

MARCH 2026

Current Affairs & General Knowledge

The Month That Reshaped India's Legal-Political Landscape

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Flagship Stories

05

SC Judgments

03

Global Reports

28

CLAT-Pattern MCQs

What You Will Master Today

Five stories. One month. Every angle that CLAT could test.

01

Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, 2026

Rights rollback, NALSA, medical gatekeeping

02

Ladakh 4-Point Demands & Total Shutdown

Statehood, Sixth Schedule, federalism

03

World Happiness Report 2026

Finland #1, India at 116, the paradox

04

98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)

One Battle After Another, Michael B. Jordan

05

Jnanpith Award 2025

Vinod Kumar Shukla, Hindi literature

Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026

"From self-identification to clinical gatekeeping – a constitutional flashpoint."

Article 14

Article 19

Article 21

NALSA (2014)

Introduced: March 2026 • Passed & Received Presidential Assent • Challenged in Supreme Court

Where It All Began

The 2019 law and the landmark NALSA judgment that shaped it.

THE BASE LAW — 2019 ACT

- ✓ Legally recognised transgender persons for the first time
- ✓ Prohibited discrimination in education, employment, healthcare
- ✓ Allowed SELF-PERCEIVED gender identity (core liberty)
- ✓ Mandated welfare measures & rehabilitation
- ✓ Criminalised forced labour, denial of services

NALSA v. UNION OF INDIA (2014)

- ⚖ Recognised "THIRD GENDER" officially
- ⚖ Self-identification = Fundamental Right
- ⚖ Linked to Article 14 (Equality)
- ⚖ Linked to Article 19 (Expression)
- ⚖ Linked to Article 21 (Dignity, Autonomy)

What Changed in March 2026

Five provisions that rewrote the rights architecture.

01

Self-Identification REMOVED

Right deleted; medical certification made MANDATORY.

02

Medical Board System

Board recommends → District Magistrate approves. Called "clinical gatekeeping".

03

Narrow Definition

Limited to hijra, kinner, intersex. EXCLUDES gender-fluid & non-binary.

04

Tightened Gender Change

Surgery reporting by hospitals MANDATORY; revised certificate post-op.

05

Stricter Penal Provisions

Enhanced punishment for forced labour, abuse, exploitation.

Two Competing Narratives

Same law. Two diametrically opposite lenses.

GOVERNMENT'S JUSTIFICATION

- Prevent MISUSE of welfare schemes
- Ensure benefits reach "genuine beneficiaries"
- Provide legally precise definition
- Establish uniform national standard
- Protect vulnerable groups from exploitation
- Reduce administrative ambiguity

CRITICISM & CONCERNS

- Violates Articles 14, 19, 21
- Directly against NALSA (2014)
- Medicalisation = State control of identity
- Excludes gender-fluid & non-binary
- Privacy violation (Puttaswamy context)
- Bureaucratic hurdles + fear of discrimination

Constitutional Doctrines at Stake

The four pillars CLAT will test.

Right to Identity

Part of Article 21 — dignity, autonomy, personhood

Substantive Equality

Art 14 goes beyond formal equality to real outcomes

Transformative Constitutionalism

Constitution as living instrument expanding rights

Dignity Jurisprudence

Puttaswamy + NALSA + Navtej Johar lineage

MEMORY HOOK

"2019 gave you the RIGHT, 2026 asked for a CERTIFICATE."

Self-ID → Medical Board → DM Approval • Remember the 3-step gate.

2019 Act vs 2026 Amendment

The side-by-side CLAT will love.

Parameter	2019 Act	2026 Amendment
Gender Identity	Self-perceived	Medical Board certified
Certification Authority	District Magistrate (on application)	Board + DM (clinical gate)
Definition Scope	Broad, inclusive	Narrow (hijra/kinner/intersex)
Gender-fluid / Non-binary	Included	EXCLUDED
Post-Surgery Process	Optional revised certificate	Mandatory hospital reporting
Alignment with NALSA	Aligned	Conflicts with self-ID
Constitutional Challenge	Rights-expanding	Rights-restricting

Ladakh Shutdown & the 4-Point Demands

"A Union Territory without a legislature – and a mountain that refused to stay silent."

