



April - 20

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Mumbai Cricket Association became the first in India to launch a structured player contract system for domestic cricketers, starting from the 2026–27 season, to provide financial stability to players.
- ❖ Bollywood actress Sayani Gupta was honoured with the Harvard South Asian “Person of the Year” Award 2026.
- ❖ All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) launched VAANI 3.0 (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) to promote technical education, research, and learning in Indian languages.
- ❖ International Amateur Radio Day is observed worldwide every year on April 18 to mark the formation of the International Amateur Radio Union in 1925 in Paris.

NATIONAL NEWS

Women’s Reservation Bill Without Delimitation

DMK MP Moves Bill for Immediate Women’s Reservation

- P Wilson moves Private Bill
- Reservation from next election
- No delimitation or Census wait
- Applies to Parliament & Assemblies
- Seeks permanent reservation

- ❖ P Wilson of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam moved a Private Member’s Constitution Amendment Bill in the Rajya Sabha on April 18, 2026.
- ❖ The bill seeks 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies without waiting for the census or delimitation.
- ❖ It proposes implementation within the existing 543 seats of the Lok Sabha.

- ❖ It also suggests making women's reservations permanent instead of for a limited period.
- ❖ The bill opposes linking reservations to the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act 2023.
- ❖ It comes after the failure of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 related to delimitation.

SC on Dowry Law Protection

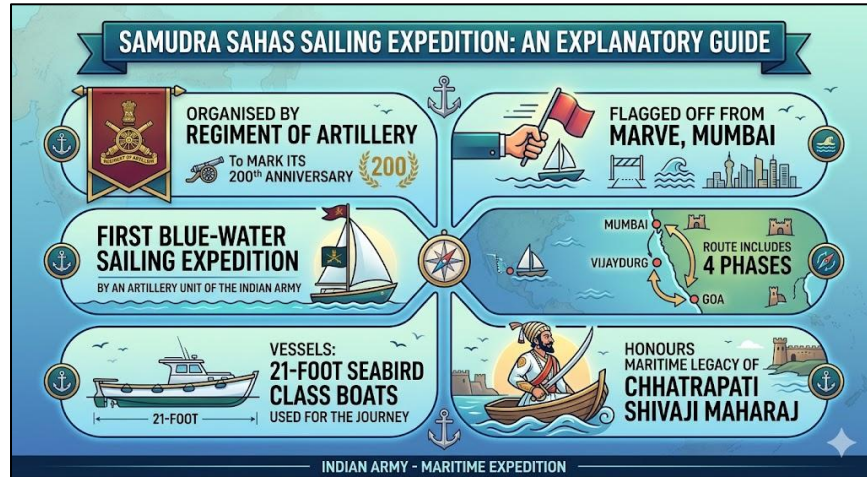
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that people who give dowry as victims cannot be prosecuted under the law.
- ❖ The judgment interprets the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961, which bans both giving and taking dowry but provides protection to victims.
- ❖ Under Section 7(3), dowry givers who file complaints are treated as the aggrieved persons if they acted under social pressure or coercion.
- ❖ The Court clarified that punishing such victims would defeat the purpose of the law and discourage reporting of dowry harassment cases.
- ❖ The ruling came while rejecting a plea that sought action against the bride's family for admitting dowry payment.



Samudra Sahas Expedition

- ❖ Samudra Sahas Sailing Expedition was flagged off from Marve, Mumbai.
- ❖ It is organised by the Regiment of Artillery to mark its 200th anniversary.

- ❖ It is the first blue-water sailing expedition by an Artillery unit of the Indian Army.
- ❖ The route includes Mumbai, Vijaydurg, and Goa in four phases.
- ❖ Sailors used 21-foot Seabird class boats for the journey.
- ❖ The expedition honours the maritime legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji.



India's Anti-Doping Efforts



- ❖ The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN) conference was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ India increased anti-doping tests from about 4,000 in 2019 to around 8,000 in the past year.
- ❖ Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF) reduced from 5.6% to less than 2%.
- ❖ National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) spreads awareness through workshops, seminars, and digital campaigns.

- ❖ At the conference, countries discussed global cooperation, intelligence sharing, and stronger investigations to stop doping.

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool

- ❖ The Government of India has approved the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool with ₹12,980 crore guarantee.
- ❖ It will provide insurance to ships for risks like damage, cargo loss, and war.
- ❖ The scheme was needed due to rising risks and high insurance costs in global shipping.
- ❖ It will cover Indian ships and ships linked to India for safe trade.
- ❖ The scheme will run for 10 years and can be extended to 15 years.
- ❖ It will reduce dependence on foreign insurers and improve maritime safety.



