EVERYDAY CURRENT AFFAIRS – MARCH 09, 2026

NATIONAL

- **Airport Service Quality Award winner – 2025**
- ✓ Mangaluru International Airport has been selected as the Airport Service Quality Award winner 2025.
- ✓ This award recognizes it as the best airport at the time of arrivals.
- ✓ This recognition is based on passenger feedback collected through Airports Council International's independent survey program.
- ✓ Factors such as immigration efficiency, baggage delivery, cleanliness, ambiance, wayfinding, and comfort are considered.
- ✓ This is the second consecutive year that Mangaluru Airport has received the Global Arrivals Award.
- ✓ Adani Airport Holdings Limited manages Mangaluru International Airport.
- ✓ The awards are part of the Airports Council International World Airport Experience Summit.

- **"Team Kalki"**
- ✓ The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has dismantled a major pan-India drug distribution network operating under the name "Team Kalki".
- ✓ According to the NCB, the network had been active since January 2025 and relied heavily on darknet platforms for anonymous drug sales.
- ✓ They were operating using darknet marketplaces and encrypted communication platforms to distribute narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances across the country.

INTERNATIONAL

- **Nepal's Next Prime Minister**
- ✓ Balen Shah is set to become the Prime Minister of Nepal.
- ✓ His party, Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), secured a major election victory (100+ constituencies) in the first general election after the 2025 Gen Z youth protests.
- ✓ At 35 years of age, Balen Shah represents a new generation of political leadership emerging from youth-led political movements.
- ✓ The election result reflects changing youth political preferences and the rise of non-traditional political leadership in Nepal.

STATE

- **'Nirbhaya Nisha'**
- ✓ The 'Nirbhaya Nisha' project has been operationalized on 8th March by the Kerala Police to ensure safe and independent travel for women during night hours across the state.
- ✓ As part of the launch, 28 police jeeps driven by women police personnel were flagged off, marking the beginning of the project's implementation statewide.
- ✓ The initiative has been introduced to address safety concerns faced by women travelling at night for work, education, medical emergencies and personal needs.
- ✓ The Nirbhaya Nisha service will operate between 9:00 pm and 5:00 am, ensuring security during late-night travel hours.
- ✓ The initiative will function through coordination among several emergency response mechanisms such as the Emergency Response and Support System (ERSS) and the 112-emergency helpline.
- ✓ Additional support will be provided through district control rooms, control room vehicles, highway patrol units and pink patrol vehicles.
- ✓ Kerala Police also plan to install 'safety poles' equipped with AI-enabled cameras and panic alarm buttons in busy urban areas where women frequently travel. These poles will also include facial recognition systems to identify offenders in crowded places, thereby strengthening public safety infrastructure

APPOINTMENTS

- **Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL**

✓ Deepak Gupta has assumed charge as the Chairman and Managing Director of GAIL (India) Limited, the country's largest natural gas transmission and marketing company.

✓ Deepak Gupta is a mechanical engineer from Delhi College of Engineering and possesses extensive experience in natural gas transmission, marketing and infrastructure development.

✓ Before assuming the top position, he had been serving as Director (Projects) at GAIL since February 2022.

✓ Under his leadership, the Dabhol breakwater project of Konkan LNG, a subsidiary of GAIL, was successfully completed, enabling all weather operations at the facility.

APPOLD STUDY CENTRE