Statehood

6th Schedule

Job Reservation

Land/Culture

Led by: Leh Apex Body (LAB) + Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) • March 2026 • Face: Sonam Wangchuk

The Roots of the Movement

Everything traces back to one date: 5 August 2019.

TIMELINE OF THE LADAKH CRISIS

Aug 2019**Reorganisation Act**

Ladakh separated from J&K; becomes UT without legislature

2020-24**Democratic Deficit**

Only 1 MP, no elected state govt. Governance controlled by Centre

2025**Protests Turn Violent**

Deaths reported. Sonam Wangchuk emerges as movement face

Mar 2026**Total Shutdown**

Bandh across Leh, Kargil, Zaskar. LAB+KDA unite. Centre deadlock

 **"Democratic deficit" = the technical term for taxation without representation**

The Four Pillars of the Protest

Each demand has a distinct constitutional basis – know them cold.

01 • STATEHOOD

UT → Full State

Restore legislative assembly. Democratic representation. Federalism principle.

02 • 6TH SCHEDULE

Tribal Autonomy

Autonomous councils + protection of tribal land & culture. Applies to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram.

03 • JOB RESERVATION

Locals First

Govt jobs for Ladakhis. Prevent outsider dominance. Linked to Art 21 livelihood.

04 • LAND & CULTURE

Identity Shield

Safeguard tribal identity, language, land ownership. Fear of demographic change.

Constitutional Flashpoints

Four questions the Court will eventually answer.

Q1**Federalism vs Unitary Control**

Can the Centre retain control over UTs without a legislature indefinitely?

Q2**Sixth Schedule Eligibility**

Does Ladakh qualify for tribal autonomy protections? What is the test?

Q3**Equality vs Regional Protection**

Reservation for locals vs Article 14 non-discrimination principle.

Q4**Right to Protest**

Article 19(1)(a) and (b): Freedom of speech + peaceful assembly.

GOVERNMENT'S STAND

Not in favour of full Statehood or Sixth Schedule. Suggests "Regional Councils" as alternative.

→ Is this adequate "constitutional accommodation"? CLAT-worthy debate.

World Happiness Report 2026

"GDP grows, ranks don't. India at 116. Afghanistan last. Finland – 9 years on top."

#1

FINLAND

#116

INDIA

#147

AFGHANISTAN

20 MAR

RELEASE DATE

The Report — Who, What, How

Everything CLAT could ask about the mechanics.

PUBLISHED BY

Oxford University
(Wellbeing Research Centre)

Gallup (Polling)

UN Sustainable Development
Solutions Network

METHODOLOGY

Cantril Ladder (0-10 scale)

People rate their own life. *SUBJECTIVE* — not purely economic.

6 KEY FACTORS:

- ✓ GDP per capita
- ✓ Social support
- ✓ Healthy life expectancy
- ✓ Freedom of choice
- ✓ Generosity
- ✓ Corruption perception

LEADERBOARD 2026

#1 Finland (9th yr)

#2 Iceland

#3 Denmark

#? Costa Rica (rising)

#116 INDIA

#147 Afghanistan

The Indian Paradox

5th largest economy, 116th happiest. Why?

INDIA'S RANK TREND

2024

#126

2025

#118

Score: 202536 • Behind: Pakistan (~104), Nepal (~99)
#116

WHY INDIA RANKS LOW

- Weak social support systems
- Mental health stigma
- Low trust in institutions
- Inequality & unemployment
- Governance & corruption
- Urban stress + lifestyle

2026 REPORT — KEY THEMES

Mental Health & Youth

Declining youth happiness globally

Social Media Impact

High usage → stress; moderate → better

Social Trust

Community-strong nations rank higher

Welfare State Model

Nordic: universal healthcare + low corruption

💡 "Finland 9-straight, Afghanistan dead last, India 116 — rising but still behind Pakistan & Nepal."

