into ethyl chloroformate imports from China, following a complaint by Paushak Ltd, alleging price undercutting and material injury to domestic industry.

Key Details

- **Product:** Ethyl chloroformate — a pharmaceutical and agrochemical manufacturing intermediate
- **Investigation period:** October 2024 to September 2025
- **Complainant:** Paushak Ltd (Gujarat-based specialty chemicals company)

- **Allegations:** Chinese imports at below-market prices causing material injury

What is Anti-Dumping?

Anti-dumping duties are imposed when a country exports goods at prices lower than their normal value (domestic market price), causing injury to the domestic industry of the importing country. They are permitted under:

- **WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement** (Article VI of GATT)
- **Customs Tariff Act, 1975** (Section 9A) in India

Parallel Investigations

DGTR is simultaneously investigating hexamine imports from China, Russia, and UAE — reflecting broader scrutiny of chemical sector dumping.

UPSC Angle

Trade remedy measures protect domestic industry while complying with WTO rules. The investigation reflects India's chemical sector vulnerability to Chinese competition. Relevant for GS3 (Economy — Trade and Commerce).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

ANTI-DUMPING IN INDIA:

Investigating authority: DGTR (Directorate General of Trade Remedies), Ministry of Commerce

Legal basis: Customs Tariff Act, 1975 (Section 9A)

WTO basis: Article VI of GATT + Anti-Dumping Agreement

India is among the highest users of anti-dumping duties globally

ETHYL CHLOROFORMATE:

Chemical formula: $C_3H_5ClO_2$

Used in: Pharmaceutical intermediates, agrochemicals, dyes

Key domestic producer: Paushak Ltd, Gujarat

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

DGTR also handles: Countervailing duties (anti-subsidy) and safeguard measures

Countervailing duty: Against subsidised imports (Section 9, Customs Tariff Act)

Safeguard duty: Against sudden import surge (Section 8B, Customs Tariff Act)

India's recent anti-dumping actions: Aluminium, steel, chemicals, textiles from China

RTI REJECTION RATE DROPS TO 3.26%

The government reported that the rejection rate of Right to Information (RTI) applications declined significantly from 7.21% in 2013-14 to 3.26% in 2024-25, indicating improved transparency and accountability.

Key Data

- **RTI applications processed annually:** ~60-70 lakh
- **Rejection rate 2013-14:** 7.21%
- **Rejection rate 2024-25:** 3.26%
- Central Information Commission (CIC) implementing third-party audits of proactive disclosures under Section 4 of the RTI Act

RTI Act, 2005 — Key Provisions

FEATURE	DETAIL
Enacted	2005 (replaced Freedom of Information Act, 2002)
Section 4	Proactive disclosure (suo motu)
Section 6	Any citizen can file RTI (Rs 10 fee)
Section 7	Response within 30 days (48 hours if life/liberty)
Section 8	Exemptions (national security, cabinet papers, etc.)
Section 19	Appeal mechanism (First Appeal → CIC/SIC)

UPSC Angle

RTI Act is a cornerstone of transparent governance. The declining rejection rate suggests improving compliance but concerns remain about Information Commissioner vacancies and delays. Relevant for GS2 (Governance) and GS4 (Ethics — Transparency).

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RTI ACT, 2005:

Enacted: June 15, 2005; operational: October 12, 2005

Replaced: Freedom of Information Act, 2002

Architect: Aruna Roy and MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan), Rajasthan

RTI fee: Rs 10 (BPL families exempted)

Response time: 30 days (48 hours for life/liberty matters)

CIC: Central Information Commission (statutory body under RTI Act)

2019 AMENDMENT:

Changed CIC/IC tenure from fixed 5 years to “as prescribed by Central Government”

Allowed Central Government to determine salary and conditions

Criticised for undermining CIC independence

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

India ranks among top RTI-using democracies globally

Section 8(1): Lists 11 exemptions (sovereignty, security, commercial confidence, etc.)

