

## Part 1: National & International News

**Q1.** In a historic legislative move, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly passed the 'Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, 2026'. With this, Gujarat became which number of state in India to pass a UCC law?

- A) First
- B) Second
- C) Third
- D) Fourth

**Answer: B) Second**

**Explanation:** On March 26, 2026, the Gujarat Legislative Assembly, headed by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, passed the historic *Gujarat Uniform Civil Code, 2026*. This makes Gujarat the second state in independent India to institute a common legal framework for marriage, divorce, succession, and live-in relationships across all religions, following Uttarakhand.

**Q2.** Under the newly passed Gujarat Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill 2026, what is the maximum penalty specified for couples who fail to register a live-in relationship within one month?

- A) 1 month imprisonment or ₹5,000 fine
- B) 3 months imprisonment or ₹10,000 fine
- C) 6 months imprisonment or ₹25,000 fine
- D) 1 year imprisonment or ₹50,000 fine

**Answer: B) 3 months imprisonment or ₹10,000 fine**

**Explanation:** The Gujarat UCC Bill, 2026, mandates the compulsory registration of live-in relationships. If a couple fails to submit their statement of live-in relationship within one

month of residing together, they can face a maximum penalty of up to 3 months of imprisonment, a fine of ₹10,000, or both. It also explicitly prohibits bigamy.

**Q3.** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar traveled to France in late March 2026 to participate in which multilateral high-level convention as a special invitee?

- A) G20 Foreign Ministers' Meet
- B) G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting
- C) COP31 Climate Summit
- D) WEF Global Action Forum

**Answer: B) G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting**

**Explanation:** Although India is not a formal member of the G7 bloc, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the G7 Foreign Ministers' meeting in France as a specially invited partner country. The urgent summit centered on managing the ongoing geopolitical crisis in West Asia and ensuring the Strait of Hormuz remains open for international shipping lines.

**Q4.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of how many "Empowered Groups" to comprehensively manage and mitigate the long-term domestic economic impact of the West Asia conflict?

- A) 3
- B) 5
- C) 7
- D) 9

**Answer: C) 7**

**Explanation:** To proactively safeguard India's macroeconomy against the fallout of the West Asia war, Prime Minister Modi constituted 7 high-level Empowered Groups. These specialized teams are tasked with tackling

critical domestic vertices, including monitoring strategic petroleum reserves, securing alternative supply chains for manufacturing, stabilizing freight rates, and managing currency fluctuations.

**Q5. Stuti Pradhan, a young student leader who was recently in the news for being selected to represent India at the prestigious World Youth Parliament, hails from which Indian state?**

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Sikkim
- C) Tripura
- D) Himachal Pradesh

**Answer: B) Sikkim**

**Explanation:** Stuti Pradhan, an exceptional student leader from Sikkim, was selected to represent her state and country at the World Youth Parliament. This international platform brings together youth delegates from global nations like South Korea, the UAE, Kuwait, and Thailand to deliberate on democratic governance, climate tech, and human rights.

**Q6. Harish Rana, who passed away on 24th March 2026 at AIIMS, New Delhi, held which significant and poignant distinction in India's legal history?**

- A) First person to receive an indigenous artificial heart
- B) First individual to be judicially granted passive euthanasia
- C) Oldest living citizen registered in the digital census
- D) First person to win a legal battle against a state-owned AI algorithm

**Answer: B) First individual to be judicially granted passive euthanasia**

**Explanation:** Harish Rana passed away at AIIMS after a long battle with a terminal vegetative condition. He made legal history as the first citizen in India to be officially granted the right to passive euthanasia by a court of law under strict medical board guidelines. Following his demise, his family honored his legacy by donating his organs.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q7. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed landmark Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan agreements worth how much with India to fund major infrastructural and health projects?**

- A) ₹10,500 crore
- B) ₹12,850 crore
- C) ₹16,420 crore
- D) ₹21,300 crore

**Answer: C) ₹16,420 crore**

**Explanation:** JICA committed an ODA loan package worth ₹16,420 crore (\$1=approx exchange rate variables) to the Government of India. The financing covers four mega-projects: a critical healthcare expansion project in Maharashtra, a climate-resilient horticulture initiative in Punjab, Phase 3 of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Project, and Mumbai Metro Line 11.