98th Academy Awards (Oscars 2026)

"One Battle After Another swept 6. Michael B. Jordan finally won. Sinners led nominations."

DATE

15 March 2026

VENUE

Dolby Theatre, LA

HOST

Conan O'Brien

HONOURS

Films of 2025

The Big Winners — Learn These By Heart

These names appear verbatim in CLAT.



BEST PICTURE

One Battle After Another

Won 6 Oscars — highest of the night

BEST ACTOR

Michael B. Jordan

(Sinners)

BEST ACTRESS

Jessie Buckley

(Hamnet)

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Sean Penn

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Amy Madigan

BEST DIRECTOR

Paul Thomas Anderson

(One Battle After Another)

BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

Ryan Coogler

(Sinners)

Beyond the Big Six + Industry Trends

Film categories CLAT loves to pair with GK pop-culture Qs.

OTHER IMPORTANT WINNERS

Best Animated Feature	KPop Demon Hunters
Best Original Song	"Golden" — KPop Demon Hunters
Best International Feature	Sentimental Value
Best Documentary	Mr. Nobody Against Putin
Most Nominations	Sinners (16)
Sinners — Awards Won	4

INDUSTRY TRENDS

-  Rise of diverse global cinema
-  Commercial vs artistic competition
-  Growing streaming platform influence
-  Director-auteur driven wins
-  Concentration: top film takes many
-  K-pop breakthrough in animation/music

Jnanpith Award 2025

India's Highest Literary Honour

"A poet of ordinary lives. A voice that made the mundane luminous."

WINNER

Vinod Kumar Shukla

Language: HINDI • Known works: Naukar Ki Kameez • Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi

The Jnanpith — Everything You Must Know

Three facts that appear in CLAT verbatim.

1961

INSTITUTED

1965

FIRST AWARD

₹11 L

CASH PRIZE

22

LANGUAGES (8th SCH.)

ABOUT THE AWARD

- Given by Bharatiya Jnanpith (trust)
- India's HIGHEST literary award
- Recognises LIFETIME contribution
- Bronze statue of Vagdevi (Saraswati)
- Citation + cash prize of ~₹11 lakh

ABOUT VINOD KUMAR SHUKLA

- Language: HINDI
- Style: minimalist, poetic prose
- Blends REALISM with imagination
- Major: Naukar Ki Kameez
- Major: Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi
- Themes: ordinary lives, inner consciousness

Why CLAT Cares — The Constitutional Thread

Literature awards meet constitutional rights.

Article 29

Protection of Interests of Minorities

Right of any citizen / section to preserve their language, script, culture.

Article 30

Educational Rights of Minorities

Right to establish & administer educational institutions — linked to language preservation.

8th Schedule

22 Scheduled Languages

Jnanpith awards rotate across these; each award promotes linguistic diversity.

Art 19(1)(a)

Freedom of Expression

Literary creation = core speech right; state awards recognise without censoring.

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 1 • Transgender Rights

The NALSA lineage, the international parallels, the demographics.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Static GK Deep Dive

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

LANDMARK JUDGMENTS

- NALSA v. UOI (2014) — Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan + A.K. Sikri
- Recognised 3rd gender; tied to Arts 14, 19, 21
- K.S. Puttaswamy v. UOI (2017) — 9-judge privacy bench
- Navtej Singh Johar v. UOI (2018) — s.377 read down
- Arun Kumar v. IG of Registration (Madras HC, 2019) — trans woman = 'bride' under HMA
- Anjali Guru Sanjana Jaan v. State (Bom HC 2021)
- X v. Principal Secretary, Health (SC 2022)

THE 2019 ACT & GOVT BODIES

- Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019
- National Council for Transgender Persons (NCT)
- Chaired by Union Minister for Social Justice
- Rules notified September 2020
- Garima Greh Scheme — shelter homes
- SMILE scheme (Support for Marginalised Individuals)
- Transgender Identity Certificate via online portal

