

March 2024 Current Affairs – Major Highlights and Key Insights

1. Technology and Security

- **Juice Jacking Warning:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) warned against using public charging ports due to the risk of **juice jacking**. This cyberattack can steal data from mobile devices connected to tampered public charging stations.
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2. India – National Updates

- **Operation Indravati:** India launched this evacuation operation to rescue its nationals from Haiti amid severe civil unrest, moving them to the Dominican Republic.
 - **Battery Gigafactory:** India's first battery energy storage gigafactory, with a 12 GWh capacity by 2026, will be established in **Jammu & Kashmir** by Good Enough Energy.
 - **Jharkhand's Widow Remarriage Scheme:** The state of Jharkhand introduced a scheme offering ₹2 lakhs as an incentive for widows who remarry. The application must be filed within a year of remarriage, and it has specific conditions regarding age and employment.
 - **International Women's Day 2024:** Celebrated on **March 8th**, its theme was "**Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress**," aligning with Sustainable Development Goal #5 on gender equality.
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3. Important Days in March

- **3 March:** World Wildlife Day
- **10 March:** CISF Raising Day
- **14 March:** Pi Day/Mathematics Day
- **20 March:** World Happiness Day
- **22 March:** World Water Day & Bihar Day
- **24 March:** World Tuberculosis Day

4. National and International Awards 🏆

- **Bhutan's Highest Civilian Award:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was awarded the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo**, Bhutan's highest civilian honor.
- **Abel Prize 2024:** Awarded to **Michel Talagrand** for his significant work in probability theory.
- **Pritzker Architecture Prize 2024:** Japan's **Riken Yamamoto** was the recipient of this prestigious architectural award.
- **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023:** **Neelam Saran Gour** (English) and **Sanjeev** (Hindi) received this literary award, which recognizes works in 24 Indian languages.
- **Oscars 2024:** The film "**Oppenheimer**" swept many major categories, winning Best Picture, Best Director (Christopher Nolan), Best Actor (Cillian Murphy), and Best Supporting Actor (Robert Downey Jr.). **Emma Stone** won Best Actress for "Poor Things."
- **Ramon Magsaysay Award 2024:** This award was given to **Amitav Ghosh** for his work on climate change.

5. Sports Highlights 🏆⚽

- **Ranji Trophy 2024:** **Mumbai** won the title, defeating Vidarbha in the final.
- **Pro Kabaddi League Season 10:** **Puneri Paltan** secured their first title by beating the Haryana Steelers. Aslam Inamdar was named the Most Valuable Player.
- **WPL 2024:** The **Royal Challengers Bangalore** won the Women's Premier League by defeating the Delhi Capitals.
- **Miss World 2024:** The 71st Miss World title, held in Mumbai, was won by **Krystyna Pyszková** of the Czech Republic. The original data provided an incorrect name and country for the winner.
- **Paralympic Committee of India President:** Indian para-athlete and two-time gold medalist **Devendra Jhajharia** was elected as the new president.

6. Science, Infrastructure, and Innovation 🚀🏛️

- **World's First Under-River Metro Tunnel:** Inaugurated in **Kolkata**, this metro tunnel runs under the Hooghly River, connecting Howrah Maidan and Esplanade.
- **Ganga Dolphin Research Center:** Established at Patna University, Bihar.
- **First Indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Nuclear Reactor:** Located in **Kalpakkam**,

Tamil Nadu.

- **SELA Tunnel Project:** The Border Roads Organisation (**BRO**) constructed this world-class two-lane tunnel at 13,000 feet, connecting Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **AI Robot Teacher 'Iris':** Deployed in Kerala, Iris is India's first generative AI educator in a school.
 - **Agni-V Missile Test:** India successfully tested the Agni-V missile with **MIRV** (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle) technology, which allows a single missile to deliver multiple warheads to different targets.
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7. Social Programs and International Affairs 🌐🤝

- **Indiraamma Housing Scheme:** A social program in **Telangana** that provides financial assistance and a house plot to the poor and homeless.
 - **Sweden Joins NATO:** Sweden became the **32nd member** of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (**NATO**).
 - **Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse:** In Baltimore, Maryland, USA, the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapsed after a cargo ship struck one of its support pillars.
 - **Joint Military Exercises:** - **Samudra Lakshmana:** A naval exercise between India and Malaysia.
 - **Laamitye 2024:** A joint military exercise between India and Seychelles.
 - **Sea Defenders 2024:** A maritime exercise involving the Indian and US Coast Guards.
 - **Chhapchar Kut Festival:** This is a major spring festival celebrated in **Mizoram**, marking the end of the Jhum (slash-and-burn) agricultural clearing.
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8. Economy and Rankings 📊

- **UNDP Human Development Index 2022:** India was ranked **134th** out of 193 countries.
- **World Happiness Report:** India ranked **126th** out of 143 nations. Finland was named the happiest country for the seventh consecutive year.
- **World Air Quality Report 2023 (IQAir):** Bangladesh had the worst air quality, followed by Pakistan, with India ranking third.
- **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags:** Several products received GI tags, including **Bangla Muslin** from West Bengal, **Majuli Mask** from Assam, and **Narsapur Lace Crochet** from Andhra Pradesh.