

Weekly Current Affairs (Mar 12 to Mar 18)

- BP Kanungo was appointed Deputy Governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years.
- Reliance Capital's long serving CEO Sam Ghosh will leave the company on 31 March, after spending nine years at the financial services arm of Anil Ambani-led business conglomerate.
- Shri Narendra Kumar, an officer of Central Water Engineering Service (1979 batch) has assumed the charge of Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC).
- The Lok Sabha on 10 March 2017 passed the Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016.
- The international conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), is being organized from 15th to 17th, March 2017 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association (ISSA).
- On the occasion of 127th Foundation Day of National Archives of India (NAI), an exhibition entitled "Revolutionary Patriots (1905-1947)" was inaugurated by Shri N.K. Sinha, Secretary, Ministry of Culture in the presence of Shri Raghvendra Singh, Director General of NAI and many dignitaries.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs of India. launched a mobile application "MySSB" in New Delhi
- 'Dangal' won the Viewer's Choice Best Film award at Zee Cine Awards 2017 on 11th March 2017.
- Pakistan is set to conduct its first national census in 19 years which will begin on Wednesday with the assistance of over 200,000 troops.
- Thai contestant Jiratchaya Sirimongkolnawin was crowned Miss International Queen 2016 on Friday at a contest billed as the world's largest and most popular transgender pageant.
- Korea's Hyundai Engineering Co has signed a deal worth 3 billion euros (USD 3.2 billion) with an Iranian investment fund to invest in a major Iranian oil project.
- Environment minister Anil Madhav Dave, on Monday released the second stage of the Hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) phase-out management plan (HPMP), greenhouse gases that damage the earth's ozone layer.
- U.S. chip giant Intel has agreed to buy Israeli driverless technology firm Mobileye for \$15.3 billion, the largest ever acquisition of an Israeli high-tech company.
- All restrictions on cash withdrawal from savings bank account have been removed from today as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced about it last month. Earlier, it had removed cash withdrawal limits from ATMs from February 1.

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- SSP Chawrasia has become only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open title.
- Bangladesh's unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army on the night of March 25, 1971.
- The Government of Arunachal Pradesh has launched a new scheme - Adarsh Gram Yojana - with a view to reach to the poor people in rural areas.
- The AIADMK IT Wing has launched the first-of-its-kind women safety application in Tamil Nadu. The app is called 'Ammavin Aran' meaning 'mother's fortress'.
- Shiv Sena's Vishwanath Mahadeshwar elected as the Mayor of Mumbai with the support of the BJP, marking a coming together of the two parties after contesting the civic polls separately.
- Lee Chong Wei won his fourth All England Open Badminton Championships crown.
- HSBC has appointed Mark Tucker, the chief executive of Asian insurer AIA, as group chairman.
- Karnataka has announced an Idea2POC (Proof of Concept) fund of Rs10 crore for women entrepreneurs.
- Chinese smartphone maker OnePlus has roped in Bollywood veteran Amitabh Bachchan as its new brand ambassador for India.
- NTPC started power generation from India's largest floating solar power plant at Kayamkulam in Kerala.
- Focussing on women welfare and new born, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has come out with an innovative scheme – KCR Kit.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley was given the additional charge of the Defence Ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa Chief Minister.
- William B Thomas has been elected Chairman of KPMG International.
- Airtel Payments Bank, offered by telecom major Bharti Airtel, announced that over one lakh savings accounts were opened in 100 villages across Tamil Nadu.
- Defence minister Manohar Parrikar appointed as the Goa chief minister after BJP concluded hectic negotiations with regional parties and independents to stitch up the numbers to form a government.
- Border guards of India and Bangladesh celebrated the festival of Holi together along the international border.
- As per RBI data, ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds during April to December period of 2016 with state-owned SBI taking the second spot.
- In UK, the House of Lords has passed the Brexit bill, paving the way for the government to trigger Article 50 so the UK can leave the EU.

