



EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 01, 2026

TAMILNADU

➤ First Dark Sky Park

- ✓ Tamil Nadu Forest Minister R S Rajakannappan inaugurated the State's first Dark Sky Park at Ariyur Shola Reserve Forest, Kolli Hills, Namakkal district, positioning TN as a growing astro-tourism destination.
- ✓ Set up at a cost of Rs.1 crore, the park features three advanced telescopes and solar-powered infrastructure.
- ✓ Enables night-time observation of stars, planets, the Milky Way, and the moon, and promotes scientific literacy and astronomy awareness among students, researchers, and the public during the day.
- ✓ The park operates from January 15 to June 15 and remains closed during the monsoon season.

NATIONAL

➤ Nationwide Sale of E20 Petrol

- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has mandated the nationwide sale of E20 petrol (up to 20% ethanol blending) with a minimum Research Octane Number (RON) of 95 across all States and Union Territories from 1 April 2026 to enhance cleaner fuel usage.
- ✓ The Ethanol Blended Programme, launched in January 2003 with an initial 5% blending target, has gradually expanded to higher levels of blending to boost India's energy security and support farmers and the agricultural economy.

- **UIDAI Partners with Google to Display Authorised Aadhaar Centres**
- ✓ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has partnered with Google to display authorised Aadhaar Centres on Google Maps, improving accessibility, transparency, and convenience for residents across India.
- ✓ Users will be able to identify centres based on specific services such as adult enrolment, child enrolment, address/mobile updates, along with details on accessibility features (divyang-friendly infrastructure), parking availability, and operating hours.
- ✓ The collaboration will cover over 60,000 verified Aadhaar Centres, including Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs), and in the next phase, UIDAI will utilise Google Business Profile to manage centre information and respond directly to public feedback for a more responsive service ecosystem.

- **Rail Tech Policy 2026**
- ✓ The Indian Railways has launched the Rail Tech Policy 2026, Rail Tech Portal, and e-Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) in New Delhi.
- ✓ The announcement was made by Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw as part of the “52 Reforms in 52 Weeks” initiative aimed at accelerating technology adoption, enhancing safety, and promoting digital governance in railway operations.
- ✓ Rail Tech Policy 2026 launched to promote large-scale adoption of advanced technologies.
- ✓ Policy encourages collaboration with startups, industry, and academic institutions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- **Zero Discrimination Day - March 1**
- ✓ Zero Discrimination Day 2026 is observed on the 1st of March.
- ✓ The Day aims to promote inclusion, compassion, and peace and it is a movement for change.
- ✓ 2026 Theme: “HIV-Related Stigma and Discrimination Put Lives at Risk” emphasises that ending HIV/AIDS requires an end to discrimination.
- ✓ The Day was first celebrated and observed on March 1st, 2014.
- ✓ Zero Discrimination Day was launched by UNAIDS.

➤ **World Civil Defence Day - March 1**

- ✓ World Civil Defence Day is observed globally to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence, disaster preparedness, and emergency response systems.
- ✓ World Civil Defence Day is promoted and coordinated by the International Civil Defence Organization (ICDO).
- ✓ The theme for World Civil Defence Day 2026, is “Managing Environmental Risks for a Resilient and Sustainable Future”.

