

# TNPSC THERVUPETTAGAM

CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL 2026

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## TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Global Conference on Women in Agri-Food Systems 2026 started in New Delhi with the theme “Driving Progress, Attaining New Heights”.
- ❖ Arpita Patra became the second Indian woman to summit Nevado Ojos del Salado, the world’s highest volcano, reaching a height of 6,893 metres on the Chile–Argentina border.
- ❖ India successfully completed oscillation trials of its first hydrogen-powered train, marking a major step in green railway transport.
- ❖ Japan launched the world’s first freight-only bullet train based on the Shinkansen system to improve fast and safe cargo transport.
- ❖ The Indian Navy hosted IMEX (IONS Maritime Exercise) TTX 2026 in Kochi to strengthen maritime cooperation.
- ❖ The inaugural meeting of the Biotechnology Research and Innovation Council–Research Advisory Board (BRIC-RAB) was held at the Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad.
- ❖ Russia’s key Baltic oil export hub, Ust-Luga Port, was damaged again after a Ukrainian drone strike, causing fire and disruption in operations.
  - The port is one of Russia’s largest petroleum export terminals, which handling around 700,000 barrels per day of oil exports.
- ❖ World Piano Day was celebrated on March 29, 2026, and it is observed every year on the 88th day of the year, symbolising the 88 keys of a piano.
- ❖ Indonesia banned social media use for children under 16, becoming the first country in Southeast Asia to impose such a restriction.
- ❖ India conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti as a Tri-Service exercise involving the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force to strengthen coastal and island defence preparedness.
- ❖ Vijaypat Singhania, ex-chairman of Raymond and Padma Bhushan awardee known for his aviation achievements, including a world-record hot air balloon altitude, passed away in Mumbai at the age of 87.
- ❖ India is set to launch the 11th Open Acreage Licensing Policy round, offering 21 oil and gas blocks for exploration.
  - The policy is part of the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy to increase domestic oil and gas production.
- ❖ Hyderabad hosted the World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026, with over 20 countries, focusing on non-violence, compassion, and dialogue.
- ❖ Indian Navy received the indigenous stealth frigate INS Dunagiri under Project 17A, which is the fifth ship of the Nilgiri-class frigates, to strengthen maritime defence capabilities.

- ❖ Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH), Chennai performed South India's first Sacral Neuromodulation (SNM) surgery to treat urinary problems using an implanted device that controls bladder nerves.
- ❖ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) delivered three frontline naval platforms, namely Dunagiri, a missile warship, Sanshodhak, a survey vessel used for coastal and ocean research, and Agray, an anti submarine vessel, to the Indian Navy.
- ❖ Indian Navy received Malwan, the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), an indigenously built warship designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow and coastal waters.
- ❖ India launched INS Shachi, the first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) in, Goa, as part of a series of eleven such vessels.
- ❖ The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board approved excavation for the Mahi Banswara Rajasthan Atomic Nuclear Power Project located in Banswara, Rajasthan, near the Mahi Dam on the Mahi River.
- ❖ Indian Navy received Sanshodhak, the fourth and last Survey Vessel Large, which is used for hydrographic surveys and mapping sea and coastal areas.
- ❖ A stampede at Maa Sheetla Temple in Nalanda district, Bihar, on 31 March 2026, led to the death of 8 people.
- ❖ The Speaker of Lok Sabha addressed the Purvanchal Mahotsav Maati-9 Festival, a cultural festival of the Purvanchal region based on soil and heritage.
- ❖ The Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot was unveiled by the Vice-President and the Minister of Law and Justice during the DISHA programme.
  - Nyaya Setu is a voice-first, multilingual Artificial Intelligence (AI) based legal assistant that helps citizens understand laws easily.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed Sandeep Rai Rathore as Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF), replacing G. Venkatraman.
  - While the ECI appoints a DGP, Elections, to take charge of all poll-related responsibilities, Mr Rathore was posted as DGP since there is a no regular HoPF in the State.
- ❖ Niranjana Jyoti assumed charge as Chairperson and Kiran Umesh Mahalle as Member of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).
- ❖ World Autism Awareness Day is observed on 2 April every year to promote awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of people with autism.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value."
- ❖ India approved Qdenga (TAK-003), a tetravalent dengue vaccine that protects against all four dengue virus types, for people aged 4 to 60 years.

- ❖ Income Tax Department launched 'Kar Saathi', an Artificial Intelligence based chatbot platform to help with tax filing, compliance, e-verification, and grievance support.
- ❖ Min Aung Hlaing has been elected as the President of Myanmar by Parliament.
- ❖ Sudarshan Pattnaik has been appointed as the Brand Ambassador for India Census 2027 by the Government of India.
- ❖ Three Panchayats of Tripura won top honours in Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji Deshmukh Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar 2025, with Sepahijala (best District Panchayat), Kanchabari (Health-Friendly category – 1st), and Baikunthapur (Women-Friendly category – 3rd).
- ❖ Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released "Tides of Time" by Sudha Murty, explaining 58 murals in Samvidhan Sadan as India's civilisational symbols.
- ❖ NATO Day is observed on April 4 annually, marking the founding of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization through the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on April 4, 1949, to ensure collective defence and security.
- ❖ National Maritime Day is celebrated on April 5, 2026, to mark India's maritime heritage and progress.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Maritime India – Empowering Progress".
- ❖ International Day of Conscience is observed on April 5 every year to promote peace and ethical values.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Together for Peace: From Conscience to Collective Action".
- ❖ Odisha Police and Uttarakhand Police have been awarded the President's Police Colour, the highest honour for police forces in India.
- ❖ Union Defence Minister commissioned the advanced stealth frigate INS Taragiri in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, which is the fourth stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy.
- ❖ INS Aridaman, India's 3rd nuclear-powered submarine, has been inducted into the Indian Navy.
- ❖ A painting titled "Yashoda and Krishna" by Raja Ravi Varma became the most expensive artwork ever sold in India after being auctioned in Mumbai for ₹167.20 crore.
- ❖ International Children's Book Day is celebrated every year on April 2 to inspire children to read books and develop a love for reading.
- ❖ International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed every year on April 6 to highlight the role of sports in promoting peace and development.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers".

