



# The Hindu **SimpLEfied**

Your Daily News Highlights & Easy Notes

March 26 Edition

# The Big Picture: Today's Core Updates



The new Transgender Bill sparks heavy debate over **self-identity rights.**



Iran rejects US peace terms; **conflict escalates** across the Gulf.



India sets bold **green energy goals**, while the Cauvery river faces a **dry future.**



RBI ordered to lock retail inflation at **4% all the way to 2031.**

# The Transgender Bill Controversy Explained

The Rajya Sabha passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026.

## What the Bill Says

Narrows the definition of transgender to specific socio-cultural identities (kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta, eunuch) or biologically defined variations.

Explicitly excludes different sexual orientations.



Critics argue the bill is a step backward for fundamental rights, ignoring the core crises of the community.

## The Pushback

An SC advisory committee (led by Justice Asha Menon) and resigning National Council members demand withdrawal.

They argue it violates the 2014 NALSA verdict by **denying the basic right to self-identification.**

# The West Asia Stalemate: Conflicting Peace Terms

Iran dismissed a US proposal to end the war, laying out its own 5-point conditions amid escalating strikes.



## US Proposal

Offers **Ceasefire & Sanctions Relief**.  
Requires Iran to abandon its **nuclear program** & reopen the **Strait of Hormuz**.



## Iran's 5 Demands

1. **Complete halt to aggression.**
2. **Mechanisms to prevent future attacks.**
3. **War reparations.**
4. **End fighting on all fronts.**
5. **Recognition of its sovereignty over the Strait of Hormuz.**

Iranian officials called the US proposals **excessive and disconnected from reality.**

# The Battlefield: Regional Strikes Intensify

## Zone 4: International Response

The UN Human Rights Council condemns Iran's egregious attacks and demands reparations for victims.

## Zone 1: Tehran

Israel completes several waves of airstrikes hitting residential areas in the Iranian capital.

## Zone 3: Gulf Neighbours

Drones strike Saudi Arabia's oil-rich Eastern Province and hit a fuel tank at Kuwait International Airport.

## Zone 2: US Navy

Iran fires a volley of cruise missiles forcing the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier to change position.



# Climate Reality: National Pledges vs. Local Crises

## India's 2035 Green Targets

- ✓ Achieve **60%** of installed electricity from **non-fossil sources**.
- ✓ Reduce emissions intensity by **47%** (from 2005 levels).
- ✓ Increase carbon sink to **3.5-4 billion tonnes**.

## The Cauvery Warning

An **IIT Gandhinagar** study in **Earth's Future** reveals the Cauvery river basin faces a **3.5% water decline** between 2026-2050, **bucking the trend** of other Indian rivers bracing for floods.

# Money & Markets: Inflation and Innovation



## The Inflation Rule

The Centre ordered the RBI to keep **retail inflation locked at exactly 4%** (with a 2% safe zone margin) all the way until **March 31, 2031**.



## The Start-up Surge

Indian tech start-ups raised **\$9.1 Billion in 2025** (a 23% YoY jump). Deep-tech funding surged **37% to \$2.3 Billion**, largely driven by **Artificial Intelligence**.

# Around the Globe: Study Board Updates



**USA vs. AI**

**Anthropic Lawsuit:** A US federal judge is heavily questioning the government's move to label AI firm Anthropic a 'national security risk'.



**Global Trade**

**WTO Summit:** The World Trade Organization's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) is gathering leaders in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

**The Caribbean**

**Cuba Blockade:** Heavy US fuel blockades are causing power grid collapses in Cuba, even as the nation frees 20 political prisoners amid talks.

# National News: Quick Bites



## Eviction Notice

The Centre issued a final notice to the Congress party to vacate its 24 Akbar Road and 5 Raisina Road (Youth Congress) offices by March 28.



## Maoist Surrender

Commander Papa Rao and 17 others (carrying a collective reward of ₹87 lakh) surrendered to Bastar Police, shunning violence.



## Supreme Court

Dismissed a premature petition, ruling that a 'Vande Mataram' advisory does not constitute a threat.

# Today's News in Numbers

**389**

Anti-corruption complaints registered by the Lokpal (ombudsman) this year.

**\$700 Billion**

The projected value of India's healthcare sector ecosystem by 2030.

**5 Years**

Extension granted to the IVFRT scheme (ensuring a 100% contactless visa process) with an ₹1,800 crore outlay.

**922**

Record high number of migrants who died on the Eastern Route from Africa to the Arabian Peninsula last year.

# The Wrap-Up: What You Need to Remember

- ✓ **Rights & Law:** The new Transgender Bill faces severe backlash for narrowing definitions and denying self-identification.
- ✓ **Global Crisis:** The Middle East remains highly volatile as Iran rejects US peace terms and regional strikes intensify.
- ✓ **Economy & Climate:** India balances a \$9.1B startup boom and 4% inflation targets with stark realities like the drying of the Cauvery river.

You're all caught up. Stay curious, see you tomorrow!