

Weekly Current Affairs Summary: 09 March 2025

03 March to 08 March 2025

Note: Due to some technical issues, we are posting the weekly summary in a document instead of in eBook format. Starting next Sunday, we will continue posting the weekly eBook.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Political and Governmental Developments:

1. **Sashakt Panchayat-Netri Abhiyan:** A national workshop was held to empower women elected representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions, aiming to enhance capacity-building across India. (March 3, 2025)
2. **India's SDG Progress:** India lags in achieving SDGs, with 36 states meeting over half of the targets in just 4 out of 15 SDGs, indicating mixed progress. (March 3, 2025)
3. **Central Tax Revenue Reduction:** The Indian government is considering a reduction in states' share of central tax revenues, from 41% to 40%, for fiscal 2026-27. (March 3, 2025)
4. **US Official Language:** President Donald Trump announced English as the official language of the United States. (March 4, 2025)
5. **Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana:** Uttarakhand government launched a scheme for single women (unmarried, divorced, destitute, and differently-abled) providing financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh, with 75% as a grant. (March 5, 2025)
6. **India's First World Peace Center:** India inaugurated its first World Peace Center in Gurugram, Haryana, under the guidance of Jain Acharya Lokesh, promoting non-violence and human values. (March 5, 2025)
7. **Kerala's Cybersecurity Operations Centre:** Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Advanced Cybersecurity Operations Centre (SOC) to protect police systems and critical infrastructure using AI-powered solutions. (March 7, 2025)
8. **PM Modi Inaugurates Vantara Animal Rescue Center:** PM Modi inaugurated an animal rescue center in Jamnagar, Gujarat, focusing on Asiatic lions and snow leopards' conservation. (March 5, 2025)

9. **PM Modi Receives Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados:** PM Modi was awarded the 'Honorary Order of Freedom of Barbados' for his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. (March 8, 2025)
10. **IWAI MoU with Jammu & Kashmir:** The Inland Waterways Authority of India signed an MoU with J&K to develop river cruise tourism, boosting the economy and tourism through National Waterways. (March 8, 2025)

Scientific and Technological Advancements:

1. **Next-gen Lighting Tech:** Bengaluru's CeNS researchers developed a technique to enhance OLEDs, QLEDs, and mini-LEDs for brighter, more durable lighting. (March 3, 2025)
 2. **SPHEREx Telescope:** NASA is launching SPHEREx, a telescope to map galaxies in 3D and help test theories of cosmic inflation. (March 3, 2025)
 3. **Quantum Computing Chip - Ocelot:** AWS revealed Ocelot, a new quantum chip that reduces error correction costs by up to 90%. (March 4, 2025)
 4. **AI-Based UTAM System at Delhi Airport:** Delhi Airport launched an AI-driven system to streamline airside operations and reduce delays. (March 4, 2025)
 5. **Tata Semiconductor Fab Agreement:** Tata Electronics, in partnership with the Indian Semiconductor Mission, signed a Fiscal Support Agreement for India's first commercial semiconductor fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat. (March 7, 2025)
 6. **DRDO's High-Altitude Trials:** DRDO successfully tested an oxygen-generating system for the LCA Tejas aircraft at altitudes up to 50,000 feet. (March 6, 2025)
 7. **Tata Motors' Hydrogen-Powered Trucks Trials:** Tata Motors launched its first hydrogen-powered heavy-duty truck trials, showcasing H2-ICE and H2-FCEV technology on India's freight routes. (March 6, 2025)
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Sports and Achievements:

1. **Vidarbha Wins Ranji Trophy:** Vidarbha claimed their third Ranji Trophy title, defeating Kerala in a memorable match. (March 4, 2025)
2. **Virat Kohli's 300th ODI:** Virat Kohli played his 300th ODI during the Champions Trophy against New Zealand in Dubai. (March 4, 2025)
3. **Krishna Jayasankar Sets Record:** Krishna Jayasankar became the first Indian woman to surpass 16m in indoor shot put with a throw of 16.03m, winning bronze at the 2025 Mountain West Indoor Track & Field Championships. (March 5, 2025)

4. **Sharath Kamal Announces Retirement:** Indian table tennis champion Achanta Sharath Kamal announced his retirement at 42 after a successful career, including 5 Olympics and 10 national titles. (March 6, 2025)
5. **Khelo India Winter Games:** The Khelo India Winter Games in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir, will be held from March 9 to 12, 2025, after being postponed due to snowfall issues. (March 5, 2025)
6. **Khelo India Para Games:** The Khelo India Para Games 2025 will be held in New Delhi from March 20-27, featuring 1,230 para athletes and aiming to promote para sports in India. (March 7, 2025)

Cultural and Literary Events:

