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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 28-03-2026

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Asia Africa Agri Alliance Launched in New Delhi

Senior ambassadors, diplomats, policymakers, and agribusiness leaders from over ten nations formally launched the Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA) in New Delhi, Delhi.

The Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA) is a new institutional platform aimed at strengthening trade, agricultural cooperation, investment, and technology exchange between Asia and Africa.

The initiative seeks to create a structured framework for trade partnerships and policy alignment across the agri-food value chain.

The AAAA has been established as a Section 8 Not-for-Profit Organisation (NPO) under the Companies Act, 2013.

The primary purpose of AAAA is to facilitate structured frameworks for trade partnerships, policy alignment, technology exchange, and investment mobilisation across the agri-food value chain.

The alliance will operate through five key pillars: Trade and Market Access; Technology and Innovation Transfer; Investment and Finance; Policy, Standards and Agriculture Diplomacy; and Capacity Building and Knowledge Exchange.

The platform aims to promote cooperation and collaboration between Asian and African nations in agriculture and food sectors.

UNESCO Raises Concerns Over Aghanashini River-Linking Project

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has raised concerns over the proposed Aghanashini–Vedavathi river-linking project, urging India to strictly follow World Heritage conservation norms under the World Heritage Convention, 1972.

UNESCO's advisory came after a representation by environmental activists, highlighting ecological risks in the Western Ghats, a sensitive and globally recognised biodiversity hotspot.

UNESCO stressed that all infrastructure and river-linking projects in ecologically fragile areas must ensure environmental balance, sustainability, and compliance with international conservation guidelines.

The organisation reiterated that the protection of natural heritage sites is the responsibility of member states, requiring strict adherence to conservation obligations.

The proposed project plans to divert around 35 thousand million cubic feet (tmc ft) of water from the Aghanashini river to the Vedavathi river, raising concerns over large-scale ecological alteration.

The project is also expected to affect thousands of families dependent on the river system for livelihood, agriculture, and water security.

The outcome of the Aghanashini–Vedavathi river-linking project may influence future policies on river interlinking and environmental conservation in India's critical natural landscapes.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Agnikul Cosmos Successfully Conducts Test of Fully 3D-Printed 'Agnite'

Agnikul Cosmos successfully conducted a critical booster engine test of its rocket engine Agnite at the Agnikul Launchpad (ALP-01), Chennai, Tamil Nadu in March 2026.

The test marked a major milestone in India's private space sector, with successful testing of a full metre-long rocket engine, the largest single-piece Inconel rocket engine.

The Agnite engine is fully 3D printed, reducing manufacturing time from 7 months to just 7 days, significantly lowering costs to one-tenth and improving production efficiency.

The engine test validated performance, structural integrity, and propulsion efficiency, enhancing launch readiness and rapid turnaround capability.

The engine is the first of its scale to be tested with electric motor-driven pumps, marking a major advancement in rocket propulsion technology.

The test demonstrated large-scale 3D printing capability, positioning Agnikul as a leader in advanced aerospace manufacturing.

Agnikul operates a fully integrated launch ecosystem, including in-house mission control, ground stations, and flight-proven propulsion systems.

The company enables faster launch responsiveness, allowing satellite operators to access firm launch schedules, custom orbital trajectories, and greater mission certainty.

The system allows payload flexibility, enabling changes up to 30 days before launch, unlike traditional shared launch models.

Agnikul's end-to-end platform reduces coordination complexity by integrating vehicle manufacturing, launch services, and ground operations under one system.

The technology benefits defence, disaster response, constellation deployment, and government missions, where timely launches are critical.

The company has secured commercial partnerships for space-based AI infrastructure and holds patents in the United States, Europe, and India.

BANKING

HDFC Securities Introduces NxtOption Platform

HDFC Securities Limited launched a next-generation trading platform “NxtOption” for retail investors to analyse, build, and execute Futures & Options (F&O) strategies.

NxtOption is an integrated platform that combines strategy building, real-time analytics, and trade execution into a single interface, eliminating fragmented workflows.

The platform enables users to create and analyse options strategies such as Straddles, Strangles, and Iron Condors with pay-off charts and real-time performance tracking.

It offers “Easy Options”, which converts market views (bullish, bearish, neutral) into strategy suggestions along with risk-reward profiles.

The platform provides advanced derivatives analytics, including Delta, Gamma, Theta, Vega, Implied Volatility (IV), and Open Interest (OI) trends.

Additional features include market movers tracking, rollover insights, and F&O ban list monitoring, enhancing decision-making capabilities.

NxtOption supports multi-leg strategy execution, enabling seamless trading with institutional-grade analytics for retail users.

The platform allows users to analyse risk, simulate payoff scenarios, execute trades, and monitor strategies in real time within a unified ecosystem.

The launch aims to simplify derivatives trading and increase retail participation in capital markets in India.