INTERNATIONAL & DATA

- Yogyakarta Principles (2006, Indonesia)
- Argentina Gender Identity Law (2012) — world's 1st self-ID
- Malta (2015), Ireland (2015) — landmark self-ID laws
- UK Gender Recognition Act 2004
- Census 2011: 4.88 lakh transgender persons in India
- Tamil Nadu leads Indian state count; welfare board since 2008
- Kerala: 1st state Transgender Policy (2015)

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 2 • Ladakh & Federalism

Reorganisation Act, Sixth Schedule, the leaders & the comparative map.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Static GK Deep Dive

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

THE 2019 REORGANISATION

- Art 370 abrogated 5-6 August 2019
- J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019 (effective 31 Oct 2019)
- Created 2 UTs: J&K (with legislature) + Ladakh (without)
- Total UTs in India rose to 8
- Ladakh has only 1 Lok Sabha MP; no MLA
- Pre-existing: LAHDC-Leh (1995) + LAHDC-Kargil (2003)
- Governed primarily through Lieutenant Governor

SIXTH SCHEDULE ESSENTIALS

- Articles 244(2) and 275(1)
- Applies to tribal areas of ASSAM, MEGHALAYA, TRIPURA, MIZORAM
- Creates Autonomous District Councils (ADCs)
- Power to make laws on land, forest, marriage, inheritance
- Differs from 5th Schedule (applies to other tribal areas)
- Bodoland, Karbi Anglong — 6th Schedule ADCs
- Art 371 series — special provisions for NE states

FIGURES & TIMELINE

- Sonam Wangchuk — Ramon Magsaysay 2018, Rolex 2016
- Inspiration for Phunsukh Wangdu in '3 Idiots'
- Founder of SECMOL + HIAL (Himalayan Institute)
- Thupstan Chhewang — LAB convenor, former MP
- Asgar Ali Karbalai — KDA leader, former CEC Kargil
- March 2024: 21-day 'Climate Fast' by Wangchuk in Leh
- Oct 2024: 'Chalo Delhi' Padyatra (Leh to Delhi)

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 3 • World Happiness Report

Its origins, its methodology lineage, and Bhutan's original idea.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Static GK Deep Dive

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

ORIGIN & EDITORS

- First published: 2012 (after UN High-Level Meeting, April 2012)
- Publisher: UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
- Current partners: Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre + Gallup
- Editors: John Helliwell, Richard Layard, Jeffrey Sachs
- SDSN founded 2012, led by Jeffrey Sachs (Columbia)
- Released annually on 20 March
- Methodology: Cantril Ladder + Gallup World Poll

METHODOLOGY FOREBEARS

- Cantril Ladder — Hadley Cantril (1965)
- Self-Anchoring Striving Scale (best-worst 0-10)
- Gallup conducts global surveys since 2005
- Six explanatory factors (GDP, support, health, freedom, generosity, corruption)
- Rankings use 3-year rolling averages
- Finland #1 every year since 2018 (9 straight by 2026)
- Nordic dominance: FIN, ISL, DNK, SWE, NOR top-10 regularly

BHUTAN & GNH

- International Day of Happiness: 20 March
- Declared by UN General Assembly (Res 66/281, July 2012)
- Proposed by Bhutan
- Gross National Happiness (GNH) — coined 1972
- By King Jigme Singye Wangchuk (4th King of Bhutan)
- GNH 4 pillars: equitable dev, env conservation, culture, good governance
- Bhutan's GNH Index institutionalised 2008

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 4 • Oscars / Academy Awards

From the 1929 Roosevelt Hotel to India's 5 Oscars – the full timeline.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Static GK Deep Dive

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

INSTITUTIONAL TRIVIA

- Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences — founded 1927
- Founded by Louis B. Mayer + 35 others
- 1st ceremony: 16 May 1929, Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel
- Trophy: 13.5 in, 8.5 lb, gold-plated britannium
- Designed by Cedric Gibbons, sculpted by George Stanley
- Name 'Oscar' — librarian Margaret Herrick (1931); official 1939
- Conan O'Brien — 2026 was his 2nd consecutive host