- ❖ The Union Minister for Science and Technology has inaugurated the BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council)-BioNEST Incubation Centre at the Central Food Technological Research Institute to support food and biotech startups.
- ❖ The Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of stealth Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) for the Indian Air Force under the Ghatak programme.
  - Ghatak UCAV is an indigenous stealth combat drone developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation, earlier called AURA (Autonomous Unmanned Research Aircraft).
- ❖ The Indian Railways has completed the 1,506 km long Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal to Dadri to improve freight transport across the country.
- ❖ China has the largest metro network (~11,000 km), followed by the United States of America (USA) (~1,400 km) and India (~1,100 km).
- ❖ The proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Puri, Odisha has received Stage-I forest clearance from the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change.
  - The clearance was granted on 1 April 2026 for the diversion of about 27.886 hectares of forest land for the project.
- ❖ International Carrot Day 2026 is celebrated every year on April 4 to promote awareness about the benefits of carrots.
- ❖ International Romani Day is celebrated every year on April 8, marking the first World Romani Congress 1971 held in the United Kingdom.
- ❖ A commemorative postage stamp was released to mark 75 years of the Postal Training Centre, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ India achieved the highest-ever wind energy capacity addition of 6.05 gigawatt (GW) in FY2025–26, taking total installed wind power capacity to over 56 gigawatts (GW).
- ❖ Former CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) Director R.K. Raghavan's autobiography, A Road Well Travelled, was launched in Chennai.
- ❖ Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 was held in New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to promote tribal culture, crafts, and entrepreneurship.
- ❖ Divya Singh, a young adventurer from Uttar Pradesh, cycled to Everest Base Camp in Nepal in 14 days, which is located at an altitude of about 5,364 metres above sea level.
- ❖ Payal Nag became the world's first quadruple amputee to win an international archery gold medal at the World Para Archery Series Final held in Bangkok.

- ❖ One Health Summit 2026 is held in Lyon, France, under the G7 Presidency, promoting the One Health approach linking human, animal, and ecosystem health to address diseases and improve global health cooperation.
- ❖ Murali Sreeshankar won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 with a jump of 8.15 m.
- ❖ The Election Commission of India ordered changes in Tamil Nadu, appointing M. Sai Kumar as Chief Secretary and Sandeep Mittal as Director General of Police (Armed Police and Vigilance and Anti-Corruption (DVAC)).
- ❖ The United Arab Emirates launched the world's first 10G (10 Gigabit) U6GHz internet network.
- ❖ The Indian Institute of Management Rohtak won the Hermes Dialogue 6.0 debate competition hosted by the Birla Institute of Management Technology.
- ❖ Indian-origin scientist Deep Jariwala was appointed to the UT-ORNL (University of Tennessee–Oak Ridge National Laboratory) Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices in the United States.
- ❖ Blanka Vlašić, an Olympic medalist, was appointed as Global Ambassador for the World 10K Bengaluru 2026.
- ❖ The International Renewable Energy Agency report ranked India 3rd globally in renewable energy capacity (274.68 GW, March 2026), after China and the USA.
- ❖ Amul became the first Indian FMCG (Fast Moving Consumer Goods) company to cross ₹1 trillion turnover.
- ❖ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved Kamala (1,720 MW) hydroelectric project in Arunachal Pradesh.
  - It will be developed by NHPC (National Hydroelectric Power Corporation) with the State Government.
- ❖ Regional Passport Office Bhopal launched Braille and sign language services for passport applicants.
  - It is the first such initiative among passport offices in India for differently-abled persons.
- ❖ World Homoeopathy Day is celebrated annually on April 10 to mark the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann.
  - The theme for the year 2026, "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health".
- ❖ World Parkinson's Disease Day is observed annually on April 11 to mark the birth anniversary of James Parkinson.
  - The theme for the year 2026, "bridge the care gap".
- ❖ The Indian Army participated in the 4th edition of Exercise Cyclone, a joint special forces military exercise between India and Egypt, held in Egypt.

- ❖ Meta launched Muse Spark, its first artificial intelligence model from Superintelligence Labs, which can estimate calories from photos, answer questions, and show object placement visually.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh's AI-based Urban Flood Management Cell, Gorakhpur is India's first AI-enabled urban flood early warning system using real-time sensors and models to predict floods in advance.
- ❖ Vantara launched the world's first global university for wildlife and veterinary sciences in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ❖ The Environment Ministry panel recommended clearance for the 1,200 MW Kalai-II project in Arunachal Pradesh on the Lohit River in Anjaw district (Hawai village), a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- ❖ The Indian Army conducted Exercise Brahmastra at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, where AH-64E Apache helicopters carried out precision strikes to display combat capabilities.
- ❖ C. D. Gopinath, a former Indian cricketer, passed away at the age of 96 and was a member of India's first Test-winning team in 1952, when India defeated the England cricket team in Chennai.
- ❖ The Indian Army completed Operation Him Setu to rescue stranded tourists in North Sikkim after a landslide.
- ❖ Anthropic launched Project Glasswing with Amazon Web Services, Apple, Google, and Microsoft to use AI to detect cybersecurity vulnerabilities and secure software systems.
- ❖ ISRO completed the second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for the Gaganyaan mission at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❖ Jim Whittaker, the first American to summit Mount Everest, died at the age of 97.
- ❖ The Centre approved the development of airports at Warangal and Adilabad in Telangana to improve regional connectivity.
- ❖ The 7th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK began in Uzbekistan, and it is a joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan conducted annually.
- ❖ The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has extended the Minimum Import Price (MIP) on natural honey at \$1,400 per tonne till December 31, 2026, to curb cheap imports and protect domestic producers.
- ❖ Baisakhi day is celebrated every year on April 13 or 14 on Mesha Sankranti as a harvest festival and New Year.
  - It also observed as Rongali Bihu (Assam), Puthandu (Tamil Nadu), Vishu (Kerala), and Naba Barsha (West Bengal).

- ❖ World Quantum Day is celebrated every year on 14 April to raise awareness about quantum science.
  - The date 14 April (4.14) represents Planck's constant used in Quantum Physics.
- ❖ A life-size bronze statue of Swami Vivekananda was unveiled in Seattle, the first such statue of him in the United States.
- ❖ Sarun Payasingh won the men's long jump at the Indian Athletics Series in Ranchi with a jump of 7.46 metres.
- ❖ Sawan Barwal broke India's oldest marathon record at the Rotterdam Marathon by finishing in 2:11:58, surpassing Shivnath Singh's 1978 record of 2:12:00.
- ❖ Banaras Hindu University won the AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026 held at Integral University, Lucknow.
- ❖ The Indian Navy will host the first edition of the Commanders' Conference 2026 in New Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Defence, to review naval operations and maritime security.
- ❖ World Art Day is celebrated every year on April 15 to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art across the world.
- ❖ Sujeet Kalkal (65 kg freestyle category) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70 kg freestyle category) won gold medals at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet of India approved a 4-lane Barabanki–Bahraich project on National Highway-927 to improve India–Nepal connectivity and boost trade via the Rupaidiha–Nepalgunj route.
- ❖ Samrat Choudhary took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar, after replacing Nitish Kumar, who stepped down after being nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
  - He is becoming the first leader from the Bharatiya Janata Party to hold the post.
- ❖ Roman Gofman has been appointed as the new head of Mossad in Israel.
- ❖ World Voice Day 2026 is observed every year on April 16 to create awareness about voice health and to promote prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of voice disorders.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “Caring for Our Voices”.
- ❖ Ayush Shetty won a silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held in Ningbo, China.
- ❖ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched India's first indigenous quantum computing testbeds, including two systems named 1S and 1Q.
- ❖ Australia has appointed Susan Coyle as the first woman to head its Army in 125 years.