**Q8. International rating agency S&P Global Ratings revised its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast upward for India for the upcoming Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27). What is the updated forecast?**

- A) 6.8%
- B) 7.1%
- C) 7.4%

D) 7.6%

**Answer: B) 7.1%**

**Explanation:** Citing strong domestic momentum, robust private consumption metrics, and high capital expenditure (CapEx) traction, S&P Global lifted India's FY27 GDP growth forecast by 40 basis points to 7.1%. The agency also upgraded its projections for FY28 to 7.2%.

**Q9. Which digital trading platform was launched by HDFC Securities Limited in March 2026 to simplify complex Futures & Options (F&O) strategies for retail investors?**

- A) OptionXpress
- B) NxtOption
- C) TradeSmart 2.0
- D) HDFC Strike

**Answer: B) NxtOption**

**Explanation:** HDFC Securities Limited introduced a dedicated next-generation derivatives trading platform called "NxtOption". The single-point user interface is designed to democratize quantitative strategies, allowing retail stock traders to evaluate, structure, and deploy complex multi-leg options combinations with real-time risk simulation.

**Q10. In March 2026, global banking giant JP Morgan Chase & Co. announced the appointment of which financial leader as its new Senior Country Officer (SCO) for India?**

- A) Hitendra Dave
- B) Kaustubh Kulkarni
- C) Rahul Badhwar
- D) K.V. Kamath

**Answer: C) Rahul Badhwar**

**Explanation:** JP Morgan Chase & Co. appointed banking veteran Rahul Badhwar as its Senior Country Officer for India to navigate its corporate growth and asset management expansion. Badhwar transitions to JP Morgan from HSBC, where he held extensive global capital market and asset sales roles.

**Q11. Which major corporate-led consortium acquired a 100% equity stake in the IPL and WPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) for a staggering ₹16,706 crore?**

- A) Adani Group Consortium
- B) Tata Group Consortium
- C) Aditya Birla Group Consortium
- D) Reliance-Jio Consortium

**Answer: C) Aditya Birla Group Consortium**

**Explanation:** In one of the largest corporate buyouts in sports entertainment history, a consortium led by the Aditya Birla Group (ABG) acquired 100% equity ownership of Royal Challengers Sports Private Limited (RCSPL) from United Spirits Limited for ₹16,706 crore. The strategic acquisition covers both the men's IPL and women's WPL cricket franchises.

### Part 3: Appointments, Awards & Honors

**Q12. Following the latest appointment confirmed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has filled its full legal quota of Whole-Time Members (WTMs). How many total WTMs does SEBI have?**

- A) Three
- B) Four
- C) Five
- D) Six

**Answer: B) Four**

**Explanation:** With its newest member cleared by the ACC, SEBI reached its full legal capacity of four Whole-Time Members. The current bench of WTMs driving capital market regulations alongside Chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch comprises Amarjeet Singh, Kamlesh Chandra Varshney, Sandip Pradhan, and the newly inducted officer.

**Q13. Which public sector executive officially assumed charge as the Director (Personnel) at the mining giant NMDC Limited in March 2026?**

- A) Harsharan Kaur Trehan
- B) Krishna Kumar Thakur
- C) Deepak Gupta
- D) Amitava Mukherjee

**Answer: B) Krishna Kumar Thakur**

**Explanation:** Krishna Kumar Thakur took over as the new Director (Personnel) at National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) Limited, a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel. Prior to this, Thakur had a distinguished tenure managing human resource portfolios across Indian Railways.

**Q14. Who was appointed as the new Secretary of Iran's powerful Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) via a decree cleared by President Masoud Pezeshkian?**

- A) Ali Larijani
- B) Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr
- C) Commodore Alireza Tangsiri
- D) Mohammad Javad Zarif

**Answer: B) Mohammad Bagher Zolghadr**

**Explanation:** Following the unexpected demise of the previous incumbent amidst regional conflict escalations, Mohammad Bagher

Zolghadr was appointed as the Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council of Iran. His appointment was approved by Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei and formally decreed by the President.

**Q15. Which regional rural bank was honored by the Ministry of Rural Development with the National Award for Outstanding Performance in SHG-Bank Linkage for the fiscal year 2024-25?**

- A) Kerala Gramin Bank
- B) Karnataka Grameena Bank
- C) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank
- D) Baroda UP Bank

**Answer: B) Karnataka Grameena Bank**

**Explanation:** Karnataka Grameena Bank (KGB) secured the top National Award for Outstanding Performance in Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage metrics for 2024-25. The apex award recognizes the bank's extensive rural credit penetration and success in digitizing financial livelihoods for thousands of rural women-led micro-enterprises.

