



# 23.05.2026 NEWS

## RBI TO TRANSFER RS.2.87 LAKH CRORE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- At a time when crude oil supply has been disrupted and import costs have risen due to the West Asian issue, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to provide a surplus transfer to strengthen the financial position of the Central Government.
- In a press release issued by the RBI, it stated that before allocations toward "contingency reserves and statutory provisions," the RBI's net income for the financial year 2025 stood at Rs.3.13 lakh crore. In the financial year 2026, it increased to Rs.3.96 lakh crore. As a result, the RBI's balance sheet expanded by 20.61 percent and reached Rs.91.97 lakh crore as of March 31.
- In this situation, based on a review of global and domestic economic conditions and future risks during the recent meeting of the bank's Central Board of Directors, it was decided to transfer Rs.1.09 lakh crore to the Contingency Risk Buffer for the financial year 2025–26. Last year, Rs.44,861 crore had been transferred, but this year the amount has been increased to more than double.
- In addition, it was also decided to transfer Rs.2.87 lakh crore to the Central Government as surplus income for the financial year 2025–26.

## EUTHANASIA: FREEDOM FOR A LIFE WITHOUT PURPOSE

### » Haris Rana

- A young man who fell from the terrace of a college hostel has remained in an inactive coma state for the past 13 years.
- Citing medical expenses and related difficulties, his parents approached the Delhi High Court seeking permission for euthanasia, but their plea was rejected. Later, an appeal was filed before the Supreme Court of India, where this significant judgment was delivered.

### » Article 21

- Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees every Indian citizen the right to live with dignity. This case reflects the argument that the right granted to live also includes the right to die with dignity. If a citizen is denied the possibility of a dignified death, it

## 97 INDIAN CITIES AMONG THE WORLD'S HOTTEST 100 CITIES

- According to data released by AQI, 97 out of the world's 100 hottest cities are located in India.
- As per the report, around 2:50 PM Indian time on Friday, Indian cities occupied the majority of positions in the list of the world's top 100 hottest cities. Among them, Balangir in the state of Odisha ranked first with a temperature of 48°C.
- The list also included Sasaram in Bihar and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. In many of these cities, humidity levels remained only between 6 and 8 percent, creating conditions of "extreme heat."
- Only three cities from other countries appeared in the list : Dhangadhi (23rd place), Nepalgunj (34th place), and Lumbini Sanskritik (76th place), all of which are located in Nepal.
- Apart from these, the remaining 97 cities were all from India.

may amount to a denial of rights. Deaths without suffering are referred to as euthanasia. In India, only passive euthanasia is legally permitted.

- Passive euthanasia refers to an artificially induced death caused by stopping food, medicine, and life-support measures provided to a patient seeking such an end.
- » Passive Euthanasia Around the World
- Many countries across the world have legalized passive euthanasia. Netherlands and Belgium were among the first nations to legalize euthanasia. Later, countries such as Luxembourg, Spain, and Portugal followed the same path.
- Switzerland went a step further by permitting terminally ill patients to end their own lives voluntarily without pain. Canada and U.S. states such as Washington, Oregon, and Montana also allow physician-assisted euthanasia.
- » The 1994 Judgment
- In 1994, in a case filed against the Central Government by P. Rathinam and Nagabhushan Patnaik before the Supreme Court, the Court held that Article 21 of the Constitution not only guarantees the right to live but also includes the right not to live. Accordingly, Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, dealing with punishment for attempted suicide, was declared unconstitutional.
- Through this judgment, an individual was recognized as having the right both to live and not to live. Later, in 1996, in the Gian Kaur and Harbans Singh case, the Supreme Court ruled that encouraging a patient toward death amounts to abetment of suicide under Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code.
- Against this background, the Law Commission of India in its 196th report in 2006 recommended amendments to Section 309 of the IPC concerning suicide, including provisions related to long-term terminally ill patients.
- » The Aruna Shanbaug Case
- Amid these developments, another major Supreme Court judgment in 2011 gained importance. It concerned the euthanasia plea related to nurse Aruna Shanbaug, who had remained in a coma for 42 years without consciousness. The petition was filed in the Supreme Court by social activist Pinki Virani. Although the Court dismissed the plea, it laid down important guidelines regarding passive euthanasia.
- According to these guidelines: petitions seeking passive euthanasia must be filed before the High Court, such pleas must be heard by a bench of two judges led by the Chief Justice of the High Court, and three competent doctors should be appointed to assist the Court.
- Based on the recommendations of the medical board, the High Court may then issue an order permitting passive euthanasia. Although passive euthanasia was recognized in principle through this judgment, the petition filed by Pinki Virani was rejected because she was not a relative of Aruna Shanbaug. Later appeals were also dismissed after King Edward Memorial Hospital, which had been caring for Aruna Shanbaug, opposed euthanasia.
- Another important development came in 2018 through a public interest litigation filed before the Supreme Court by the NGO Common Cause. Following this judgment, public and legal perspectives on euthanasia began to change. What was once viewed as "mercy killing" increasingly came to be seen as "mercy death."
- Euthanasia is now viewed by many as a form of liberation granted to individuals whose bodies and minds have become completely immobile and incapable of meaningful life.