Creation of 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI Pool)

- Cabinet approves creation of 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool' (BMI Pool) with a **sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore** to ensure continuous maritime insurance coverage
- The Domestic Insurance Pool aims to **reduce dependence on foreign insurers (IGP&I Clubs)** amid global volatility and geopolitical instability
- BMI Pool will cover **Indian-flagged/controlled vessels** carrying cargo from any International origin to **Indian ports** and **vice-versa** including transit through **volatile maritime corridors**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Borrowers' Platform

- ❖ Developing countries launched the first-ever Borrowers' Platform at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings 2026.
- ❖ The platform aims to improve coordination and give a collective voice to borrowing countries on debt issues.

- ❖ It will be supported by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as its secretariat.
- ❖ It provides a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors to share knowledge and solutions.
- ❖ Developing countries face high debt, with external debt around 11.7 trillion US dollars and a rising repayment burden.

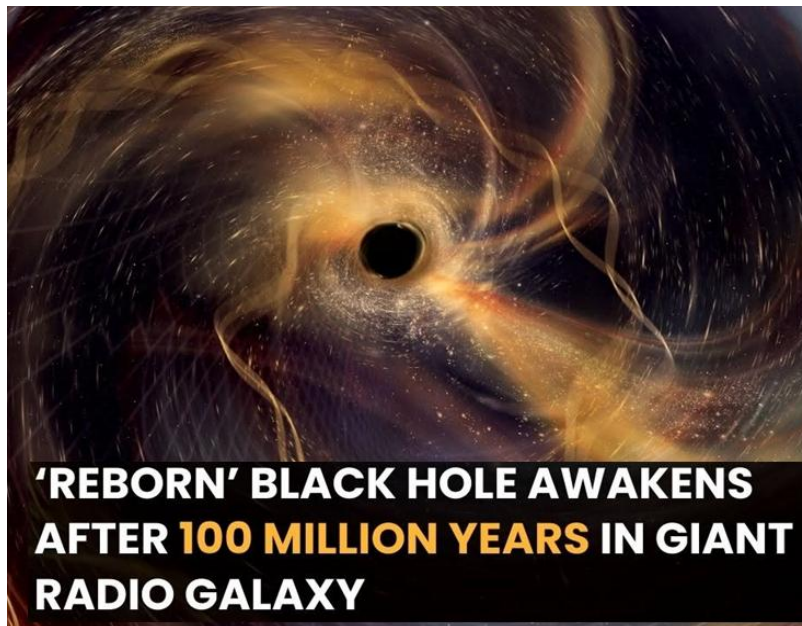


Borrowers' Platform

It's a space where
developing countries can
**work together to better
manage their debt.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Dormant Black Hole Reactivation

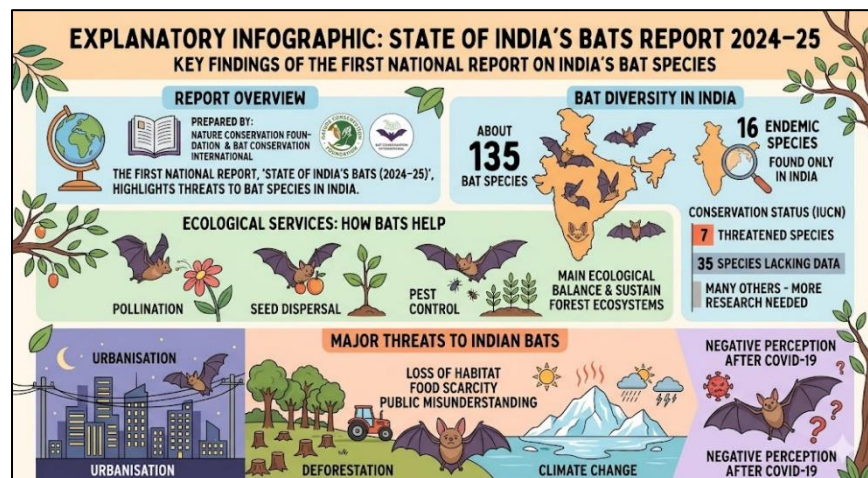


- ❖ Scientists observed a supermassive black hole becoming active after nearly 100 million years of dormancy.
- ❖ A supermassive black hole at the centre of a galaxy has reactivated after a long dormant phase.
- ❖ It started consuming nearby gas, dust, and stellar material, releasing intense radiation and energy.
- ❖ This sudden activity is compared to a “cosmic eruption” due to powerful high-energy jets.
- ❖ Active phases of black holes are called Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN) in astronomy.
- ❖ Supermassive black holes are found at the centre of most galaxies, including the Milky Way.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

