

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 25 March 2025

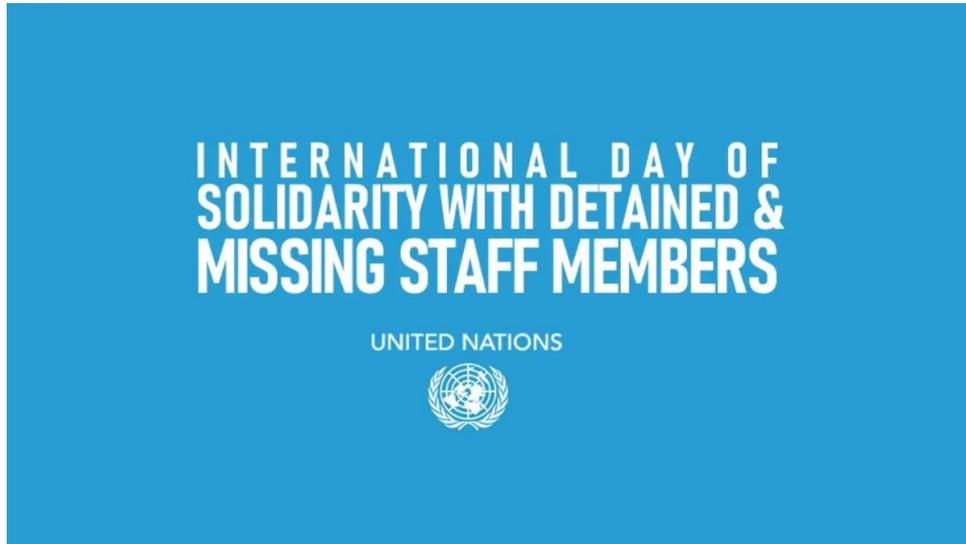
### International Day of the Unborn Child

- The International Day of the Unborn Child 2026 is observed globally on March 25. The day is highlighting the importance of life before birth and raising awareness about the dignity of unborn children.
- The day was established during the time of Pope John Paul II and the day is marked as a reflection on the value of life. And it is observed in several countries and the day continues to spark discussions on ethics, human rights and the protection of the life.
- The International Day of the Unborn Child is an annual observance which is dedicated to recognizing the value and dignity of life from conception.
- It serves as the day to remember unborn children and reflect on issues related to life and ethics.
- The observance was initiated by Pope John Paul II who described it as a '**positive option in favor of life**' March 25 was selected intentionally as it coincides with the Feast of the Annunciation which is marking the conception of Jesus Christ.



## International Day of Solidarity with UN Staff

- The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members is observed to honor United Nations personnel who risk and often lose their lives while serving globally. The day observed globally around the world on the 25th March every year.
- Since the establishment of the United Nations (UN) in 1945 numerous hundreds of staff members have lost their lives while carrying out humanitarian and peacekeeping duties.
- **Who Was Alec Collett?**
- He was the former journalist working with UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency)
- Abducted in 1985 by armed gunmen
- **A Long Wait for Closure**
- His remains were discovered in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley in 2009
- The incident became a symbol of the risks faced by UN personnel in volatile regions
- **Core Objectives of the day are,**
- To Mobilize global action to protect UN staff
- Demand justice for detained and missing personnel
- To strengthen security measures for peacekeepers
- Support colleagues in NGOs and media who face similar risks



## Rituparna Honoured with UK Empowerment Award

- Indian actress Rituparna Sengupta has been honored with the Women Empowerment Award. She was honored at the prestigious House of Commons UK in 2026. This recognition was given for her contribution to art and culture during an event held on the occasion of International Women’s Day.
- The Award was presented at a special event organized in London to celebrate women achievers. This award was recognized her impactful work in the field of art and culture over the years.
- Award ceremony took place at the iconic House of Commons in London, United Kingdom. The event also coincided with International Women’s Day (**8th March**) with this adding significance to the recognition.



## \$1.63 Billion IPL Deal

- Kal Somani has acquired the Rajasthan Royals IPL franchise for a staggering value of \$1.63 billion (₹16,290 crore). This deal has scripted the one of the highest valuations in IPL history.
- Somani who already an existing shareholder now he will take full control of the franchise after the 2026 IPL season. He will replacing current owner Manoj Badale.
- Kal Somani who is leading the consortium which includes global retail giant Walmart who has acquired a 100% stake in Rajasthan Royals. The deal is valued at \$1.63 billion and it showcasing the massive growth of IPL as a global sports league.
- Kal Somani is a US based entrepreneur and have diverse business interests.
- Apart from the cricket he is also actively involved in golf and other ventures and also founding the Motor City Golf Club which has links to legend Tiger Woods.