- ❖ China plans a 120 km undersea high-speed rail tunnel, Bohai Strait Cross-Sea Channel, linking Dalian and Yantai across the Bohai Strait between the Liaodong and Shandong Peninsulas.
- ❖ OpenAI expanded its Trusted Access for Cyber programme and introduced GPT-5.4-Cyber, a specialised model for defensive cybersecurity tasks like malware analysis and vulnerability detection.
- ❖ Mitchell Starc (Australia) and Deepti Sharma (India) were named Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025 by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack.
- ❖ Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI) Bengaluru received ISO 15189:2022 accreditation for its clinical laboratory.
  - It is the first institute under the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) to achieve this recognition.
- ❖ TIME magazine released the TIME100 list 2026 recognising the world's most influential people based on impact and leadership, featuring names like Xi Jinping (14th time), Donald Trump, along with Indian personalities such as Sundar Pichai, Vikas Khanna and Ranbir Kapoor.
- ❖ ITC Limited achieved Global Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 certification for wheat and paddy, becoming the first company in India to receive this global recognition.
- ❖ The Government of India approved the first Semiconductor Special Economic Zone (SEZ) at Dholera, Gujarat, for Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Ltd.
- ❖ Indian Grandmaster R Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 and became the challenger for the Women's World Chess Championship.
- ❖ Prime minister will chair India's first high-level conference dedicated to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to strengthen the internal security framework under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ❖ China became India's largest trading partner in FY 2025–26, surpassing the United States, with total trade at USD 151.1 billion and a record trade deficit of USD 112.6 billion.
- ❖ Integral Coach Factory in Chennai will roll out India's first high-speed Vande Bharat Freight EMU (Electric Multiple Unit) prototype for trials based on the Vande Bharat platform.
- ❖ Prime Minister has inaugurated the Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor, a major expressway project with an investment of around ₹12,000 crore aimed at boosting trade, logistics, industry, and employment.
- ❖ International Day for Street Children is observed every year on April 12 to raise awareness about children living or working on the streets worldwide and to promote their rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

- The theme for the year 2026 is “Protect, not Punish”.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Mumbai-based business owner and Kathak dancer Nishita Yogesh Antarkar won the Miss Sake India 2026 title in Mumbai.
- ❖ Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) received ISO 50001:2018 Energy Management System certification, becoming the first water utility in India to get this global certification for energy management.
- ❖ UN Chinese Language Day is observed every year on 20 April, promoting cultural diversity and multilingualism in the United Nations system, and Chinese is one of its six official languages.
- ❖ Indian Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan made his first-ever bilateral visit to Sri Lanka and handed over houses under the Indian Housing Project (India-supported housing scheme).
- ❖ Herbalife India and the Indian Institute of Technology, IIT Madras, signed an agreement to set up India’s first Centre of Excellence on plant cell fermentation at IIT Madras Research Park.
- ❖ Blue Origin successfully achieved the first landing of a reused New Glenn first-stage booster after launch from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, United States.
- ❖ International Mother Earth Day is observed on 22 April every year by the United Nations to promote environmental protection and sustainable development.
- ❖ World Creativity and Innovation Day is observed on 21 April every year to promote the role of creativity and innovation in sustainable development.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress”.
- ❖ Arthur Law, Co-founder of Storefriendly Asia, was named a Young Global Leader 2026 by the World Economic Forum.
- ❖ Apple Inc. appointed John Ternus as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to replace Tim Cook, who is stepping down after 15 years.

- ❖ Dr. Cherukumalli Srinivasa Rao, Director of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (Indian Agricultural Research Institute - IARI), received the 9th Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award in Hyderabad for his work in climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❖ UN English Language Day is observed on 23 April every year by the United Nations to promote the English language and its global importance.
- ❖ UN Spanish Language Day is observed on 23 April every year by the United Nations to promote the Spanish language and cultural diversity.
- ❖ DRDO developed the AI-powered Prajna system and handed it to the Ministry of Home Affairs for real-time monitoring, surveillance, and threat detection.
- ❖ Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) launched the inaugural BRICS Academic Forum in New Delhi to strengthen policy dialogue and global cooperation.
- ❖ The foundation stone of India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park was laid in Ladakh, on the banks of the Indus River, to protect ancient rock carvings called petroglyphs (prehistoric carvings on rocks), as Ladakh has around 400 such sites.
- ❖ British zoologist, author, and television presenter Desmond Morris died at the age of 98 in Ireland, and his famous book 'The Naked Ape' explained humans as part of the animal kingdom.
- ❖ India participated in the World Border Security Congress 2026 held in Vienna, Austria, focusing on maritime security, coastal surveillance, transnational threats, and emerging technologies to strengthen global border management cooperation.
- ❖ International Sculpture Day is observed on April 24, 2026 (last Saturday of April) to promote awareness and appreciation of sculpture as a form of visual art.
- ❖ The Konyak tribe recently celebrated the Aoleang festival in Kohima from April 1–6, marking the New Year, the arrival of spring.
- ❖ Former MP J Santosh Kumar was honoured as “Global Green Icon” at the World Climate Leaders Conclave in the UK for his work in afforestation and climate action through the Green India Challenge.
- ❖ Kolkata-based player Aronyak Ghosh became India's 95th Grandmaster after achieving his final norm at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026.
- ❖ The Central Bureau of Investigation launched an AI chatbot, 'Abhay', an artificial intelligence tool that helps citizens check if agency notices are real or fake and avoid online scams.
- ❖ The Ministry of Culture has launched the “VM Frames” National Filmmaking Competition to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram.
  - It aims to promote patriotism and cultural heritage through reels, AI-based films and short films.

- ❖ World Penguin Day is observed every year on April 25 to celebrate penguins and raise awareness about their conservation.
- ❖ Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh, was designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site.
  - It is a freshwater wetland located about 17 km from Aligarh, formed in 1852 after the construction of the Upper Ganga Canal.
- ❖ INS Nireekshak deployed to Colombo for the 4th India–Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (DIVEX 2026).
- ❖ For the first time in Central Asia, The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of World Para Athletics Championships 2027 will be held in Tashkent in June which is organized under the International Paralympic Committee.
- ❖ FedEx and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras conducted India's first intra-city drone delivery trials in Bengaluru.
- ❖ World Intellectual Property Organization celebrates World Intellectual Property Day every year on April 26 to highlight the role of Intellectual Property in protecting innovations and promoting creativity globally.
  - The theme for 2026 is "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate".
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Former Army Chief M. M. Naravane has released *The Curious and the Classified*, a non-fiction book on lesser-known stories and traditions of the Indian Armed Forces.
- ❖ Ashok Lahiri, former Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) (Chief Economic Adviser), is set to be appointed Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, replacing Suman Bery.

