

Sports Current Affairs – March 2019

CRICKET

Indian cricketers donate match fee to National Defence Fund

- As a mark of respect for the CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the Pulwama terrorist attack, the Indian cricketers Friday sported special Army caps during the third ODI against Australia in Ranchi and donated their match fee to the National Defence Fund.

India Vs Australia Oneday Series

- Australia defeated India by 35 runs in the final ODI to clinch the five-match series 3-2.

Afghanistan record maiden Test win, beat Ireland by 7 wickets

- Afghanistan's cricket team recorded its maiden Test win, beating Ireland by seven wickets in a one-off game at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.

Deal signed to host T10 league for five years in Abu Dhabi

- The Zayed Cricket Stadium in Abu Dhabi will be the new home of T10 cricket for the next five years, starting with the 2019 season.

PCB pays over Rs 11 cr as compensation to BCCI

- The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has paid 1.6 million US dollars, equivalent to over eleven crores in Indian currency, to the Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI) as compensation after losing a case in the ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee.

Sri Lanka's Malinga to retire after Twenty20 World Cup

- Sri Lankan limited overs captain Lasith Malinga will retire from international cricket after next year's Twenty20 World Cup.

TENNIS

Dubai Tennis Championship

- In Dubai Tennis Championship, Swiss tennis star Roger Federer moved to within two wins of a 100th career title after a tough win against Marton Fucsovics to reach the semi-finals.

Roger Federer claims 100th ATP title

- Roger Federer has claimed the 100th ATP title of his career beating Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Dubai Tennis Championships. The 20-time grand slam champion is the second man, after American Jimmy Connors to claim 100 titles.
- Federer will have to win 10 more titles to beat Connors' men's record of 109, while Martina Navratilova holds the all-time record having won 167 women's singles crowns during her career.

Indian Wells ATP Masters

- In tennis, Indian qualifier Prajnesh Gunneswaran achieved the biggest win of his career when he stunningly knocked world number 18 Nikoloz Basilashvili out of the Indian Wells ATP Masters event in the USA.

Prajnesh rises to career-high ranking of 84

- India's Prajnesh Gunneswaran rises to career-high rank of 84 but injured Yuki Bhambri dropped out of top-200 for the first time in almost two years.
- In the recently released ATP rankings, Prajnesh had collected 61 points after reaching the third round at the ATP Master series event, where he beat world number 18 Nikoloz Basilashvili to register the biggest win of his career.

FOOTBALL

5th SAAF Women's Championship

- The fifth South Asian Football Federation, SAFF, Women's Championship kicks off in Biratnagar, Nepal.
- India has clinched the SAFF Women's Championship Football for the fifth time in a row, defeating hosts Nepal 3-1 in the final. This was India's 23rd straight victory in the championship since its inception in 2010.

India to host U-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020

- India will host the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup in 2020. This will be the second FIFA tournament India will be hosting, after the U-17 Men's World Cup in 2017.

HOCKEY

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup

- Manpreet Singh named captain and Surender Kumar will be the Vice-Captain of the 18-member Indian hockey team to play in the upcoming 28th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup. It will be held in Ipoh, Malaysia.
- India has lost to South Korea in the final of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey tournament at Ipoh in Malaysia. South Korea lifted the title, defeating India in a shoot out 4-2.

Savita Punia to lead Indian women's hockey team in Malaysia tour

- Goalkeeper Savita will captain an 18-strong Indian women's hockey team for the five-match series against Malaysia.

Other Sports

International Beach Volleyball Tournament

- Visakhapatnam hosts its first-ever International Beach Volleyball Tournament. India becomes the 50th country to host an FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour. Participating countries include Russia, Poland, South Africa, Austria, Czech Republic, USA and Japan.

Yonex All England Championships 2019

- Badminton's greatest show, the Yonex All England Championships 2019 begins in Birmingham. Only the top 32 in the Badminton World Federation (BWF) rankings qualify for the tournament.
- Saina Nehwal lost to Tai Tzu-Ying of Taipei 15-21, 19-21 in quarterfinal clash at the All England Championship at Birmingham. It was her 13th straight defeat against Tai Tzu-Ying, who has not lost to Saina since 2015.

Dan Kolov-Nikola Petrov Tournament

- **Gold Medal** – BajrangPunia in 65 kilogram freestyle, Pooja Dhanda in women's 59 kg category.
- **Silver Medal** – SaritaMor in women's 59 kg category, Sakshi Malik in 65 kg women's freestyle, Sandeep Tomar in 61kg men's freestyle events.