INDIA AT THE OSCARS

- Bhanu Athaiya — 1983, Best Costume (Gandhi) — 1st Indian winner
- Satyajit Ray — 1992, Honorary Oscar (Lifetime Achievement)
- A. R. Rahman — 2009, Best Original Score + Song (Slumdog Millionaire)
- Resul Pookutty — 2009, Best Sound Mixing (Slumdog Millionaire)
- Gulzar — 2009, shared Best Original Song ('Jai Ho')
- 'Naatu Naatu' (RRR) — 2023, Best Original Song (Keeravani/Chandrabose)
- 'The Elephant Whisperers' — 2023, Best Documentary Short

KEY WINNERS' BACKGROUNDS

- Paul Thomas Anderson — 11 prior nominations, finally won Director
- PTA's earlier films: There Will Be Blood, Magnolia, Boogie Nights
- Michael B. Jordan — Creed trilogy, Black Panther, Fruitvale Station
- Ryan Coogler — director of Black Panther, Creed, Fruitvale
- Coogler won Best Original Screenplay for Sinners
- KPop Demon Hunters — Netflix animated film
- Sinners — 16 nominations, 4 wins (2nd most nominated of night)

STATIC GK VAULT

Topic 5 • Jnanpith Award

Hindi's 11 Jnanpith laureates, the founders, and Vinod Kumar Shukla's arc.

Deep-dive facts • Cases • Dates • Names • International parallels

Static GK Deep Dive

Cases, dates, commissions, international parallels – commit these to memory.

INSTITUTIONAL FACTS

- Founded by Sahu Shanti Prasad Jain (Times Group family) — 1944
- First award: 1965
- First winner: G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam, for 'Odakkuzhal')
- Prize: ₹11 lakh + citation + Vagdevi (Saraswati) bronze statue
- Given by Bharatiya Jnanpith (publishing trust)
- Recognises 22 Eighth-Schedule languages + English
- Not given every year; selection by Jnanpith Selection Board

HINDI JNANPITH LAUREATES

- 1. Sumitranandan Pant — 1968 (first Hindi winner)
- 2. Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' — 1972
- 3. S. H. Vatsyayan 'Agyeya' — 1978
- 4. Mahadevi Varma — 1982
- 5. Naresh Mehta — 1992
- 6. Nirmal Verma — 1999 (joint)
- 7. Kunwar Narayan — 2005; 8. Amarkant + Sri Lal Shukla — 2009
- 9. Kedarnath Singh — 2013; 10. Krishna Sobti — 2017
- 11. Vinod Kumar Shukla — 2025 (latest)

ABOUT VINOD KUMAR SHUKLA

- Born: 1 January 1937, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
- Trained as agricultural scientist (Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya)
- Sahitya Akademi Award (1999) for 'Deewar Mein Ek Khidki Rehti Thi'
- PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature (2023)
- First Indian to win the PEN/Nabokov Award
- Atta Galatta-Bangalore Lit Fest Book Prize (Fiction)
- Minimalist prose; recurring themes: everyday life, small-town Chhattisgarh

⚡ RAPID REVISION — 10-SECOND RECAP

01

Transgender Bill 2026

Self-ID REMOVED → Medical Board + DM. Against NALSA (2014). Arts 14/19/21 challenge.

02

Ladakh Shutdown

4 demands: Statehood, 6th Schedule, Job Reservation, Land/Culture. LAB+KDA led.

03

Happiness Report 2026

Finland #1 (9 yrs), India #116, Afghanistan #147. Released 20 March. Cantril Ladder.

04

Oscars 98th (2026)

Best Pic: One Battle After Another (6). Actor: Michael B. Jordan. Host: Conan O'Brien.

05

Jnanpith 2025

Vinod Kumar Shukla (Hindi). Works: Naukar Ki Kameez, Deewar Mein Ek Khidki.

NEXT STEPS

Your Practice Sheet Is Waiting

28

CLAT-Pattern MCQs

05

Passages

28 MIN

Time Limit

-0.25

Per Wrong

Coming next → PPT 2: SC Status on Conversion • TB Day • Forex • Social Media Trial • AQI 2025

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