



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Current Affairs Today - March 9, 2026

9 March 2026

SUBJECTS COVERED**IR****ENVIRONMENT****ECONOMY****REPORTS & SCHEMES****CURATED & WRITTEN BY****Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator & Content Creator •

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

Free UPSC & State PCS Resources

ujiyari.com

Current Affairs Today - March 9, 2026

9 March 2026 · 6 min read ·

▼ On this Page

- 01** Raisina Dialogue 2026 Remained a Key...
- 02** The State of the World's Migratory...
- 03** The Essential Commodities Act Shows the...
- 04** The ICC Men's T20 World Cup...

WHY IN NEWS

March 9, 2026 linked four high-value UPSC themes: India's flagship geostrategic dialogue platform, the global crisis of migratory species, the enduring tension between market freedom and state intervention under the Essential Commodities Act, and the economic and diplomatic dimensions of major cricket events.

RAISINA DIALOGUE 2026 REMAINED A KEY WINDOW INTO INDIA'S STRATEGIC THINKING

The **Raisina Dialogue**, launched in **2016** and jointly organised by the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, has emerged as India's premier multilateral conference on geopolitics, geoeconomics, connectivity, technology, and security. Often described as India's equivalent of the Munich Security Conference or Davos, it attracts heads of state, foreign ministers, strategic experts, and officials from across the world.

Its significance lies not merely in the scale of participation but in the fact that it reflects how India wants to position itself in a fragmented world order. For UPSC, the forum matters because it captures the logic of contemporary Indian foreign policy: strategic autonomy, multi-alignment, issue-based coalitions, and the desire to shape global debates rather than only respond to them. Themes discussed at Raisina typically overlap with questions on supply chains, maritime security, AI governance, climate diplomacy, and middle-power coordination.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES MATTERS DIRECTLY TO INDIA

The continuing discussion on the **State of the World's Migratory Species** kept attention on the fact that biodiversity does not respect national boundaries. The first-ever **State of the World's Migratory Species** report, released in **February 2024** by the **Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)** – a UN biodiversity treaty under **UNEP** – found that **44% of CMS-listed migratory species** are showing population declines and over **22%** are threatened with extinction. Fish are the worst-hit: **97% of CMS-listed fish** face extinction risk, with migratory fish populations having declined by **90% on average** since the 1970s. A **2026 interim update** worsened these figures to **49% declining** and **24% facing extinction**.

The two greatest threats are **overexploitation** (unsustainable hunting, overfishing, bycatch) and **habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation**. Half (**51%**) of Key Biodiversity Areas important for CMS-listed species lack protected status.

India is deeply relevant here because it lies on the **Central Asian Flyway (CAF)** and hosts Ramsar wetlands, coasts, river systems, and grasslands used by migratory fauna. India is a signatory to CMS and hosts important wintering grounds such as **Chilika Lake, Keoladeo National Park**, and the **Rann of Kutch**. A decline in migratory species signals habitat loss, pollution, infrastructure barriers (wind turbines, power lines), and climate stress across entire ecological chains.

THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT SHOWS THE CONTINUING TENSION BETWEEN MARKETS AND WELFARE

The **Essential Commodities Act (ECA), 1955** remains important because it gives the state powers to intervene in the production, supply, storage, and distribution of certain commodities when shortages, hoarding, or price spikes threaten the public interest.

The **Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020** (passed by Lok Sabha on **15 September 2020**, Rajya Sabha on **22 September 2020**, Presidential assent on **27 September 2020**) significantly modified the framework. Under the new **Section 3(1A)**, the supply of **foodstuffs** – including cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds and oils – may only be regulated under **extraordinary circumstances** such as war, famine, extraordinary price rise, or natural calamity of grave nature. Stock limits can be imposed only when there is a **100% increase** in the retail price of **horticultural produce** or a **50% increase** for **non-perishable agricultural foodstuffs**, compared to the preceding 12 months or the average of the last 5 years (whichever is lower).

