



The Weekly Observer

March 14-18

YOUR WEEKLY RECAP OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN JAPAN!

THIS WEEK IN NUMBERS

Northeastern Japan Hit by Earthquake

The region hit hard by the **2011 earthquake and tsunami** was hit again by an earthquake on Wednesday night. The quake registered a **magnitude of 7.3** (upper 6 on Japan's scale) and resulted in a **tsunami as high as 30 cm**. The quake resulted in **4 deaths, 107 injuries, 4,600 homes** out of power in Fukushima and Miyagi, as well as a Tohoku Shinkansen train derailment.

GOJ Sanctions on Russia

New measures: **prevent financing** to Russia from multilateral financial institutions like the **IMF**; respond to **sanctions evasion** through digital assets; revoke "**most-favored nation**" status; and prohibit import of certain goods and **exports of luxury goods**.

Japan-India Summit

Prime Minister Kishida and Prime Minister Modi met on Saturday. The two discussed **deepening bilateral ties** especially in the Indo-Pacific. Japan pledged an **investment of ¥5 trillion over the next 5 years**. The joint statement **did not condemn Russia** for its aggression against Ukraine.

GOJ Lifts All Pre-emergency Measures

The GOJ **lifted all COVID-19 pre-emergency measures** on Thursday. Kishida said the GOJ will promote the use of **vaccination history and test kits** to entice self-identification and move toward restoring "**normal**" life. While experts agree with the notion of returning to "**normal**," they argue that **measures should be lifted gradually**, not at once.

Cabinet Approval



53% (-1 pts.)

25% (+2 pts.)

NHK, March 14

COVID-19 Cases (NHK, Mar. 20)

Total Cases: 6.10 million

Total Deaths: 27,125

Daily (Japan): 39,659

7-Day Ave.: 46,900
(+0.87x from last week)

Deaths: 66

Daily (Tokyo): 6,502

7-Day Ave.: 7,589.29
(+0.87x from last week)

Vaccination Progress (Mar. 18)

First dose: 80.6% (+0.1%)

Second dose: 79.3% (+0%)

Third dose: 33.1% (+3.2%)