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- The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) upheld a lifetime ban levied against Sergei Portugalov, former chief of the Russian Athletics Federation's Medical Commission for his role in providing illicit substances to Russian athletes.
- The former Puducherry Agriculture Minister M. Chandrakasu passed away after a prolonged illness. He was 67.
- Commerce & Industry Minister Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha.
- Popular American author, filmmaker and public speaker, Amy Krouse Rosenthal died due to ovarian cancer. She was 51.
- Finance minister Arun Jaitley was given the additional charge of the defence ministry after Manohar Parrikar resigned to take on the new role of Goa chief minister.
- In a surprise development, Shashank Manohar has resigned as International Cricket Council (ICC) chairman after merely eight months in office, citing personal reasons.
- National Agricultural Fair "Krishi Unnati Mela 2017" is being organised during March 15-17, 2017 at IARI, PUSA New Delhi by ICAR-DARE, IARI supported by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Govt. of India.
- Commonwealth Day was celebrated annually across the Commonwealth of Nations on March 13, 2017.
- Reliance Commercial Finance, a subsidiary of Reliance Capital announced the appointment of Devang Mody as chief executive officer.
- The Union cabinet approved revised MoU between India and Bangladesh for establishing Border Haats.
- Recognizing the potential and possibilities in the fisheries sector, Government of India has envisaged a program named "Blue Revolution" to unlock the country's latent potential through an integrated approach.
- Hyderabad for the third year in a row has emerged as the best city in terms of living standards among Indian cities, while Vienna has been ranked at the top globally in a list by consultancy firm Mercer.
- The Capital Raising Committee of Bank of Baroda's board approved raising of funds through the issuance of Basel III compliant Additional Tier-I bonds (perpetual debt instrument) amounting to Rs 500 crore with green shoe option of Rs 500 crore.
- The World Bank has agreed to provide loan to develop internal transmission arrangements of the upcoming Rewa Ultra Mega Solar (RUMS) project in Madhya Pradesh.

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- Private sector lender IndusInd Bank will buy IL&FS Securities Services Ltd (ISSL), a subsidiary of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services (IL&FS) Ltd, in an all-cash deal.
- The world's first fluorescent frog has been discovered near Santa Fe in Argentina.
- The Union government has launched Mission Fingerling to achieve Blue Revolution with the holistic development and management of fisheries in the country.
- The incumbent Chief Minister of Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh resigned from the post giving way for formation of a new ministry under the BJP.
- Wholesale inflation shot up to a 39-month high of 6.55% in February 2017, on account of costlier food and fuel items.
- The government has launched a new scheme Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) for developing export linked infrastructure in states with a view to promote outbound shipments.
- Retail inflation rose to a 4-month high of 3.65% in February 2017, mainly due to an increase in the prices of food items. Inflation measured in terms of the Consumer Price Index had stood at 3.17% in January 2017.
- Focussing on women welfare and new born, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has come out with an innovative scheme – KCR Kit.
- Union Minister Babul Supriyo has been appointed vice-president of the FIFA U-17 World Cup organizing committee.
- Two Indian companies, Tata Steel BSE and Wipro have been named in the list of world's most ethical companies by American think tank Ethisphere Institute.
- HDFC Bank launched an instant digital Loan Against Securities (LAS) facility in collaboration with the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL).
- The government has launched a new scheme — TIES — for developing export linked infrastructure in states with a view to promote outbound shipments.
- World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) was started in 1983 and is an awareness day which is observed on March 15.
- The US Senate has confirmed Indian-American Seema Verma for a top health care position in the Trump administration and she was set to play a key role in the government's bid to "repeal and replace" Obamacare.
- Power equipment maker BHEL has commenced commercial operations of its first 800-MW unit, a supercritical thermal plant in Karnataka.