#### **Part 4: Sports, Books & Authors**

**Q16. Which Indian state has been selected by the Badminton Association of India (BAI) to host the 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior National Badminton Championship 2026 for the very first time?**

- A) Meghalaya
- B) Sikkim
- C) Goa
- D) Odisha

**Answer: B) Sikkim**

**Explanation:** Sikkim is set to make history as it prepares to host the 49th Yonex Sunrise Junior

National Badminton Championship (Under-19 category) from November 14 to November 21, 2026. This marks the first time this prestigious marquee domestic national championship will be held in the Himalayan state.

**Q17. Which Indian women's cricketer was named the International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Player of the Month for February 2026?**

- A) Deepti Sharma
- B) Arundhati Reddy
- C) Renuka Singh Thakur
- D) Smriti Mandhana

**Answer: B) Arundhati Reddy**

**Explanation:** Indian speedster Arundhati Reddy was crowned the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2026 following her clinical performance in the bilateral T20I series down under in Australia, where she finished as the highest wicket-taker. Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan bagged the Men's title for the same month.

**Q18. Cricket Australia formally announced that it will host a historic "150th Anniversary Test Match" at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) in March 2027 against which traditional rival nation?**

- A) India
- B) England
- C) South Africa
- D) West Indies

**Answer: B) England**

**Explanation:** To commemorate exactly 150 years since the birth of Test match cricket (the first official Test was played at the MCG in March 1877), Cricket Australia announced a special,

standalone 150th Anniversary Test match against England, scheduled to take place at the iconic MCG in March 2027.

**Q19. In March 2026, Brazilian woman cricketer Laura Cardoso made international sporting headlines by breaking a major world record. What did she achieve?**

- A) Fastest century in Women's T20I cricket history
- B) First bowler to take 9 wickets in a single T20I match
- C) Most consecutive maiden overs bowled in international cricket
- D) Youngest player to achieve 2,000 runs and 100 wickets

**Answer: B) First bowler to take 9 wickets in a single T20I match**

**Explanation:** Brazil's star bowler Laura Cardoso shattered the all-time world record in short-format cricket by becoming the first player in history—across both men's and women's T20 Internationals—to scalp 9 wickets in a single T20I match, setting a new benchmark for bowling efficiency.

### Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

**Q20. What is the name of the innovative helicopter-launched autonomous drone system recently initiated by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to upgrade tactical air-combat and target processing?**

- A) Akash Baan
- B) Vayu Baan
- C) Garuda Astra
- D) Pawan Vega

**Answer: B) Vayu Baan**

**Explanation:** The Indian Air Force introduced the *Vayu Baan* project. The system consists of a helicopter-launched autonomous drone swarm designed to act as an airborne tactical wingman. It can be released from standard transport or attack helicopters to perform electronic jamming, deep surveillance, and precision strikes on radar installations.

**Q21. Which high-grade industrial hardware equipment was showcased by Indian engineers for its advanced additive manufacturing capabilities in domestic aerospace research?**

- A) Akasha300 3D Printer
- B) Agni-Vastra Laser Melt
- C) Param-Forge 3D
- D) Vajra-Fab Nano

**Answer: A) Akasha300 3D Printer**

**Explanation:** The *Akasha300* is an advanced, industrial-grade metal 3D printer indigenously developed for aerospace applications. It was highlighted for its capacity to fabricate complex, high-strength alloy engine parts, significantly lowering the production time and material wastage for defense start-ups.

**Q22. The Indian Navy's advanced stealth frigate INS Nilgiri won which prestigious military trophy during the harbor phase of the multilateral maritime exercise 'KAKADU 2026' in Darwin, Australia?**

- A) Darwin Excellence Plaque
- B) Kakadu Shield Trophy
- C) Indo-Pacific Seamanship Award
- D) Royal Navy Commendation

**Answer: B) Kakadu Shield Trophy**

**Explanation:** While participating in the multilateral naval war games *Exercise Kakadu*

*2026*, the crew of India's indigenous stealth frigate INS Nilgiri put up an exemplary show, winning the coveted *Kakadu Shield Trophy* for outstanding sportsmanship and inter-navy collaborative events conducted during the harbor phase.