Section 8(2): Overriding public interest can override exemptions

Maharashtra and Rajasthan were early leaders in state-level RTI laws (pre-2005)

PM MODI — INDIA'S LONGEST-SERVING HEAD OF GOVERNMENT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi became India's longest-serving elected head of government, completing 8,931 days in executive office and surpassing Pawan Kumar Chamling's record.

Record Details

- **Total days in office:** 8,931
- **Combined tenure:** ~13 years as Gujarat Chief Minister (2001-2014) + ~12 years as Prime Minister (2014-present)
- **Previous record holder:** Pawan Kumar Chamling — Chief Minister of Sikkim for 24 years 166 days (1994-2019)
- **PM Modi:** First Prime Minister born after Indian independence (born September 17, 1950)

- **Won 3 consecutive Lok Sabha elections: 2014, 2019, 2024**

Longest-Serving PMs of India

PM	TENURE
Jawaharlal Nehru	16 years 286 days (1947-1964)
Indira Gandhi	~15 years 350 days (combined, 1966-77 + 1980-84)
Narendra Modi	~12 years (2014-present, continuing)
Manmohan Singh	10 years 4 days (2004-2014)

UPSC Angle

This milestone highlights India's democratic continuity and the evolution of executive leadership. Relevant for GS2 (Polity) and General Knowledge.

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

PM MODI'S RECORD:

Total executive office: 8,931 days (CM Gujarat + PM India)

Gujarat CM: October 7, 2001 to May 22, 2014

PM: May 26, 2014 to present

Born: September 17, 1950, Vadnagar, Gujarat

First PM born after independence

PREVIOUS RECORD:

Pawan Kumar Chamling: CM Sikkim, December 12, 1994 to May 27, 2019

Tenure: 24 years 166 days (~8,933 days as CM alone)

Party: Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF)

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Longest-serving PM by PM tenure alone: Jawaharlal Nehru (16 years 286 days)

Shortest-serving PM: Atal Bihari Vajpayee's first term (13 days, 1996)

Youngest PM: Rajiv Gandhi (40 years old at swearing in)

BHARAT ELECTRICITY SUMMIT 2026

The maiden edition of the Bharat Electricity Summit 2026 concluded on March 24 with a comprehensive roadmap for building a resilient, future-ready power sector, attracting over 35,000 attendees and 200+ companies.

Key Highlights

- **Participants:** 35,000+ attendees, 200+ companies, 300+ speakers
- **Focus areas:** Grid modernisation, renewable energy integration, EV charging infrastructure, smart metering
- **Outcome:** Roadmap for India's power sector targeting 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030

India's Power Sector Snapshot

PARAMETER	VALUE
Installed capacity (2026)	~450 GW
Renewable energy share	~45% of installed capacity
Solar target by 2030	300 GW
Total non-fossil fuel target by 2030	500 GW
Per capita electricity consumption	~1,400 kWh/year

UPSC Angle

India's energy transition requires balancing coal dependence with renewable targets. The summit reflects India's NDC commitments under the Paris Agreement. Relevant for GS3 (Energy and Infrastructure).

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

INDIA'S POWER SECTOR:

Installed capacity: ~450 GW (2026)

Solar capacity: ~100 GW (as of 2025)

Wind capacity: ~47 GW

India's NDC: 50% cumulative electric power from non-fossil sources by 2030

Net Zero target: 2070

KEY BODIES:

Ministry of Power: Nodal ministry

CEA: Central Electricity Authority (statutory body)

CERC: Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

MNRE: Ministry of New and Renewable Energy

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Electricity Act, 2003: Governs generation, transmission, distribution

National Smart Grid Mission: Smart metering + grid modernisation

UJALA scheme: LED distribution (900 crore LEDs)

Saubhagya scheme: Universal household electrification (achieved 2019)

JANJATI GAURAV — BOOK PUBLISHED BY IGNCA

The Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) published the book "Janjati Gaurav," highlighting the cultural heritage, contributions, and traditions of India's tribal communities.