## Indian Railways New Ticket Cancellation Rules 2026

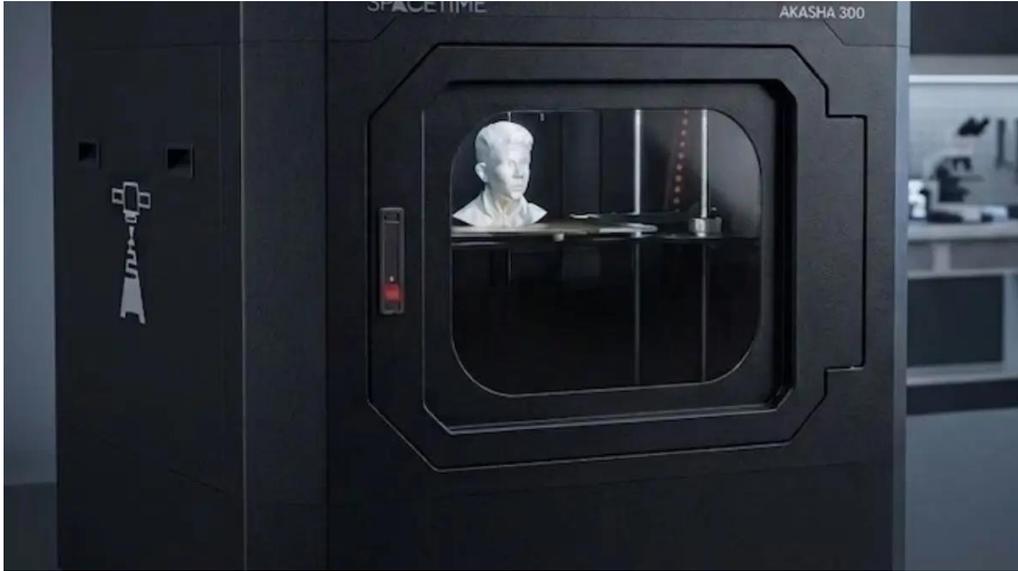
- Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw introduced significant reforms to Indian Railways ticket cancellation and refund policy. The big highlight is that passengers will no longer eligible to receive any refund if they cancel tickets within 8 hours before train departure and it replaces the earlier 4-hour rule.
- Key Changes in Refund Policy Are
- No refund if ticket is cancelled within 8 hours before departure
- 50% deduction for cancellations between 24 to 8 hours
- 25% deduction for cancellations between 72 to 24 hours

- Full refund (minus basic charges) if cancelled more than 72 hours in advance
- Comparison with Old Rules
- Earlier the no refund was applicable only within 4 hours
- 25% deduction applied between 48 to 12 hours
- The new rules are significantly tighten the cancellation window
- Main Objectives Are,
- Prevent the black marketing of tickets by agents
- Reduce last-minute cancellations and which waste confirmed seats
- Improve seat availability for genuine passengers
- Ensure fair access to tickets, especially during peak seasons



## Akasha300 3D Printer

- For India's space technology boost the Akasha300 3D printer which is developed by Kerala-based startup Spacetime 4D has been delivered to ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).
- This industrial-grade and high-temperature 3D printer will marks a important step toward the self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat) in the aerospace manufacturing. Printer was designed to produce the complex components for space missions.



## Lok Sabha Passes Transgender Amendment Bill 2026

- Lok Sabha has passed the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill of 2026 on March 24, 2026. The Bill changes to redefine the terminology of 'transgender' by excluding the sexual orientations and self-perceived gender identities from the scope of it.
- The Amendment states to provide the more precise definition of who qualifies as the transgender person under the new law. It also explicitly mention that individuals with different sexual orientations or self-perceived gender identities will not fall under this definition.
- It includes,
  - Persons with intersex conditions or congenital variations
  - Individuals who are belonging to traditional transgender communities
  - Recognition through a designated medical authority
- **Stricter Punishments Introduced**
- One of the major changes is the introduction of graded punishments for the offences which are against transgender persons.
- The maximum punishment has been increased from 2 years (in 2019 Act) to 14 years imprisonment which showcasing that seriousness of crimes against those vulnerable sections.
- **NALSA Judgment 2014**
- In the landmark judgement NALSA vs Union of India (2014) case the Supreme Court recognized gender identity as the fundamental right. And with this it allows individuals to self-identify their gender.

- The current amendment appears to have contradict this principle by emphasizing biological and medical certification over self-identification.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The International Day of the Unborn Child is observed on:

- A. March 8
- B. March 21
- C. March 25
- D. April 7

**Answer: C. March 25**

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2. The International Day of the Unborn Child was initiated during the time of:

- A. Pope Francis
- B. Pope Benedict XVI
- C. Pope John Paul II
- D. Dalai Lama

**Answer: C. Pope John Paul II**

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3. March 25 is also observed as the International Day of Solidarity with:

- A. Refugees
- B. Women

- C. Detained and Missing UN Staff
- D. Journalists

**Answer: C. Detained and Missing UN Staff**

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**4. Alec Collett was associated with which organization?**

- A. WHO
- B. UNICEF
- C. UNRWA
- D. UNESCO

**Answer: C. UNRWA**

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**5. Rituparna Sengupta received the Women Empowerment Award in:**

- A. New York
- B. London
- C. Paris
- D. Geneva

**Answer: B. London**

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**6. Who acquired the Rajasthan Royals IPL franchise in 2026?**

- A. Mukesh Ambani
- B. Gautam Adani
- C. Kal Somani
- D. Ratan Tata

**Answer: C. Kal Somani**

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**7. The Rajasthan Royals deal was valued at approximately:**

- A. \$500 million
- B. \$1 billion
- C. \$1.63 billion
- D. \$2 billion

**Answer: C. \$1.63 billion**

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**8. Under the new railway rules, no refund is given if a ticket is cancelled within:**

- A. 4 hours
- B. 6 hours
- C. 8 hours
- D. 12 hours

**Answer: C. 8 hours**

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**9. The Akasha300 3D printer was developed by:**

- A. DRDO
- B. ISRO
- C. Spacetime 4D
- D. HAL

**Answer: C. Spacetime 4D**

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**10. The NALSA vs Union of India (2014) case is related to:**

- A. Right to Education
- B. Gender Identity Rights
- C. Freedom of Speech
- D. Environmental Protection

**Answer: B. Gender Identity Rights**