- Gobardhan Das, Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal, is expected to be appointed as a member.
- ❖ Around 33,000 Indian soldiers of World War I have been added to the Basra Memorial (Basra, Iraq) through digital panels.
  - The initiative was undertaken by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to correct a long-standing historical omission.
- ❖ Scientists have discovered a new underground-dwelling blind fish species named Gitchak nakana in Assam.
  - It is the first groundwater fish found in Northeast India, discovered in a well in Goalpara district, Assam.
- ❖ World Design Day was observed on 27 April to highlight the importance and impact of design in daily life.
- ❖ The World Health Organization has prequalified the first malaria treatment for newborns and infants, artemether-lumefantrine, designed for babies weighing 2–5 kg for safe dosing.
- ❖ Uttar Pradesh received India’s first integrated recycling facility for lithium-ion batteries and rare earth magnets at Sikandrabad, which processes batteries, rare earth magnets, and industrial waste to support clean energy.
- ❖ India-Africa Forum Summit IV logo, theme, and website were launched; the summit will be held on May 31, 2026, in New Delhi with the African Union Commission.
  - The theme for the summit is “IA SPIRIT: India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience, and Inclusive Transformation.”
- ❖ Tamil Nadu ranks first in India for public healthcare usage, with the highest number of people receiving treatment in government hospitals.
- ❖ International Girls in ICT Day is celebrated every year on the fourth Thursday of April (23 April 2026) to encourage girls to pursue careers in Information and Communication Technology (ICT).
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “AI for Development: Girls shaping the digital future”.
- ❖ International Dance Day is celebrated every year on 29 April to promote awareness of dance and its cultural value.
- ❖ The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India has made helpline 1855 operational nationwide for Census 2027.
- ❖ The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India launched its first heritage designer collection, “Soul Threads”, to promote India’s artisanal heritage and support weavers.

- ❖ Bharat Taxi is a government-backed ride-hailing app supported by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), offering zero-commission rides for cars, auto-rickshaws, and two-wheelers with fair pricing.
- ❖ The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the SMILE–Beggary Survey Mobile Application to enable real-time data collection and improve monitoring and rehabilitation under the SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Scheme.
- ❖ The SAFF Women’s Championship 2026 will be hosted by India in Goa, marking its first time hosting since 2016 in Siliguri, West Bengal.
  - Goa had earlier hosted a SAFF event during the men’s championship in 1999.
- ❖ International Delegate’s Day is observed annually on 25 April to recognise the role of delegates representing countries at the United Nations in promoting peace, cooperation and global decision-making.
- ❖ World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed annually on 28 April by the International Labour Organization (ILO) to promote the prevention of workplace accidents and ensure safe and healthy working conditions.
  - The theme for the year 2026 is “Good psychosocial working environments: A pathway to thriving workers and strong organizations”.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **Tamil-Brahmi Inscription Discovery**

- ❖ A potsherd with a Tamil-Brahmi inscription was discovered at Kumarikkal Palayam in Tiruppur district by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ❖ The inscription is paleographically dated to the late 1st century BCE to early 1st century CE.
- ❖ The potsherd is a fragment of a black-and-red ware storage jar used in ancient times.
- ❖ The inscription reads “Irumpurai,” which is linked to the Chera rulers of the Sangam period.
- ❖ The excavation site shows evidence of Iron Age and Early Historic human habitation along with burial structures.
- ❖ Other materials found include red-slipped ware, black-and-red ware, and russet-coated pottery.
- ❖ A 26-foot tall menhir at the site may be declared a protected monument.

### **Tamil Nadu Climate Body**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu Green Climate Company has been recognised in a global report by The Earthshot Prize.
- ❖ The report titled “Champions of Change” highlights 11 global public-sector climate innovations.
- ❖ The company’s initiative CARES (Climate Action for Resilient Ecosystems and Societies) was selected under the “Protect and Restore Nature” category.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on ecosystems like wetlands, forests, and coastal areas to improve climate resilience.
- ❖ This recognition places Tamil Nadu among leading global regions like Oslo, Bogotá, and London in climate governance.

### **PE-VC Investments Drop in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu saw a sharp decline in Private Equity Venture Capital in Q1 2026.
- ❖ PE-VC firms invested \$221 million across 19 deals in Q1 2026.
- ❖ In Q1 2025, investments were much higher at \$2,081 million across 18 deals.
- ❖ Angel investments reduced to 6 in Q1 2026 from 9 in Q1 2025.
- ❖ The decline is part of a national trend, with overall investments in India falling by 22%.

### **DGP Tenure in Tamil Nadu**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India appointed a new police chief in Tamil Nadu, leading to a debate on his tenure.
- ❖ Sandeep Rai Rathore was appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) and Head of Police Force (HoPF).
- ❖ The order did not mention how long he will serve in this post.
- ❖ The Supreme Court of India earlier said DGP should have a minimum 2-year tenure in the Prakash Singh case.
- ❖ But this rule applies only to appointments made through the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- ❖ After elections, the new government can decide whether to continue or change him.

### **Sattankulam Custodial Deaths Case Verdict**

- ❖ A trial court in Madurai awarded the death penalty to nine policemen in the Sattankulam custodial deaths case.

- ❖ All nine policemen were found guilty by the Central Bureau of Investigation under the Indian Penal Code.
- ❖ The court also imposed a fine of over ₹1 crore on the convicts.
- ❖ The Madras High Court took suo motu action and found prima facie evidence of murder.
- ❖ The case was termed “rarest of rare,” and the maximum punishment was awarded.

### **Dual Robotic Surgery**

- ❖ A patient in Chennai underwent a robotic surgery where one surgeon operated from 1,500 km away.
- ❖ A 23-year-old patient with Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD) was treated at GEM Hospital, Perungudi.
- ❖ The surgery was done using a robotic system with two consoles, allowing doctors in different locations to work together.
- ❖ One surgeon operated from Vapi (Gujarat), while another assisted in Chennai in real-time.
- ❖ This is reported as the first long-distance dual-console robotic telesurgery in India.

### **Sriharan Vacuum in Sattankulam Case**

- ❖ A court in Madurai awarded the death penalty in the Sattankulam custodial death case, highlighting the “Sriharan vacuum”.
- ❖ The case involves the custodial killing of a father and son in 2020 due to severe police torture.
- ❖ The trial court applied the “rarest of rare” rule from *Bachan Singh v State of Punjab* to award the death sentence.
- ❖ Under *Union of India v V Sriharan*, trial courts cannot give fixed-term life imprisonment without remission (early release).
- ❖ Section 433A of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) fixes a minimum of 14 years for life imprisonment before remission.
- ❖ Because of this rule, the judge had only two options: life imprisonment (minimum 14 years) or the death penalty.
- ❖ This gap between 14 years and the death penalty is called the “Sriharan vacuum”, where no middle punishment is available to trial courts.

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India created “special category sentences” (like 20–30 years without remission) for serious crimes.
- ❖ But only higher courts like the Supreme Court of India and the Madras High Court can use this option, not trial courts.

### **Tamil Nadu Usury Complaints Portal**

- ❖ The Government of Tamil Nadu launched an online portal for victims of usury to file complaints.
- ❖ The portal is created under the Tamil Nadu Money Lending Entities (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Act, 2025.
- ❖ It aims to regulate money lending and prevent coercive, unfair, and illegal recovery practices.
- ❖ The portal provides services like registration, renewal, filings, and grievance redressal.
- ❖ It protects borrowers such as farmers, women, and self-help groups from illegal moneylenders.
- ❖ Coercive actions can lead to punishment up to 5 years imprisonment or ₹5 lakh fine or both.

