



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

**DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

# Current Affairs Today - March 8, 2026

8 March 2026

**SUBJECTS COVERED****SOCIAL ISSUES****POLITY****ECONOMY****SCIENCE & TECH****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator •

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

Free UPSC &amp; State PCS Resources

[ujiyari.com](http://ujiyari.com)

# Current Affairs Today - March 8, 2026

8 March 2026 · 6 min read

## ▼ On this Page

**01** International Women’s Day 2026 Pushed the...

**02** Women’s Labour-Force Participation Is a Core...

**03** Nari Shakti Vandan Changed the Discussion...

**04** Women in STEM and Leadership Need...

**05** Quasars Remained a Useful Science Topic...

## ✎ WHY IN NEWS

March 8, 2026 was dominated by **International Women’s Day**, making it the right moment to move from symbolic celebration to measurable questions of equality: work, representation, safety, ownership, leadership, and access to science and technology.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY 2026 PUSHED THE DEBATE BEYOND SYMBOLISM

**International Women’s Day** is observed every year on **8 March**. The day was first observed in **1911** and has been recognised by the **United Nations** since **1975**. Its policy relevance lies in the fact that gender equality cannot be judged by formal rights alone. It has to be judged by whether women can safely study, work, inherit assets, participate in politics, access credit, and shape public decisions.

For India, the day matters because progress has been uneven. Women’s education levels and self-help group participation have risen, but gaps remain in labour-force participation, unpaid care work, wage equality, digital access, and safety in public spaces. In exam writing, the strongest answers connect gender equality to economic growth, democratic depth, and human development rather than treating it as a welfare subsection.

## WOMEN’S LABOUR-FORCE PARTICIPATION IS A CORE DEVELOPMENT INDICATOR

The question of **women’s work participation** is central to both economy and society. According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) 2023-24** (July 2023 - June 2024), India’s female Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for ages 15+ stood at **41.7%**, up from **37.0%** in 2022-23 and a historic low of

**23.3%** in 2017-18. Rural female LFPR reached **47.6%**, while urban female LFPR remains lower. The Worker Population Ratio (WPR) for women rose to **40.3%**.

While the trend is positive, the issue is not just about headline numbers. It is also about unpaid care work, lack of safe transport, weak childcare support, informality, and occupational segmentation. India's female LFPR still lags behind the global average of approximately **47%** (ILO estimate).

This is why policy responses have to go beyond skill training. They include creches, safer mobility, flexible work design, access to credit, support to women-led enterprises, and greater recognition of care work in public policy. In UPSC terms, the issue connects **GS-1 social issues**, **GS-2 welfare and governance**, and **GS-3 growth and employment**.

## NARI SHAKTI VANDAN CHANGED THE DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

The **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, formally the **Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023**, reopened the debate on whether descriptive representation can change the quality of governance. It was introduced in Lok Sabha on **19 September 2023** during a special session of Parliament and received Presidential assent shortly after. The amendment inserts new **Articles 330-A and 332-A**, mandating **one-third reservation for women** in the **Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies**, and the **Delhi Assembly**. The reservation also applies within existing **SC and ST constituencies**. It is to remain in effect for **15 years**, though Parliament may extend it.

However, implementation is linked to a **delimitation exercise** based on a future census, meaning the reservation will not apply until after the next delimitation is completed.

The larger point is that women's representation is not merely a fairness issue. It affects agenda setting in legislatures, visibility of care-economy issues, and the social legitimacy of democratic institutions. India's experience with the **73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments** (1992), which provided one-third reservation for women in **Panchayats and Municipalities**, already shows that representation can alter priorities in water, health, education, and local accountability.

## WOMEN IN STEM AND LEADERSHIP NEED A STRONGER PIPELINE

International Women's Day also kept attention on the persistent under-representation of women in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics**. The challenge is not only at the point of education; it is a pipeline issue involving mentoring, hiring, career breaks, funding access, institutional bias, and leadership opportunities.