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- Central Bank of India has been awarded first prize in the implementation of Official Language Policy in the western region for the year 2015-2016.
- Captain Amarinder Singh, who led the Congress to victory in Punjab after a decade, will be sworn-in as the Chief Minister for the second time.
- The government has approved the National Health Policy which proposes to provide assured health services to all in the country.
- Two times Olympic gold medallist Joanna Rowsell Shand announced her retirement from international cycling.
- The Cabinet has approved financial assistance for bifurcated Andhra Pradesh by way of special dispensation in funding of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) and also the irrigation component of Polavaram project.
- State Bank of India and real estate developers' body CREDAI have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly conduct various initiatives towards development of the realty sector.
- Unveiling one of the flagship schemes in the 2017–18 Karnataka budget, CM Siddaramaiah announced the setting up of Namma Canteens in the state capital Bengaluru, along the lines of the Amma canteens introduced by late Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.
- Singapore's Changi Airport has been voted the World's Best Airport by air travellers at the 2017 World Airport Awards for the fifth consecutive year.
- The Times Higher Education's Asia University Rankings 2017 released listed Bengaluru's Indian Institute of Science 27. India among other countries in the South East Asian Region, which bear half of the global tuberculosis burden, today signed a 'call for action' and pledged to scale up measures to end the disease by 2030.
- The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has tied up with Sentifi, a Swiss company and leader in algorithmic-based analysis, for social media updates of 40,000 globally listed stocks.
- Former Australian captain Michael Clarke has launched his autobiography titled "My Story" at Kolkata.
- Sun Pharmaceuticals Managing Director Dilip Shanghvi has been appointed by the central government as a member of the western area local board of Reserve Bank of India.
- Residents of a sleepy hamlet in a remote corner of coastal Kendrapara district in Odisha are elated as their son-of-the-soil ascended to a top-position in the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- India's most successful Badminton Doubles specialist Jwala Gutta has been appointed a member of the governing body of Sports Authority of India (SAI).

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- An Indian-American teen has won the top award, worth USD 250,000, in the oldest and most prestigious science and math competition in the US, for her research on preventing death of neurons due to brain injuries or neurodegenerative diseases.
- State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) will invest over Rs 21,500 crore to develop India's deepest gas discovery by 2022-23, helping it more than double output from its prime KG basin block.
- Bandhan Bank, has signed an agreement with Avenues India Pvt Ltd, a payment solution provider to provide merchants with seamless access to point-of-sales (POS) and payment gateway products.
- China and Saudi Arabia have signed preliminary deals that is about \$65 billion while four-day visit by Saudi King Salman to China.
- SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket conducted its third flight of the year to launch a commercial communications satellite in the geosynchronous transfer orbit.
- Pakistan Navy conducted a successful test of a land-based anti-ship missile, bolstering the operational reach of the country's navy to launch long-range, anti-ship missiles from land.
- India ranks 148 globally in terms of representation of women in executive government and parliament, according to a report published by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women.
- The Congress's floor leader in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge is all set to become the next chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
- SAF Small Finance Bank, Kerala's first private sector in micro financing, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Lenovo has announced the appointment of Subhankar Roy Chowdhury to head its human resources team in Asia Pacific.
- A Railway research centre in Australia has entered into an agreement with the Indian Railways to support future research and technology development related to critical infrastructure in India.
- Union Minister of Civil Aviation Ashok Gajapathi Raju performed the ground-breaking ceremony for the first ever Airbus India Training Centre in Asia.
- GST council approves SGST and UTGST draft bills.
- The students of Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT) Pune and technology giant IBM have developed a robot, Chintu, which would assist senior citizens in their everyday tasks.
- Sanjauli police station has become the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a nationwide online tracking system.

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- India and Brazil initialled the finalised text of the Social Security Agreement taking forward the spirit of the Goa Declaration at the 8th BRICS Summit, outcomes of the meetings of BRICS Labour & Employment Ministers held on 9 June 2016 in Geneva and on 27-28 September 2016 in New Delhi.
- In a world-first a New Zealand river Whanganui has been granted the same legal rights as a human being.
- Yogi Adityanath declared new CM of UP
- Kerala gets first private bank: ESAF Small Finance Bank
- Trivendra Rawat elected as Uttarakhand CM.