### **Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu in Elections**

- ❖ Voters in Tamil Nadu have repeatedly defeated even Chief Ministers, showing strong electoral accountability.
- ❖ In 1952, CM P. S. Kumaraswami Raja (Congress) lost from Srivilliputhur to Independent D.K. Raja.
- ❖ In 1967, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) came to power defeating Congress; CM M. Bhakthavatchalam lost from Sriperumbudur to D. Rajarathinam by 8,926 votes.
- ❖ In the same 1967 election, former CM K. Kamaraj lost from Virudhunagar to P. Seenivasan by 1,285 votes, marking the decline of Congress dominance.
- ❖ After 1967, no sitting CM lost elections for nearly 30 years until 1996, when CM J. Jayalalithaa lost from Bargur to E.G. Sugavanam (DMK) by 8,366 votes due to strong anti-incumbency.
- ❖ Janaki Ramachandran lost her only election from Andipatti after becoming CM.
- ❖ M. Karunanidhi never lost an Assembly election (won 13 times), and M. G. Ramachandran also never lost any election.
- ❖ M. K. Stalin and Edappadi K. Palaniswami had lost elections earlier before becoming Chief Ministers.

### **Inscriptions about Shivaji and Afzal Khan**

- ❖ Inscriptions at the Brahadeeshwarar Temple describe the historic battle between Shivaji and Afzal Khan.
- ❖ The inscriptions are written in Marathi and located on the south-west walls near the Vinayagar temple.
- ❖ They belong to the period of Serfoji II and record the history of the Bhonsale dynasty.
- ❖ They narrate how Shivaji killed Afzal Khan using tiger-claws during their meeting at Jawali fort, Maharashtra.
- ❖ The inscriptions also mention support given by Serfoji II to the British during the war against the Marudu brothers.
- ❖ They further include references to Danish missionary Friedrich Christian Schwartz and Maratha rule in Thanjavur.

### **Tamil Nadu Political Shift 1967**

- ❖ The 1967 elections saw Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam form the government in Tamil Nadu for the first time.
- ❖ It was the first time in independent India that a regional party defeated the Indian National Congress and came to power.
- ❖ C. N. Annadurai had earlier lost the 1962 Assembly election from Kancheepuram to S. V. Natesa Mudaliar by nearly 10,000 votes.
- ❖ In 1967, Annadurai did not contest the Assembly elections and instead won the Lok Sabha seat from Madras South.
- ❖ After DMK's sweeping majority in the Assembly, Annadurai became Chief Minister and later a Member of the Legislative Council.
- ❖ Since 1967, no national party has independently formed a government in Tamil Nadu.

### **Tamil Nadu Elections 2026**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded its highest polling percentage in an Assembly election on April 23, 2026.
- ❖ The State achieved about 84.69% voter turnout (provisional), the highest in its electoral history.
- ❖ Over 4.85 crore voters cast their votes from 7 a.m. across 234 Assembly constituencies.
- ❖ This election was held to choose members of the 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

- ❖ The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) (revision of electoral roll) reduced the size of the electorate compared to 2021, which played a key role in the higher turnout.

### **Tamil Nadu Assembly Elections Voter Turnout**

- ❖ Election Commission of India reported record turnout but the lowest increase in votes polled in 15 years.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded an all-time high voter turnout of 85.15%, the highest in the State's history.
- ❖ Despite this, there is no uniform pattern between voter turnout and electoral verdict.
- ❖ The increase in votes polled was about 5.5% over 2021, which is the lowest rise in 15 years.
- ❖ Previous increases were 6.22% (2021), 18.5% (2016), and 11.4% (2011).
- ❖ The high turnout is mainly attributed to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.
- ❖ The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise led to the net deletion of about 68 lakh electors.
- ❖ The State still recorded an increase in absolute voters, but only about 24.8 lakh, lower than 31.1 lakh (2016–2021) and 64.8 lakh (2011–2016).
- ❖ Women's turnout (85.76%) was higher than men's (83.57%), showing greater female participation.
- ❖ About 2.51 crore women (out of 2.93 crore) voted, while 2.34 crore men (out of 2.8 crore) cast votes.
- ❖ Karur and Veerapandi constituencies recorded the highest polling at 93.40% each.
- ❖ No repoll was recommended in any of the 75,064 polling stations across Tamil Nadu.

### **Panaiyur Fossils - Holocene Period**

- ❖ A study has confirmed that the fossil assemblage found at Panaiyur in Thoothukudi district dates back to the Holocene period (about 8,000–12,000 years ago).
- ❖ The study was conducted by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) based on field research and scientific analysis.
- ❖ The fossils include 104 specimens from four groups, mainly bivalves and gastropods, found near the Gulf of Mannar.

- ❖ The species are similar to present-day marine organisms, showing environmental continuity over thousands of years.
- ❖ The fossils indicate a shallow marine to estuarine environment with warm tropical conditions and moderate water flow.

### **Strong Economic Growth of Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu recorded a high real economic growth rate of 10.83% in 2025–26, as per Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation data.
- ❖ This is the second consecutive double-digit growth, after 11.19% in 2024–25, higher than India's average of 7.4% (base year: 2011–12).
- ❖ Over 2021–22 to 2025–26, the State achieved an average growth of 9.07%, higher than 5.21% (2016–17 to 2020–21) and 7.18% (pre-COVID period).
- ❖ The State's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) rose to ₹35.29 lakh crore in 2025–26 from ₹31.19 lakh crore in 2024–25, with a nominal growth rate of 13.16% (includes inflation).
- ❖ Tamil Nadu is the second-largest State economy in India, with consistently high nominal growth: 15.91% (2021–22), 14.47% (2022–23), 13.34% (2023–24), 15.98% (2024–25).
- ❖ The secondary sector grew about 15%, the services sector about 8.5%, and the primary sector about 6%, all higher than national averages.
- ❖ The agriculture sector showed strong recovery with nearly 9% growth in 2025–26, after negative growth of -1.96% (2023–24) and -1.83% (2024–25).
- ❖ The State's per capita income reached ₹4.08 lakh, second only to Karnataka (₹4.33 lakh).

### **Retirement Age of Judicial Officers**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu is considering a proposal to increase the retirement age (superannuation) of judicial officers from 60 to 61 or 62 years.
- ❖ The proposal covers magistrates, munsifs, sub-judges, sessions judges, and district judges in the subordinate judiciary.
- ❖ It is likely to be implemented as Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have already increased the retirement age of judicial officers.
- ❖ Telangana raised the age to 61 years through the Telangana State Judicial (Service and Cadre) Rules, 2023, while Andhra Pradesh increased it from 60 to 61 years with effect from November 1, 2024.
- ❖ The proposal refers to the All-India Judges' Association case and subsequent Supreme Court decisions in 1993 and 2002, which raised the retirement age from 58 to 60 years.

- ❖ The court also accepted recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay Commission (Shetty Commission) on pay, allowances, and service conditions.
- ❖ The Second National Judicial Pay Commission (2017), headed by P. V. Reddi, emphasised uniform service conditions across India and the need to retain experienced judges due to rising case pendency.
- ❖ India's retirement age of 60 years for subordinate judiciary is among the lowest in the world, compared to countries like the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and Canada, where it is 70–75 years.