Finland boxing tournament

- Kavinder Singh Bisht in the 56kg-category struck gold while Shiva Thapa in the 60kg category, Govind Sahani, Mohammed Hussamuddin and Dinesh Dagar claimed silver medals; Sumit Sangwan, Sachin Siwach and Naveen Kumar got bronze in their categories. at the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland.

Makran Cup

- National champion Deepak Singh (49 kg) was the lone Indian boxer to notch up a gold while P Lalitha Prasad (52kg), Manish Kaushik (60kg), Duryodhan Singh Negi (69kg), Sanjeet (91kg) and Satish Kumar (91kg) claimed silver medals in the Makran Cup in Chabahar, Iran.

Special Olympics World Games 2019

- Special Olympics World Games 2019 which is being held from March 14 to March 21 in UAE, has made history by welcoming a record-breaking 200 nations ahead of the Games. Of the 200 nations, 195 will compete in the Games and five will observe. It is being held in West Asia for the first time.
- India has so far won a total of 188 medals at the Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi. The medals include 50 gold, 63 silver and 75 bronze medals.
- India has won more than 368 medals at the Special Olympics World Games 2019 at Abu Dhabi in UAE. The medal tally stands at 85 Gold, 154 Silver and 129 Bronze.

Dipa Karmakar qualifies for vault finals in Artistic Gymnastics World Cup

- Dipa Karmakar has made it to the Vault Finals after finishing third in the qualifying round of the Artistic Gymnastics World Cup at Baku in Azerbaijan.

Kamalpreet Kaur wins gold in women's discus throw event

- In the Federation Cup Athletics held at Patiala, Kamalpreet Kaur grabbed the spotlight by winning a gold medal with a throw of 60.25 metres in the women's discus throw event and also qualified for the Asian Championships.

Asian Youth Athletics Championships

- India bagged five medals, including two gold, in the Asian Youth Athletics Championships in Hong Kong.

Thiem defeats Federer to win Indian Wells Masters

- Dominic Thiem fought back from a set down to defeat Roger Federer 3-6 6-3 7-5 in the final of the Indian Wells Masters, winning a Masters 1000 title for the first time in his career.

Ladies European Tour title

- Diksha Dagar became only the second Indian woman golfer to win on the Ladies European Tour after pipping Lee-Anne Pace by one shot at the South African Open.

Gopi Thonakal qualifies for World Athletics Championships

- In marathon, India's Asian champion Gopi Thonakal has qualified for the World Athletics Championships to be held in the Qatari capital Doha in September-October this year. He achieved qualification after finishing 11th in the Seoul International Marathon.

Special Olympics: India bags 70 medals

- In Special Olympics, India have bagged 70 medals including 18 golds, 22 silver and 30 bronze, so far, at Abu Dhabi.

India's Irfan KT qualifies for 2020 Tokyo Olympics

- India's Irfan KT qualified for next year's Tokyo Olympics. He made the cut after finishing fourth at the Asian Race Walking Championship at Nomi in Japan. Irfan clocked 1 hour 20 minutes and 57 seconds in the 20-kilometre walk to attain the standard qualifying mark for the Olympics.

ISSF Shotgun World Cup

- In shooting, India's Prithviraj Tondaiman shot two perfect rounds of 25, to stay on course for the men's trap finals at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup being held at Acapulco, Mexico.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics torch unveiled

- Organisers of the Tokyo 2020 Olympics unveiled a cherry-blossom shaped torch for the Games as the city prepares for the famed flower season to begin in coming days.

Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championships

- India crashed out of the Asia Mixed Team Badminton Championships at Hong Kong after losing 2-3 to Chinese Taipei.

India Open Super 500 Badminton

- India Open Super 500 Badminton started in New Delhi. PV Sindhu and Kidambi Srikanth will look to regain form and reclaim a title.
- Kidambi Srikanth lost in straight games to Viktor Axelsen of Denmark in the men's singles summit clash at the Yonex-Sunrise India Open badminton tournament in New Delhi.

Breakdancing makes next move to Olympic status

- The Executive Board of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has recommended adding breakdancing, skateboarding, sport climbing and surfing to the 2024 Paris Olympic Games when the full membership meets in June.

Manu Bhaker, Saurabh Chaudhary clinch gold

- Young pistol shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary clinched a gold medal each, their second in the competition at the 12th Asian Airgun Championships in Taoyuan, Chinese Taipei.
- Manu won the women's 10 metre Air Pistol while Saurabh bagged a team gold in the men's event.
- Abhishek Verma also won individual silver in the men's 10-metre Air Pistol.
- The women's pistol team also won a bronze.

Asian Airgun Championship

- In Shooting, Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary have bagged a Gold medal in the 10-metre Air Pistol Mixed team event at the 12th Asian Airgun Championship in Taipei.

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