

April - 27

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Upendra Dwivedi was inducted into the International Hall of Fame of the US Army War College in 2026 in Pennsylvania, United States, becoming the third Indian Army Chief to receive this honour.
- ❖ Turkey passed a law restricting social media access for children under 15, mandating age verification, parental controls, and removal of harmful content by platforms like YouTube, Instagram, and TikTok.
- ❖ Eveready Industries India commissioned India's first alkaline battery manufacturing facility in Jammu in 2026.
- ❖ The 9th India International Water Week (IIWW-2026) was launched in New Delhi to promote global cooperation and innovative solutions for water conservation and climate challenges.
 - It is organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti with the theme "Climate Resilient Water Management".
- ❖ Administrative Professionals Day was observed on 22 April (Wednesday of the last full week of April) to recognise the contributions of office support staff.

NATIONAL NEWS

Post-Poll Scrutiny of Elections



- ❖ The Election Commission of India completed post-poll scrutiny in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal with no re-polls ordered.

- ❖ The scrutiny of Form 17A (register of voters) and related election documents was conducted on 24 April 2026.
- ❖ It covered all 234 Assembly constituencies in Tamil Nadu and 152 constituencies in West Bengal.
- ❖ The process was carried out in the presence of observers, candidates, and their representatives.
- ❖ Over 44,000 polling stations in West Bengal and 75,000 in Tamil Nadu were verified.
- ❖ EVM (Electronic Voting Machine) and VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) units are securely stored under strict surveillance.

AAP MPs Defection Issue



- ❖ Seven Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Rajya Sabha MPs, forming over two-thirds of its strength, have defected to the Bharatiya Janata Party.
- ❖ AAP has termed the move illegal and unconstitutional and will seek their disqualification.
- ❖ The party cited the Tenth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which does not recognise splits and allows only mergers with two-thirds support.
- ❖ The decision on disqualification lies with the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Vice-President of India).
- ❖ Anti-defection law (added by 52nd Amendment, 1985) aims to prevent political defections; members can be disqualified for voluntarily giving up party membership or defying party whip.

INS Sudarshini



- ❖ INS Sudarshini made its maiden visit to Las Palmas, becoming the first Indian naval ship to reach the archipelago.
- ❖ The visit marks a key milestone in India's naval diplomacy and forms part of the ship's ongoing "Lokayan 26" global training and outreach deployment.
- ❖ The sail training ship, commissioned in 2012, is used to train naval cadets in navigation, sail handling, and long-duration endurance at sea.
- ❖ The port call includes professional interactions with Spanish naval authorities and outreach activities for the Indian diaspora and local community.
- ❖ The deployment reflects India's naval diplomacy and soft power outreach across Europe, Africa, and the Atlantic maritime routes.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Artemis Accords - Jordan

- ❖ Jordan has signed the Artemis Accords, becoming the 63rd country to join the global framework for responsible space exploration.
- ❖ The accords were launched in 2020 by NASA along with partner nations to establish common principles for peaceful, transparent, and sustainable exploration of outer space.
- ❖ By signing, Jordan commits to key principles such as sharing scientific data openly, providing emergency assistance, ensuring non-interference in space activities, and preserving historically important lunar and space heritage sites.

- ❖ The agreement is linked to the Artemis programme, which aims to return humans to the Moon, build a long-term lunar presence, and expand exploration towards Mars with international cooperation.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

First Gene Therapy for Hearing Loss



- ❖ The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of USA approved the first gene therapy for genetic hearing loss.

- ❖ The therapy named Otarmeni targets deafness caused by mutations in the OTOF (otoferlin) gene.
- ❖ It uses dual Adeno-Associated Virus (AAV) vectors to deliver a healthy copy of the gene into inner ear (cochlea) cells.
- ❖ The treatment restores the protein otoferlin, enabling proper transmission of sound signals from the ear to the brain.
- ❖ It is a one-time surgical therapy administered directly into the inner ear and has shown improved hearing in clinical trials.

China's Tiangong Mission



- ❖ China selected two candidates from Pakistan for astronaut training for the Tiangong space station, marking the first inclusion of foreign astronauts in China's human spaceflight programme.
- ❖ The selected candidates, Muhammad Zeeshan Ali and Khurram Daud, will undergo full training and evaluation in China as part of a bilateral space cooperation agreement.
- ❖ One of them may be chosen as a payload specialist on a future mission, potentially becoming the first Pakistani to reach Earth's orbit.
- ❖ This development follows an agreement between China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) (China Manned Space Agency) and SUPARCO (Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission) of Pakistan.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

UNIDO GEM Award Guntur

- ❖ Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) won the 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award in 2026.
- ❖ The award was given by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Vienna.
- ❖ It recognised GMC's initiative of employing over 200 women as electric auto drivers for waste collection.
- ❖ The project is implemented under the Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot (SCIAP), promoting zero-emission waste management.
- ❖ GMC also received state-level appreciation for strong property tax collection in 2025–26.



Global Recognition - Indian Cheese

- ❖ The Prime Minister of India congratulated Indian cheesemakers for winning awards at the Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026 held in São Paulo.
- ❖ India made a strong debut by winning 1 Super Gold, 2 Gold, and 1 Silver medal.
- ❖ The top award (Super Gold) was won by Eleftheria Gulmarg (Brie-style cheese), while Yak Churpi-Soft from Ladakh and Eleftheria Brunost won Gold, and Eleftheria Kaali Miri secured Silver.
- ❖ The competition featured participants from over 30 countries and evaluated entries on taste, texture, aroma, and quality by international experts.



INDIA'S CHEESE STORY IS GETTING GLOBAL


From paneer familiarity to international artisanal recognition, Indian cheesemakers are beginning to win on the world stage.

A BREAKTHROUGH MOMENT

At the Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026, four Indian cheeses won international medals.

1 SUPER GOLD	2 GOLDS	1 SILVER
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THE INDIAN CHEESES THAT WON

<p>SUPER GOLD</p>  <p>Eleftheria Gulmarg (Brie Style) The standout winner that took Super Gold.</p>	<p>GOLD</p>  <p>Yak Churpi-Soft Nordic Farm Leh, Ladakh A regional classic, crafted with finesse.</p>	<p>GOLD</p>  <p>Eleftheria Brunost (Whey Cheese) Traditional inspiration, world-class execution.</p>	<p>SILVER</p>  <p>Eleftheria Kaali Miri (Belper Knolle Style) Bold, distinctive and internationally appreciated.</p>
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