### **Prehistoric Rock Art Site - Nilgiris**

- ❖ A prehistoric rock painting site has been rediscovered in the Nilgiris district.
- ❖ The site, called "Oor Pare", is located near Vellarikombai village in Kotagiri and is sacred to Irula and Kurumba tribes.
- ❖ It was rediscovered by Yaakai Heritage Trust researchers during a field survey in a difficult hilly terrain.
- ❖ Around 30 figures in red ochre were found, including human-like shapes, elongated forms and ritual symbols.
- ❖ The paintings show multiple phases and layers, indicating different time periods of prehistoric activity.
- ❖ The site is at about 1100 metres above sea level and is accessible mainly during summer using traditional vine ladders.

## **NATIONAL**

### **New TV Rating Policy 2026**

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified a new TV Rating Policy to improve transparency, accountability, and reliability in audience measurement.
- ❖ Net worth requirement is reduced from ₹20 crore to ₹5 crore to allow more agencies and increase competition in the sector.
- ❖ At least 50% board members must be independent and not linked to broadcasters or advertisers to ensure fair and unbiased ratings.
- ❖ Metered homes will be increased to 80,000 in the short term and up to 1.2 lakh to collect more accurate and representative TV viewership data.
- ❖ A dual audit system (internal and external) is introduced.

- ❖ Agencies must follow the DPDP (Digital Personal Data Protection) Act, 2023, to ensure data safety and transparency.
- ❖ The policy replaces the 2014 guidelines and aims to create a fair and reliable TV audience measurement system.

### **Energy Statistics India 2026**

- ❖ The National Statistics Office released the publication “Energy Statistics India 2026”.
- ❖ It provides data on reserves, capacity, production, consumption, and import-export of energy sources like coal, petroleum, natural gas, and renewable energy.
- ❖ Total Primary Energy Supply increased by 2.95% and reached 9,32,816 KToe in FY 2024–25.
- ❖ Renewable energy potential reached 47,04,043 Megawatt, with solar energy having the highest share of about 71%.
- ❖ Installed renewable energy capacity increased to 2,29,346 Megawatt and electricity generation also showed steady growth.
- ❖ Per capita energy consumption increased, and transmission and distribution losses reduced from about 22% to 17%.
- ❖ Coal remained the dominant energy source, while total final energy consumption increased by over 30% during the period.
- ❖ Credit flow to the energy sector increased significantly from ₹1,688 crore in 2021 to ₹10,325 crore in 2025.

### **Samrat Samprati Museum and Semiconductor Plant**

- ❖ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum and a semiconductor plant in Gujarat.
- ❖ The Samrat Samprati Museum is located at Koba in Gandhinagar and is dedicated to Jain history and Emperor Samprati.
- ❖ The Kaynes Semiconductor plant was inaugurated at Sanand for manufacturing advanced Intelligent Power Modules.
- ❖ Intelligent Power Modules are used in automotive and industrial systems for efficient power control.

### **Chinthada Anand vs State of Andhra Pradesh**

- ❖ The Supreme Court ruled that a person who converts to Christianity cannot claim Scheduled Caste status.

- ❖ The judgment came in the case of Chinthada Anand vs State of Andhra Pradesh, related to a pastor from the Madiga community.
- ❖ The Court stated that the Scheduled Caste status is limited to Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists as per the existing law.
- ❖ Scheduled Castes are defined under Article 341 of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ The issue is important as many Dalit Christians are demanding inclusion in the Scheduled Caste category.
- ❖ The Ranganath Misra Commission had earlier recommended extending the Scheduled Caste status to converted Dalits.

### **Census 2027 – First Digital Census**

- ❖ India will conduct its first fully digital Census starting from April 1, 2026.
- ❖ It will be the 16th Census since inception and the 8th after Independence in 1947, covering the entire country.
- ❖ For the first time, mobile applications and self-enumeration will be used, allowing citizens to submit details online in 16 languages.
- ❖ The Census will be conducted under the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990.
- ❖ It will be carried out in two phases—the House listing phase from April to September 2026 and the Population enumeration phase in February 2027.
- ❖ The reference date will be March 1, 2027, while some hilly regions will have October 1, 2026, due to climatic conditions.

### **India's IRCC Issuance**

- ❖ India emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
- ❖ India has issued 3,561 IRCCs, which is more than 56 percent of the total certificates issued worldwide.
- ❖ IRCCs (Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance) confirm Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms for use of genetic resources.
- ❖ The Nagoya Protocol ensures fair and transparent sharing of benefits from biological resources.
- ❖ India's performance is supported by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 and a strong implementation system.

- ❖ National Biodiversity Authority, State Biodiversity Boards, and Biodiversity Management Committees help in compliance.
- ❖ Only 34 out of 142 countries have issued IRCCs, with India leading globally.

### **Jan Vishwas Bill 2026**

- ❖ Lok Sabha passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, to reform legal provisions.
- ❖ The Bill aims to decriminalise minor offences and promote ease of doing business and ease of living.
- ❖ It proposes to amend 79 Central Acts administered by 23 Ministries of the Government of India.
- ❖ A total of 784 provisions are amended, including 717 provisions decriminalised and 67 provisions for ease of living.
- ❖ It replaces imprisonment for small offences with monetary fines and penalties based on the nature of the offence.
- ❖ The Bill focuses on simplifying old laws, reducing court cases, and improving trust-based governance.

### **Common Election Symbols for RUPPs**

- ❖ Election Commission of India (ECI) relaxed rules for Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) to retain common symbols under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) (Amendment) Order, 2026.
- ❖ RUPPs can retain a common symbol if they secure at least 1% of valid votes in any one of the last two elections in a State.
- ❖ Earlier, parties had to secure 1% votes in the last election and contest both previous elections on the same symbol.
- ❖ The amendment was made under the powers of Article 324 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ It aims to encourage genuine political parties and remove non-serious parties from the system.
- ❖ Election symbols are allotted under the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968.

### **National PNG Drive 2.0**

- ❖ The government extended the National PNG (Piped Natural Gas) Drive 2.0 till 30 June 2026 to expand gas connections across the country.

- ❖ It aims to increase PNG connections in households, commercial establishments, hostels, messes, and canteens.
- ❖ Over 3.1 lakh connections were gasified in March, and more than 2.7 lakh new connections are being added.
- ❖ The government directed city gas distribution companies to speed up domestic PNG connections.
- ❖ Adequate supply of petrol, diesel, LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas), and PNG is maintained across the country.
- ❖ The initiative promotes clean fuel usage and reduces pollution and dependence on traditional fuels.

### **Introduction of E20 Fuel**

- ❖ The government introduced the E20 fuel mandate to promote cleaner and more sustainable transport.
- ❖ E20 fuel is a blend of 20% ethanol and 80% petrol used in vehicles.
- ❖ The minimum octane rating of E20 fuel is 95 RON (Research Octane Number), higher than normal petrol.
- ❖ Ethanol (C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>OH) is a renewable biofuel produced from crops like sugarcane, maize, and grains.
- ❖ It helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improves engine efficiency and combustion.
- ❖ The initiative reduces dependence on crude oil imports and strengthens energy security.