1. **Kailash Satyarthi's Autobiography:** A literary discussion was held on Kailash Satyarthi's autobiography "Diyaslai" focusing on child rights and social justice. (March 3, 2025)
 2. **Forbes India Leadership Awards:** Jay Shah, ICC Chairman, was honored with the Icon of Excellence award at the Forbes India Leadership Awards. (March 4, 2025)
 3. **India's Consulate Hosts First Film Festival in Montana:** The Consulate General of India organized the 'Festival of Indian Cinema' in Montana, showcasing films like English Vinglish and Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara. (March 6, 2025)
 4. **Festival of Letters 2025:** Sahitya Akademi is hosting the Festival of Letters 2025 in New Delhi from March 7 to 12, with participation from 700 writers and 100 sessions. (March 8, 2025)
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Environmental and Sustainability News:

1. **Ethiopian Volcano Methane Emission:** Mount Fentale in Ethiopia released large methane plumes, raising climate concerns. (March 3, 2025)
 2. **India's River Dolphin Survey:** India's first river dolphin survey recorded 6,327 dolphins across 28 rivers. Uttar Pradesh had the highest count, with the PM stressing dolphin conservation and eco-tourism. (March 5, 2025)
 3. **Sustainable Development Summit:** Union Minister Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2025 in New Delhi, focusing on accelerating climate solutions, with India playing a key role in climate action for the Global South. (March 7, 2025)
 4. **C-3 Coalition for Circularity:** India launched the Cities Coalition for Circularity (C-3), aiming to improve sustainable urban development through city-to-city collaboration on waste management and resource efficiency. (March 6, 2025)
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Health and Social Welfare:

1. **Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana:** This pension scheme provides ₹3,000/month to unorganized sector workers with monthly earnings up to ₹15,000 after age 60. (March 6, 2025)
 2. **PhonePe's 'Insuring HEROES' Campaign:** PhonePe launched the 'Insuring HEROES' campaign ahead of International Women's Day, offering discounts on life and health insurance plans to promote financial security for women. (March 8, 2025)
 3. **Punjab Launches 'Project Hifazat':** Punjab launched 'Project Hifazat,' a 24/7 helpline for immediate assistance to women and children affected by violence. (March 8, 2025)
 4. **'Jan Aushadhi Diwas':** March 7 is celebrated as 'Jan Aushadhi Diwas' to promote the usage of affordable generic medicines through the PMBJP initiative. (March 8, 2025)
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International News:

1. **Yamandú Orsi Sworn in as Uruguay's President:** Uruguay's new leftist president, Yamandú Orsi, marks the return of the Broad Front coalition. Diljit Dosanjh becomes Levi's global ambassador. (March 5, 2025)
 2. **FIFA Bans Pakistan, Russia, and Congo:** Due to administrative failures and geopolitical issues, Pakistan, Russia, and Congo were banned from the 2026 World Cup. (March 6, 2025)
 3. **Fred Stolle Passes Away:** Tennis icon Fred Stolle, a key player in Australia's Davis Cup victories, passed away at 86. He won 7 Grand Slam mixed doubles titles. (March 8, 2025)
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Economic and Business News:

1. **Core Industries Growth:** The Index of Eight Core Industries showed a 4.2% YoY growth, with Crude Oil production declining by 2.1% in January 2025. (March 3, 2025)
2. **Andhra Pradesh Green Hydrogen Plant:** Andhra CM inaugurated a ₹1,000-crore plant blending green hydrogen with LPG/PNG for industrial use. (March 4, 2025)
3. **New Navratna Companies:** The Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) and Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) are now granted Navratna status, with IRFC's turnover over ₹26,000 crore and IRCTC's over ₹4,000 crore. India now has 26 Navratna companies. (March 5, 2025)
4. **City Union Bank and CSK Partnership:** City Union Bank launched a co-branded credit card with Chennai Super Kings, offering fans a unique financial product. (March 4, 2025)
5. **The Wealth Report 2025:** India ranks 4th globally in the population of High Net-Worth

Individuals (HNWIs), with 85,698 HNWIs. The global HNWI population grew by 4.4% in 2024. (March 8, 2025)

Miscellaneous:

1. **India's First Woman Law Secretary:** Anju Rathi Rana has been appointed as India's first woman Law Secretary, marking a historic milestone in the Ministry of Law and Justice. (March 8, 2025)
 2. **Blue Ghost Lands on Moon:** Firefly Aerospace's Blue Ghost spacecraft became the second private vehicle to land on the Moon, continuing NASA-private sector collaborations. (March 6, 2025)
 3. **Supreme Court Ruling on Disability Rights:** The Supreme Court ruled that the right against disability-based discrimination is a fundamental right, supporting visually impaired candidates in judicial services. (March 6, 2025)
 4. **India Ranks 3rd Globally in Start-Ups:** India ranks 3rd globally in startups, driven by government initiatives. The Union Budget allocated ₹20,000 crore for R&D, and India's innovation ranking improved significantly. (March 7, 2025)
 5. **RBI Appoints New Executive Director:** Ajit Ratnakar Joshi has been appointed as Executive Director at RBI, overseeing Statistics, Information Management, and Financial Stability. (March 7, 2025)
 6. **Kedarnath Ropeway Project Approved:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved a ₹4,081 crore project to build a 12.9 km ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath in Uttarakhand. (March 7, 2025)
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