This initiative reinforces HDFC Securities’ commitment to “Powering India’s Investments” by providing advanced tools and analytics to investors.

SEBI and Google Introduce ‘Verified’ Badge for Investment Apps

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has partnered with Google to introduce a ‘verified’ badge for investment apps on the Play Store, aimed at combating rising digital financial frauds and scams.

The verified badge will be issued only to SEBI-registered entities, enabling users to identify genuine stock broker and financial apps, with the feature already rolled out for over 600 apps.

The move addresses the rise in fake investment apps, lookalike platforms, and social media-driven scams, where fraudsters lure investors with false promises of assured returns.

The verified badge system will help users distinguish between legitimate and fraudulent platforms,

reinforcing the message: “First verify, then invest.”

India’s securities market now has over 140 million unique investors, with market capitalisation nearing ₹423 trillion, reflecting strong growth in retail participation and financial inclusion.

The initiative also aims to reduce impersonation risks and financial frauds caused by fake apps promoted through social media and unregistered financial influencers.

SEBI has taken additional steps to strengthen the digital financial ecosystem, including restricting regulated entities from associating with unregistered influencers.

An API-based framework has been implemented to ensure that only verified intermediaries can run advertisements on Google and Meta platforms, improving ad ecosystem integrity.

SEBI plans to sign an agreement with the Ministry of Electronics and IT within a month to enhance coordination in tackling financial frauds and strengthening digital investor protection systems.

DEFENCE

Raksha Mantri Chairs Ministry of Defence Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting on Border Roads Organisation

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chaired a Parliamentary Consultative Committee meeting for the Ministry of Defence on the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in New Delhi, discussing defence, infrastructure development, and strategic initiatives for national security and operational preparedness.

The BRO has enhanced mobility of defence forces and positively transformed the lives of local residents, and is tasked with developing infrastructure along the Indo-Myanmar border spanning approximately 1,600 km, strengthening border management capabilities.

Under the Border Roads Development Programme 2023–28, the BRO is executing over 1,000 projects, including new construction, upgradation, and maintenance works, ensuring all-weather connectivity in remote and high-altitude regions and enhancing operational mobility and defence preparedness.

Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the rapid adoption of modern construction technologies by the BRO, including High Altitude Equipment, Modular Bridges, and Precast Technologies, improving both quality and pace of infrastructure development.

The Government is committed to strengthening the BRO with budgetary support, modern equipment, and personnel welfare initiatives, ensuring future-ready infrastructure.

Since its establishment in 1960, the BRO has constructed over 64,000 km of roads, 1,179 bridges, 22 airfields, and 7 tunnels, significantly enhancing operational readiness and socio-economic development in border areas.

BRO projects have accelerated socio-economic growth of border areas and contributed to the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, with execution of projects in friendly foreign countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, and Tajikistan.

AWARDS & PRIZES

Kalpana Soren Conferred Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award

Kalpana Soren, Member of Legislative Assembly from Gandey, Jharkhand, was honoured with the Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award 2026.

The award was presented during the BRICS CCI WE Annual Women Summit and Felicitation 2026 held in New Delhi.

The recognition was given for her contribution to promoting women-led development and grassroots empowerment, particularly in rural and tribal areas of Jharkhand.

The Women Empowerment Trailblazer Award honours individuals who have made significant contributions to women's empowerment at the grassroots level.

The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry Women Empowerment Summit serves as a platform for dialogue on women's leadership and global development.

The summit was attended by prominent personalities including Meenakshi Lekhi, Raksha Khadse, Abhishek Singh (Director General, National Informatics Centre), Shabana Azmi, and Bhumi Pednekar.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Co-opted Member of ICAI's Sustainability Reporting Standards Board

Chartered Accountant (CA) P.V. Narayana Rao has been appointed as a Co-opted Member of the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB) of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the term 2026-27.

As a co-opted member, he will contribute to the development and strengthening of sustainability reporting standards in India.

P. V. Narayana Rao served as Chairman of the ICAI Warangal Branch in 2015 and was later appointed as a Co-opted Member of the Public Relations Committee of ICAI (Central Council) in 2016.

He is currently serving as Vice President of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Tax Bar Association (TAPTB Association).

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), a statutory body formed under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949, set up the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB) in February 2020 with the objective of creating globally aligned sustainability frameworks and reporting standards.

These standards aim to help Indian corporates align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Theatre Day

World Theatre Day was observed globally on 27 March 2026.

Theme for 2026: “Theatre and a Culture of Peace.”

The day highlights the importance of theatre arts in educating, entertaining and promoting social change across societies.

World Theatre Day was designated in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI).

It celebrates the essence, beauty and significance of theatre arts and their role in cultural expression and public awareness.

The first World Theatre Day was celebrated in 1962 by:ITI Centres, Theatre professionals and organizations, Theatre academies and Theatre lovers worldwide.