## Part 6: Government Schemes & Science-Tech

**Q23. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw introduced a revised train ticket cancellation system under the "Reform Express" initiative. What is the key operational change in this system?**

- A) Full refunds for cancellations made 5 minutes before departure
- B) No refunds permitted for last-minute cancellations to prevent ticket hoarding
- C) Digital tokens issued instead of cash refunds
- D) Obligatory 24-hour advance cancellation window for all premium trains

**Answer: B) No refunds permitted for last-minute cancellations to prevent ticket hoarding**

**Explanation:** To eliminate ticket black-marketing and maximize slot access for genuine travelers, the Ministry of Railways updated its booking rules under the *Reform Express* framework. It removes any option for a cash or digital refund if a confirmed ticket is cancelled at the absolute last minute, encouraging disciplined travel configurations.

**Q24. What is the name of the upgraded digital system launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to radically streamline single-window clearances and the overall onboarding experience for commercial investors?**

- A) Udyog Mitra 2026
- B) Nivesh Mitra 3.0

- C) UP-Pragati Portal
- D) Single Window Single Click (SWSC)

**Answer: B) Nivesh Mitra 3.0**

**Explanation:** The Uttar Pradesh government officially deployed the *Nivesh Mitra 3.0* digital platform. This advanced iteration integrates AI-enabled compliance tracking, automatic clearance generation, and specialized dispute-redressal modules, cementing UP's status as a top destination for ease of doing business.

**Q25. To assist small and medium manufacturers and exporters in purchasing expensive machinery, the government expanded the Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS). What percentage of loan guarantee coverage is offered under this modified scheme for eligible loans up to ₹100 crore?**

- A) 50%
- B) 60%
- C) 75%
- D) 85%

**Answer: B) 60%**

**Explanation:** In line with budget directives, the government modified the *Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme (MCGS)*. Managed via the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC), the scheme provides an institutional 60% guarantee cover for collateral-free loans up to ₹100 crore extended to MSMEs for technology upgrades and machinery purchases.

**Q26. Under the modified railway passenger services introduced under the "Reform Express" model, up to how many minutes prior to train departure are Digital Boarding Changes (DBC) and Travel Class Upgrades (TCU) legally permitted?**

- A) 15 minutes
- B) 30 minutes
- C) 45 minutes
- D) 60 minutes

**Answer: B) 30 minutes**

**Explanation:** The *Reform Express* model brought flexible upgrades to tech-enabled travel. Passengers can now process a Digital Boarding Change (DBC) or purchase a real-time Travel Class Upgrade (TCU) directly via the mobile application up to 30 minutes before the scheduled train departure, ensuring seats are optimally filled without manual corruption.

**Q27. The Union Cabinet cleared the long-term extension of the immigration and borders project known as the "IVFRT Scheme" up to which target year?**

- A) 2028
- B) 2030
- C) 2031
- D) 2035

**Answer: C) 2031**

**Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the *Immigration, Visa and Foreigners Registration Tracking (IVFRT)* scheme till 2031. This extension provides long-term budget backing to fully modernize India's border management systems, biometric authentication checkpoints, and e-visa verification frameworks.

## Part 7: Important National & International Days

**Q28. Every year, March 23 is observed across India as Shaheed Diwas (Martyrdom Day). This day honors the supreme sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru, and Sukhdev Thapar,**

who were hanged by British rulers in 1931 for their involvement in which historical case?

- A) Kakori Train Robbery Case
- B) Lahore Conspiracy Case
- C) Chittagong Armoury Raid
- D) Delhi Assembly Bomb Case

**Answer: B) Lahore Conspiracy Case**

**Explanation:** Shaheed Diwas is observed on March 23 to pay homage to revolutionary heroes Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, who were executed by the British colonial government at the Lahore Central Jail in 1931. They were arrested and tried under the *Lahore Conspiracy Case*, which included the assassination of British police official John Saunders in 1928.

**Q29. What is the official theme for "World Meteorological Day" observed globally by the United Nations on March 23, 2026?**

- A) At the Frontline of Climate Action
- B) The Ocean, Our Climate and Weather
- C) Early Warning and Early Action
- D) Future of Weather, Climate and Water across Generations

**Answer: A) At the Frontline of Climate Action**

**Explanation:** World Meteorological Day is commemorated annually on March 23 to mark the establishment of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in 1950. The central theme chosen for 2026 is "**At the Frontline of Climate Action**", highlighting the imperative use of high-resolution atmospheric tech to combat rapid climate emergencies.

**Q30. The United Nations observes the "International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and**

**for the Dignity of Victims" annually on which date?**

- A) March 21
- B) March 23
- C) March 24
- D) March 26

**Answer: C) March 24**

**Explanation:** March 24 is observed as the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims. The day pays tribute to Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero of El Salvador, a human rights champion who was assassinated on this date in 1980 for denouncing systemic violence against vulnerable communities.