### **Sādhana Saptah 2026 – National Capacity Building Initiative**

- ❖ Sādhana Saptah 2026 will be conducted by the Capacity Building Commission under Mission Karmayogi.
- ❖ Sādhana stands for Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement.
- ❖ It is a nationwide capacity building initiative involving 100+ Ministries, 30+ States/UTs, and 250+ Civil Services Training Institutions.
- ❖ The programme focuses on improving the skills of civil servants for achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 goals.
- ❖ It is based on Three Sutras: Technology, Tradition, and Tangible Outcomes.
- ❖ It promotes a shift from rule-based to role-based governance, focusing on skills, innovation, and citizen-centric service delivery.

### **FCRA Amendment Bill 2026**

- ❖ The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha to amend the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.
- ❖ The Bill aims to regulate foreign funds received by NGOs to protect national interest and security.
- ❖ It proposes a designated authority to manage funds and assets when FCRA registration is cancelled or surrendered.
- ❖ The Central Government will have the power to appoint this authority for the proper management of foreign contributions.
- ❖ It ensures the religious character of places of worship is maintained under Clause 16A(7).
- ❖ It allows organisations to regain control of assets if their FCRA registration is restored.

### **India Defence Exports 2025–26**

- ❖ Ministry of Defence reported record defence exports of ₹38,424 crore in FY (Financial Year) 2025–26.
- ❖ This is a 62.66% increase from ₹23,622 crore in the previous year, showing strong growth.
- ❖ Defence Public Sector Undertakings contributed 54.84%, while the private sector contributed 45.16% to total exports.
- ❖ DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings) exports increased by 151%, while private sector exports grew by 14%.

### **Deemed University Status - NCERT**

- ❖ The National Council of Educational Research and Training has been declared a “Deemed to be University” under a distinct category by the Ministry of Education.
- ❖ The status was granted based on the recommendation of the University Grants Commission Expert Committee.
- ❖ NCERT can now start research programmes, doctoral (PhD) courses, and innovative academic programmes.
- ❖ NCERT is an autonomous body established in 1961 to improve school education in India.
- ❖ It develops textbooks, research, and policies for both the Central and State governments.

## **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill 2026**

- ❖ The Parliament of India passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill amends the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 to reduce delays and improve resolution processes.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the insolvency framework to revive stressed companies and preserve business value.
- ❖ A key change increases the look-back period for transactions to two years before insolvency filing.
- ❖ The Committee of Creditors must now record reasons for selecting resolution applicants to improve transparency.

## **India's Renewable Energy Capacity**

- ❖ The International Renewable Energy Agency reported that India is ranked 3rd globally in renewable energy capacity in 2025.
- ❖ India reached about 250.5 GW (gigawatt) renewable capacity with an addition of around 45 GW in one year.
- ❖ Solar energy was the largest contributor with about 37 GW addition, followed by wind energy growth.
- ❖ Wind energy added about 6.3 GW, while hydropower capacity also increased.
- ❖ It supports India's target of achieving 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

## **Domestic Gas Futures**

- ❖ National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch India's first domestic benchmark-based natural gas futures.
- ❖ These futures are linked to GIXI (Gas IndeX of India), created by the Indian Gas Exchange.
- ❖ Gas futures are contracts where buyers and sellers agree on a fixed price of gas for future delivery.
- ❖ It helps reduce "basis risk" (the difference between global gas prices and domestic gas prices in India).
- ❖ It will benefit gas producers, distributors, and industries by giving stable and predictable prices.
- ❖ India aims to increase the share of natural gas to 15% in its energy mix by 2030 from about 7% at present.

### **INS Sunayna – IOS SAGAR Maritime Mission**

- ❖ INS Sunayna has been deployed as the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) under the SAGAR mission to strengthen maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ The mission was flagged off from Mumbai amid rising tensions in West Asia and disruptions in key global sea routes like the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ It aims to promote maritime safety, freedom of navigation, and stability through multilateral cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ Personnel from 16 foreign countries are participating, and the ship will visit ports such as Colombo, Singapore, Jakarta, Phuket, Chittagong, Yangon, Male, and Kochi for joint training and engagement.
- ❖ The mission includes capacity-building in navigation, seamanship, firefighting, damage control, and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations.

### **Left Wing Extremism – 2026 Update**

- ❖ Union Home Ministry revised the classification of LWE-affected districts in 2026.
- ❖ The earlier category of “most affected districts” has been replaced with “LWE affected,” “districts of concern,” and “legacy and thrust districts.”
- ❖ The total number of LWE-affected districts remains unchanged at 38 compared to 2024–25.
- ❖ The new classification reflects changes in the intensity and spread of violence in affected areas.
- ❖ The “Red Corridor” has sharply reduced from over 200 districts in 2005 to only 2 districts in 2026.
- ❖ The definition of the Red Corridor has also been revised to reflect the current ground situation.
- ❖ Only Bijapur (Chhattisgarh) and West Singhbhum (Jharkhand) are now classified as “LWE-affected” districts.
- ❖ Kanker (Chhattisgarh) has been categorized as a “district of concern.”
- ❖ A total of 35 districts across 9 States fall under “legacy and thrust districts.”
- ❖ The National Policy and Action Plan to Address Left Wing Extremism has been in implementation since 2015.

### **Jiyo Parsi Scheme**

- ❖ The Jiyo Parsi Scheme gained attention after a Universal Parsi Registration Drive by the Ministry of Minority Affairs added around 300 new registrations.

- ❖ The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2013–14 to stop the decline of the Parsi population in India.
- ❖ It aims to increase the population through scientific support like fertility treatment, pregnancy care, and family support services.
- ❖ The scheme provides financial help through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to eligible Parsi couples.
- ❖ It is implemented by State Governments with support from Parsi institutions and includes verification through biometric authentication.

### **Project Chetak**

- ❖ Border Roads Organisation celebrated the 47th Raising Day of Project Chetak in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- ❖ Project Chetak was established in 1980 to develop and maintain strategic roads in the western border areas of India.
- ❖ It operates in states like Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat, improving connectivity near the India–Pakistan border.
- ❖ The project has built over 4,000 km of roads and 214 km of ditch-cum-bund (protective structures) for defence support.
- ❖ It helps in the quick movement of troops and equipment, strengthening national security and regional development.

### **Historic Cargo Handling by Ports**

- ❖ India's major ports handled a record 915.17 million tonnes of cargo in FY 2025–26, surpassing the target of 904 MT with 7.06% growth.
- ❖ Top performing ports include Deendayal Port Authority (160.11 MT), Paradip Port Authority (156.45 MT), and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (102.01 MT).
- ❖ Fastest growth was seen at Mormugao Port Authority and Kolkata Dock System.
- ❖ Growth is driven by better infrastructure, improved connectivity, digital systems, and faster ship turnaround time.
- ❖ India has 12 major ports handling bulk cargo, containers, and petroleum, supporting rising global trade.