About IGNCA

- **Full name:** Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts
- **Established:** 1987
- **Location:** New Delhi
- **Under:** Ministry of Culture
- **Purpose:** Research, documentation, and promotion of India's artistic heritage

Significance of the Book

“Janjati Gaurav” (Tribal Pride) documents the rich cultural traditions, art forms, and historical contributions of Scheduled Tribes. It aligns with the government’s broader tribal welfare push including Janjatiya Gaurav Divas (November 15, Birsa Munda’s birth anniversary).

UPSC Angle

Tribal welfare and cultural preservation are key themes for GS1 (Society) and GS2 (Social Justice). The IGNCA’s role in art documentation is relevant for GS1 (Art & Culture).

FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

IGNCA:

Established: 1987

Location: New Delhi (Janpath area)

Under: Ministry of Culture

Named after: Indira Gandhi (former PM)

TRIBAL POPULATION IN INDIA:

Total: 10.43 crore (8.6% of population, Census 2011)

Largest ST population: Madhya Pradesh

Highest ST proportion: Mizoram (94.4%)

Total Scheduled Tribes: 705 communities

Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs): 75 groups

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

Janjatiya Gaurav Divas: November 15 (Birsa Munda’s birth anniversary)

Article 342: President notifies Scheduled Tribes

Fifth Schedule: Administration of Scheduled Areas (Article 244(1))

Sixth Schedule: Administration of tribal areas in NE India (Article 244(2))

PESA Act, 1996: Extends Panchayati Raj to Scheduled Areas

PERSONS IN NEWS

Pawan Kumar Chamling — Former Chief Minister of Sikkim (1994-2019), whose record of 24 years 166 days as the longest-serving elected head of government in India was surpassed by PM Narendra Modi on March 24, 2026.

UPSC RELEVANCE

World TB Day, RTI Act provisions, CMS/Bonn Convention, Assam Rifles (oldest CAPF), DGTR functions, delimitation articles, Women's Reservation Act, IGNCAs, Bharat Electricity Summit

MAINS GS-II:

Women's reservation and delimitation (Article 81, 170), RTI Act and transparency, India's West Asia policy, Corporate governance reforms

MAINS GS-III:

TB elimination strategy, energy security (SPR), anti-dumping measures, women in agriculture, CMS and migratory species, power sector roadmap

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COMBINED KEY FACTS ACROSS ALL TOPICS:

HEALTH:

TB incidence reduction: 21% since 2015

AI X-ray units deployed: 3,000+

India's TB target: Elimination by 2025

POLITY & GOVERNANCE:

Women's Reservation: 106th Amendment, 33%, Lok Sabha 543 → ~816

RTI rejection rate: 7.21% (2013-14) → 3.26% (2024-25)

Corporate Laws Bill: 31-member JPC, CSR threshold Rs 5 crore → Rs 10 crore

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:

Indians in Gulf: ~10 million

Evacuated since West Asia conflict: 3,75,000+

Energy sources expanded: 27 → 41 countries

ENVIRONMENT:

Hudsonian Godwit decline: 95% in 4 decades

CMS species declining: 49%

Central Asian Flyway: 30 countries, 280 waterbird species

SECURITY:

Assam Rifles: Est. 1835, 191st Raising Day

Indo-Myanmar border: 1,643 km

ECONOMY:

DGTR: Anti-dumping probe on ethyl chloroformate from China

India's installed power capacity: ~450 GW

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

RoDTEP: Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (export promotion)

Aghanashini-Vedavathi River Linking: Karnataka river interlinking project

Chokramudi Hills: Kerala (biodiversity hotspot, Western Ghats)

Brazil's Proalcool Programme: 1975, ethanol blending (up to 30%), flex-fuel vehicles

Sources: [GKToday](#), [Legacy IAS](#), [Insights on India](#), [Vajiram & Ravi](#), [PIB](#)

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