The act sits inside a long-running policy debate. Excessive control can discourage private storage and investment in cold chains and warehousing, while too little control can intensify price volatility and speculative behaviour. This makes the ECA an excellent example of the constant tension in economic policy between market freedom and welfare protection.

THE ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026 HAS AN ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC DIMENSION

The **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026**, hosted jointly by **India and Sri Lanka** from **7 February to 8 March 2026**, was no longer only a sporting story. A total of **20 teams** competed in **55 matches** across **five venues in India** (Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad) and **three in Sri Lanka** (two in Colombo, one in Kandy). The final was held at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**.

Major sporting events are also stories about media rights, tourism, infrastructure readiness, branding, and soft power. Cricket, especially in South Asia, operates at the intersection of culture, commerce, diplomacy, and mass politics.

For India, international cricket tournaments matter because they showcase the country's role in the global sports economy. They also raise policy questions about broadcasting, stadium infrastructure, crowd management, sponsorship concentration, and the growing influence of sports leagues and governing bodies.

UPSC RELEVANCE

Raisina Dialogue (2016, ORF + MEA); CMS, migratory species report 2024; Essential Commodities Act, 1955; ECA Amendment 2020 Section 3(1A); T20 World Cup 2026 (India + Sri Lanka).

MAINS GS-2:

Global governance, diplomacy, and state-market balance.

MAINS GS-3:

Biodiversity governance, commodity regulation, sports economy.

★ FACTS CORNER — KNOWLEDGEPEDIA
RAISINA DIALOGUE:

Launched in **2016**

Jointly organised by the **Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs**

Focus areas: geopolitics, geoeconomics, technology, security, connectivity, climate

Reflects India's strategic-autonomy and multi-alignment approach

Comparable to the Munich Security Conference or Davos

MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS REPORT 2024):

First report: released **February 2024** by CMS (UN treaty under UNEP)

44% of CMS-listed species declining; **22%** threatened with extinction

97% of CMS-listed fish face extinction risk

Migratory fish populations down **90%** since the 1970s

51% of Key Biodiversity Areas for migratory species lack protected status

Main threats: overexploitation and habitat loss/degradation

India is on the **Central Asian Flyway**; key sites include Chilika, Keoladeo, Rann of Kutch

ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT:

Original law enacted in **1955**

Amended by ECA (Amendment) Act, **2020** (Presidential assent: 27 September 2020)

Section 3(1A): regulation only under extraordinary circumstances (war, famine, extraordinary price rise, natural calamity)

Stock limit trigger: **100% price rise** for horticultural produce; **50%** for non-perishable foodstuffs

Covers: cereals, pulses, potatoes, onions, edible oilseeds and oils

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2026:

Hosts: **India and Sri Lanka**

Duration: **7 February to 8 March 2026**

Teams: **20**; Matches: **55**

India venues: Chennai, New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad

Sri Lanka venues: Colombo (2), Kandy (1)

Final: **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**

OTHER RELEVANT FACTS:

CMS headquarters: Bonn, Germany

India has **80+ Ramsar wetland sites** — many critical for migratory birds

ECA was part of the 2020 farm reform package (along with APMC and contract farming laws)

Sources: [Observer Research Foundation](#), [Ministry of External Affairs](#), [Convention on Migratory Species](#), [PRIS Legislative Research](#), [ICC](#)

RELATED EDITORIALS

DOWN TO EARTH

The Climate Action Gap — Why Green Growth Is Still Slipping

20 Mar

MINT

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

20 Mar

THE HINDU

Fire and Fury — The Ill-Conceived War on Iran and Its Global Fallout

20 Mar

INDIAN EXPRESS

Energy Security Under Threat — The Ras Laffan Attack and India's Vulnerabilities

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/2026/03/09/current-affairs-today/>

Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs · ujyari.com