



## EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 15, 2026

### NATIONAL

- **Added 7 Districts in 6th Phase of Mandatory Gold Hallmarking**
- ✓ Government of India implemented the sixth phase (Phase VI) of the mandatory hallmarking of Gold Jewelry and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2026.
- ✓ Adding seven more districts under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) hallmarking regime to ensure the purity of gold jewelry and strengthen consumer protection.
- ✓ Mandatory gold hallmarking has been implemented in a phased manner since June 2021.
- ✓ The seven districts are Rupnagar (Punjab), Banda (Uttar Pradesh), Beed (Maharashtra), Gomati (Tripura), Katihar (Bihar), Beawar (Rajasthan), and Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh).

### STATE

- **Advocate Protection Bill 2026**
- ✓ The Government of Goa has approved the Goa Advocate Protection Bill 2026 during a state Cabinet meeting to protect advocates from violence and intimidation.
- ✓ The bill introduces legal safeguards to protect lawyers from Violence, Harassment, and Wrongful Accusations while performing professional duties.

- ✓ It proposes rigorous action against individuals found guilty of attacking or threatening lawyers in connection with their professional work.
- ✓ A primary focus of the legislation is to prevent the False Implication of advocates during the discharge of their responsibilities.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### ➤ Artemis II Lunar Mission

- ✓ The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is targeting April 1, 2026, for the launch of the Artemis II mission, the first crewed lunar flyby in over 50 years.
- ✓ The mission will send four astronauts around the far side of the Moon and back during a 10-Day Journey without a lunar landing.
- ✓ The spacecraft will lift off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida aboard the Space Launch System rocket.
- ✓ The launch was rescheduled several times due to a Helium Leak and Fuel System Issues discovered during testing.
- ✓ Artemis III: A low-Earth-orbit test mission is planned for 2027.
- ✓ Artemis IV: This mission is currently slated for 2028 and is intended to facilitate the first crewed lunar landing of the program.

## AWARDS & HONOURS

### ➤ Padma Shri 2026

- ✓ Tribal artist Krishnan Raghavan, popularly known as 'Kitna', has been posthumously awarded the Padma Shri 2026 for his contribution to the Kurumba painting tradition.
- ✓ Kitna belonged to the Kurumba tribal community of Kerala, primarily residing in the Nilgiri and Wayanad regions.
- ✓ He dedicated his life to promoting indigenous art, capturing elements of Tribal Life, Mythology, and Nature in his work.
- ✓ Through his efforts, the traditional painting style gained recognition from art scholars and cultural institutions across the country.