This matters for India because the country wants to lead in semiconductors, AI, biotechnology, space, and research-intensive manufacturing. A science system that excludes women from senior roles weakens both fairness and national capability. Government initiatives like **KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in**

**Research Advancement through Nurturing)** under the **Department of Science and Technology** aim to address the gender gap, but systemic change requires deeper institutional reform.

## QUASARS REMAINED A USEFUL SCIENCE TOPIC IN THE NEWS CYCLE

Alongside the gender agenda, the current-affairs cycle also carried discussion on **quasars** as tools for understanding the universe. A quasar is an extremely luminous **active galactic nucleus (AGN)** powered by matter falling into a **supermassive black hole** at the centre of a distant galaxy. The accretion disc surrounding the black hole heats material to extreme temperatures, producing radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum. Because quasars are visible at enormous distances — some observed at redshifts exceeding  $z = 7$ , corresponding to the universe's first billion years — astronomers study them to probe the early universe and the expansion history of space.

The UPSC value here lies in clarity of concepts: quasars are not stars, not pulsars, and not black holes themselves. They are energetic regions around supermassive black holes, and they are useful for astronomy because of their extraordinary luminosity — some quasars outshine their entire host galaxy by factors of hundreds.

### UPSC RELEVANCE

International Women's Day (8 March); PLFS 2023-24 female LFPR 41.7%; Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023; Articles 330-A and 332-A; women in STEM; KIRAN programme; quasars, active galactic nuclei.

#### MAINS GS-1:

Gender inequality, women and work, women in science.

#### MAINS GS-2:

Political representation, 106th Amendment, democratic inclusion.

#### MAINS GS-3:

Human capital and basic astronomy.

## ★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY:

- Observed every year on **8 March**
- First observed in **1911**; UN recognition since **1975**
- Focuses on equality, dignity, safety, opportunity, and rights

### WOMEN AND WORK IN INDIA (PLFS 2023-24):

- Female LFPR (15+ years): **41.7%** (up from 23.3% in 2017-18)
- Rural female LFPR: **47.6%**; urban female LFPR: lower
- Female Worker Population Ratio: **40.3%**
- Global female LFPR average: approximately **47%** (ILO)
- Constraints: care work, safety, childcare, informality, wage gaps

### NARI SHAKTI VANDAN ADHINIYAM (106TH AMENDMENT ACT, 2023):

- Introduced: **19 September 2023** (special session of Parliament)
- Inserts **Articles 330-A and 332-A** in the Constitution
- Provides **one-third reservation** for women in Lok Sabha, State Assemblies, and Delhi Assembly
- Also applies within **SC and ST reserved constituencies**
- Duration: **15 years** (extendable by Parliament)
- Implementation: tied to **delimitation after a future census**
- Precedent: 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) for local bodies

### QUASARS:

- Quasar = extremely luminous **active galactic nucleus (AGN)**
- Power source: accretion disc around a **supermassive black hole**
- Some observed at redshift  **$z > 7$**  (universe's first billion years)
- Can outshine their host galaxy by factors of hundreds
- Useful for studying the early universe and cosmic expansion

### OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

- KIRAN programme: DST scheme to support women scientists re-entering research
- India's female literacy rate: approximately **70.3%** (Census 2011); rising significantly since
- Over **10 crore women** are members of Self-Help Groups under DAY-NRLM

Sources: [UN Women](#), [Ministry of Women and Child Development](#), [PRS Legislative Research](#), [Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation](#), [NASA](#)

## RELATED EDITORIALS

### THE HINDU

**AI-Powered Taxation — Project Insight's Gains and Governance Risks**

### HINDUSTAN TIMES

**Drones and the Future of War — India's Defence Manufacturing Imperative**

20 Mar

**DOWN TO EARTH****Spring That Never Came — El Niño 2026 and the Monsoon Threat India Must Prepare For**

20 Mar

20 Mar

**MINT****FDI and the Land-Border Rule — India's Calibrated Re-engagement with China-Linked Capital**

20 Mar

---

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

 [linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

 [Read Full Article on Ujyari](#) →

<https://ujyari.com/daily/2026/03/08/current-affairs-today/>

---

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · [ujyari.com](https://ujyari.com)