Gujarat bans caste signage on private vehicles

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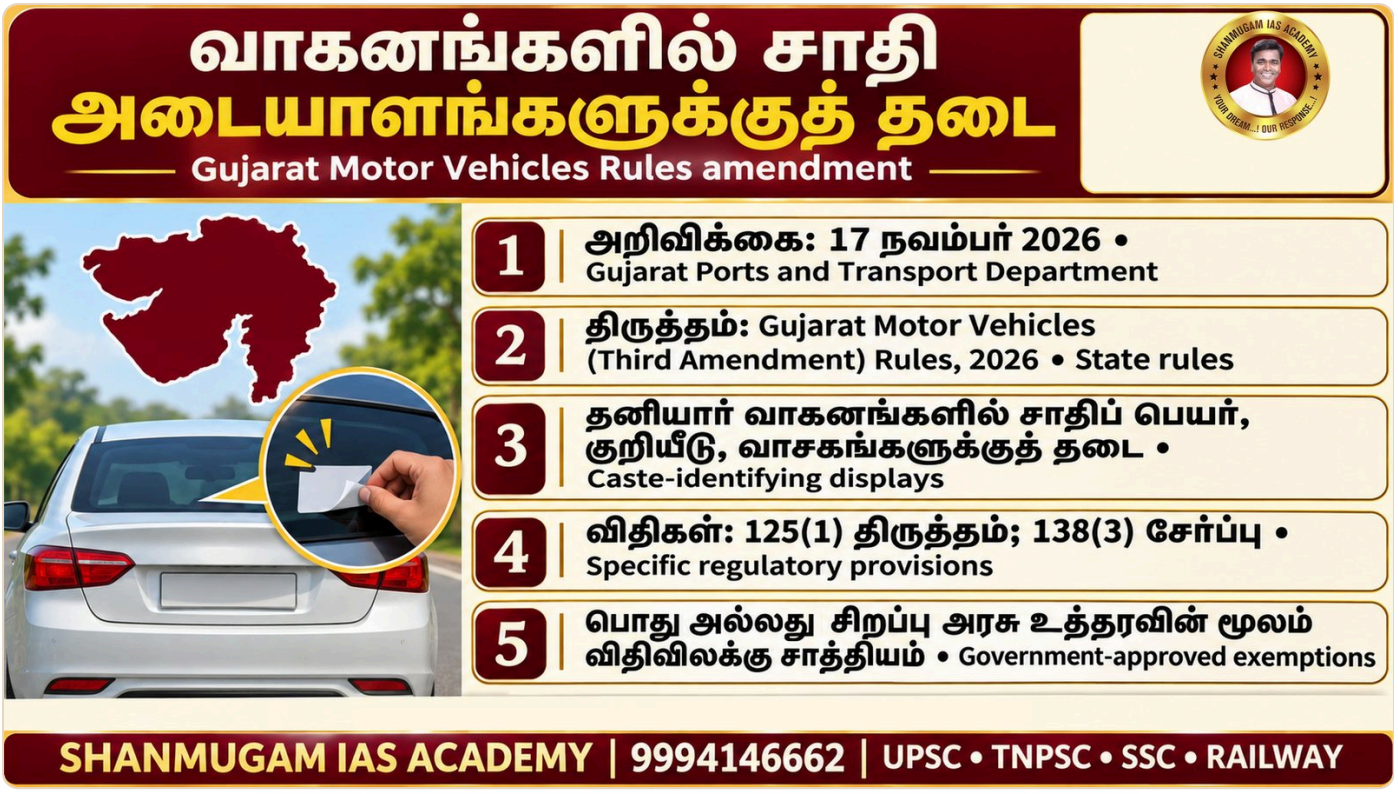

News

Gujarat's Ports and Transport Department has notified the Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026 (17 Nov 2026), banning caste-identifying words, signs and symbols on all private vehicles: two-wheelers, three-wheelers, cars, buses and trucks. In Rule 125(1), "No advertising device, figure" now reads "No advertising device, caste signage, figure". A new Rule 138(3) bars any advertising device, caste-identifying sign, figure or text on private vehicles unless the State permits it by a general or special order. The draft was published in the Gazette on 11 June 2026 and no objections were received in 30 days.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Rules	Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026
Notified	17 November 2026
Covers	All private vehicles (unless the State permits by order)
New provision	Rule 138(3) inserted; parent rules: Gujarat Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989

Background

- Other States: after an Allahabad High Court order, Uttar Pradesh in September 2025 directed removal of caste references from police records and public signboards and barred caste names and slogans on

vehicles. State motor vehicle rules are framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

- Constitution: Article 15 bars discrimination on grounds including caste; Article 17 abolishes untouchability; the Preamble promises fraternity assuring the dignity of the individual.

Tamil Nadu link: The Self-Respect Movement (1925) of E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) fought caste pride; its first provincial conference at Chengalpattu (1929) urged people to drop caste titles from their names.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Rules: Gujarat Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026; Notified: 17 November 2026; Covers: All private vehicles (unless the State permits by order); New provision: Rule 138(3) inserted; parent rules: Gujarat Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

What is the background to this news?

Other States: after an Allahabad High Court order, Uttar Pradesh in September 2025 directed removal of caste references from police records and public signboards and barred caste names and slogans on vehicles.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which Gujarat rules ban caste signage on vehicles?

A) Gujarat Road Safety Act, 2026

B) Gujarat MV (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026

C) Central MV (Amendment) Rules, 2026

D) Gujarat Social Harmony Act, 2026

Answer: B – Explanation: Notified by the Ports and Transport Department on 17 Nov 2026; 'caste signage' was inserted in Rule 125(1).

2. Which Article of the Constitution abolishes 'untouchability'?

A) Article 17

B) Article 15

C) Article 18

D) Article 16

Answer: A – Explanation: Art. 15 bars discrimination including on caste; Art. 16 ensures equality in public jobs; Art. 18 abolishes titles.

3. In which year did Periyar E.V. Ramasamy launch the Self-Respect Movement?

A) 1938

B) 1944

C) 1925

D) 1916

Answer: C – Explanation: 1916: Justice Party (SILF) founded; 1938: anti-Hindi agitation; 1944: Dravidar Kazhagam.

4. Where was the first provincial Self-Respect conference (1929), which urged people to drop caste titles, held?

A) Kanchipuram

B) Vaikom

C) Erode

D) Chengalpattu

Answer: D – Explanation: The 1929 Chengalpattu conference called for dropping caste suffixes. The Vaikom Satyagraha (1924–25) was in Keralam.

5. The Gujarat Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, amended to ban caste signage, are framed under which law?

A) Motor Vehicles Act, 1939

B) Road Transport Corporations Act, 1950

C) Indian Penal Code, 1860

D) Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

Answer: D – Explanation: State motor vehicle rules are made under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, which replaced the 1939 Act and was heavily amended in 2019 to raise fines.