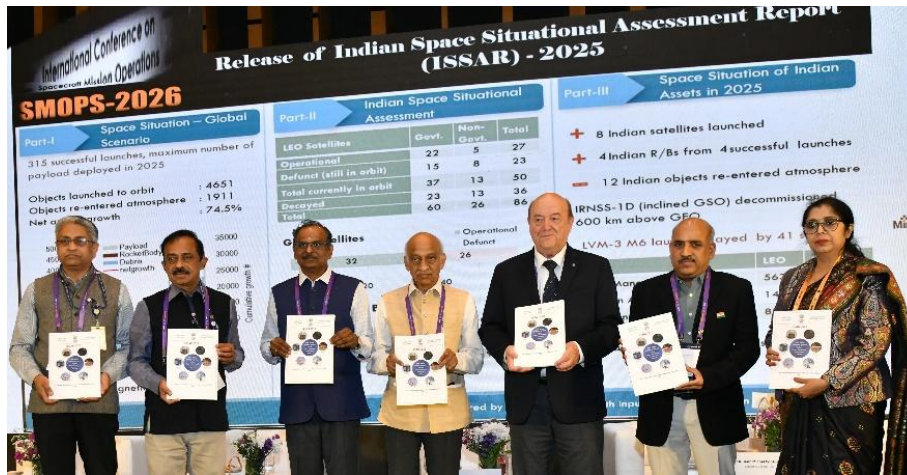
State of India's Bats Report 2024–25

- ❖ The first national report, “State of India’s Bats (2024–25)”, highlights threats to bat species in India.
- ❖ It is prepared by the Nature Conservation Foundation and Bat Conservation International.
- ❖ India has about 135 bat species, including 16 endemic (found only in India) species.
- ❖ About 7 species are threatened as per IUCN, and 35 species lack proper data.
- ❖ Bats help in pollination, seed dispersal, pest control, and maintain ecosystem balance.
- ❖ Major threats include urbanisation, deforestation, climate change, and negative perception after COVID-19.



REPORTS AND INDICES

ISSAR report 2025



- ❖ Indian Space Situational Awareness Report (ISSAR) 2025 was released by the ISRO.
- ❖ The report gives annual data on satellites, space missions, and the space environment.
- ❖ In 2025, 315 successful launches placed 4,198 operational satellites globally.
- ❖ It highlights increasing space congestion with about 1.6 lakh close approach alerts in Low Earth Orbit.
- ❖ India has 144 spacecraft and active missions like Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter and Aditya-L1.
- ❖ It also mentions India's efforts, like Network for Space Objects Tracking and Analysis (NETRA) and Debris Free Space Mission, for space safety.

STATE NEWS

Official Languages Ordinance - Meghalaya

- ❖ Meghalaya approved the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026, on April 16, 2026.
- ❖ It gives official language status to Khasi and Garo, along with English.
- ❖ Earlier, English was the only official language under the Meghalaya State Language Act, 2005.
- ❖ The ordinance allows government work and notifications in Khasi, Garo, and English.

- ❖ It improves access to governance and may allow exams and recruitment in local languages.
- ❖ It supports the demand to include Khasi and Garo in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.



IMPORTANT DAYS

National Fire Service Day 2026 – April 14



- ❖ The day honours firefighters who died in the 1944 Mumbai Port Fire.
- ❖ It remembers the fire and explosions at Victoria Dock in Mumbai in 1944.
- ❖ Fire Service Week is observed from April 14 to April 20 every year.
- ❖ It spreads awareness about fire prevention, safety rules, and protection of life and property.

- ❖ The 2026 theme is “Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society Together for Fire Prevention.”

World Heritage Day 2026 – April 18



- ❖ It is also called the International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- ❖ It was established by UNESCO in 1983 after a proposal by International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).
- ❖ The day promotes the protection of monuments, cultural sites, and traditions from damage and disasters.
- ❖ It highlights the protection of cultural heritage, natural heritage, monuments, and historical sites.
- ❖ The 2026 theme is “Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters.”