### **ASISSE Survey**

- ❖ National Statistical Office (NSO) launched the first-ever ASISSE for 2024–25.
- ❖ ASISSE (Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises) collects data on registered service companies and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs).

- ❖ It covers sectors like trade, transport, hospitality, information technology (IT), education, and health across India.
- ❖ The survey uses Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) data and includes about 21 lakh enterprises.
- ❖ It is conducted under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 and the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023.
- ❖ It helps measure the services sector, which contributes more than 50% of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

### **Chief Election Commissioner's removal motion**

- ❖ Rajya Sabha Chairman and Lok Sabha Speaker rejected the motion to remove Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.
- ❖ The motion was signed by 130 Lok Sabha members and 63 Rajya Sabha members and submitted on March 12, 2026.
- ❖ Removal of CEC is under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, the same as a Supreme Court judge.
- ❖ The removal of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners follows the same procedure as that for the removal of judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.
- ❖ The Chairs cited Section 3 of the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
- ❖ Grounds for removal are only proved misbehaviour or incapacity.
- ❖ The motion must be signed by at least 100 Lok Sabha or 50 Rajya Sabha members and needs a special majority in Parliament.
- ❖ The final removal order is issued by the President after approval by both Houses.

### **Mineral Concession Rules Amendment**

- ❖ The Ministry of Mines notified amendments to the Mineral Concession Rules to simplify mining lease provisions.
- ❖ It allows one-time inclusion of contiguous area for holders of a mining lease or a composite licence of deep-seated minerals.
- ❖ It permits the addition of associated minerals, including minor minerals, within an existing mining lease.
- ❖ The State Government must approve such inclusion within 30 days of application.
- ❖ It also provides rules for adding major minerals in leases granted earlier for minor minerals before the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 2025.

### **International Election Visitors Programme 2026**

- ❖ The Election Commission of India started the IEVP (International Election Visitors' Programme) 2026 to showcase India's election system to global delegates.
- ❖ IEVP is an outreach programme where foreign election officials visit India to observe the conduct of large-scale democratic elections.
- ❖ It aims to demonstrate transparency, fairness, voter education, and the use of modern technology in elections.
- ❖ Delegates will visit states like Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu in two phases during April 2026.
- ❖ They will observe polling stations, security arrangements, and the use of EVMs (Electronic Voting Machines) and VVPATs (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail).
- ❖ The programme includes meetings with Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) and District Election Officers (DEOs) to understand ground-level election management.

### **Poshan Pakhwada 2026**

- ❖ The government is observing the 8th Poshan Pakhwada from 9th to 23rd April 2026 across India.
- ❖ It is organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to improve nutrition outcomes.
- ❖ The theme is "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."
- ❖ It highlights the importance of early childhood nutrition, especially the first 1,000 days.
- ❖ Key focus areas include maternal and child nutrition, early stimulation, play-based learning, and reducing screen time.

### **Arogya Van Initiative**

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India launched 'Arogya Van' for medicinal tree plantations along highways.
- ❖ It aims to develop green corridors with medicinal plants to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience.
- ❖ First phase covers 17 land parcels (62.8 hectares) with about 67,000 trees across multiple states.
- ❖ Around 36 species, like neem, amla, and jamun, will be planted based on agro-climatic suitability.

### **NSTFDC Silver Jubilee**

- ❖ National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation celebrates its 25th Foundation Day on 10 April in New Delhi.
- ❖ It aims to improve financial inclusion and income opportunities for tribal communities.
- ❖ NSTFDC was established in 2001 under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs as a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU).
- ❖ It works for the socio-economic and educational development of Scheduled Tribes (STs) in India.
- ❖ The corporation provides concessional loans and skill development support for self-employment.
- ❖ It operates through State Channelizing Agencies and supports marketing of tribal products with the help of Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

### **Harivansh - Rajya Sabha nominated member**

- ❖ Harivansh Narayan Singh took oath as a nominated Rajya Sabha member after nomination by Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi.
- ❖ Rajya Sabha is the Upper House of Parliament, and nominated members are selected by the President for their experience in fields like literature, science, art, and social service.
- ❖ He was nominated to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Ranjan Gogoi.
- ❖ His second term ended on 9 April 2026, and he took the oath again on 10 April 2026.
- ❖ He is a senior leader of Janata Dal (United) and was first elected Deputy Chairman in 2018.

### **CAPF General Administration Act 2026**

- ❖ The Government notified the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026, after assent by Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ The Act creates a uniform system for recruitment and service conditions in CAPFs (Central Armed Police Forces).
- ❖ It covers forces like CRPF (Central Reserve Police Force), BSF (Border Security Force), CISF (Central Industrial Security Force), ITBP (Indo-Tibetan Border Police) and SSB (Sashastra Seema Bal).

- ❖ 50% of Inspector General posts and at least 67% of Additional Director General posts will be filled through deputation from the Indian Police Service (IPS).
- ❖ The Act allows the Central Government to frame rules overriding previous laws and court judgments.
- ❖ CAPFs play a key role in national security, border management, and internal law enforcement.

### **ECOSOC Elections 2026 - India**

- ❖ India won four seats unopposed in the United Nations Economic and Social Council elections in April 2026.
- ❖ Preeti Saran was re-elected to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).
- ❖ Other bodies include the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), and Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC).
- ❖ Elections were held by acclamation, meaning unanimous approval without voting.
- ❖ ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) is a main UN body with 54 members, established in 1945.
- ❖ It coordinates economic, social, and development activities of the United Nations.

### **Record Solar Energy Growth**

- ❖ India recorded its highest-ever solar capacity addition of 45 gigawatts (GW) in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ India added 6.65 GW of solar capacity in March 2026, the highest-ever in a single month.
- ❖ States like Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra led solar energy growth.
- ❖ India became the third-largest country globally in renewable energy capacity, surpassing Brazil.
- ❖ Non-fossil fuels contributed 29.2% of total power generation, and India achieved 50% installed capacity from non-fossil sources in 2025.

### **Skills Outcomes Fund Initiative**

- ❖ The Government of India launched a campaign to build the Skills Outcomes Fund to boost youth employment in India.

- ❖ It aims to support youth from low-income backgrounds by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.
- ❖ The fund uses Outcome-Based Financing (OBF), linking funds to verified job results like placement and retention.
- ❖ It will be anchored by the National Skill Development Corporation under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ❖ It follows a blended finance model combining government, private, and philanthropic funding.
- ❖ It builds on the success of the Skill Impact Bond (2021) to scale employment-focused skilling programs.

### **Aluminium Bharat Initiative**

- ❖ Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) launched the Aluminium Bharat initiative to strengthen India's aluminium sector.
- ❖ It aims to improve the aluminium value chain and boost manufacturing and job creation.
- ❖ The sector supports over 10 lakh jobs but faces a decline in production and low capacity utilisation.
- ❖ Challenges include high raw material and energy costs, limited scrap availability, and cheap imports.
- ❖ ALEMAI will organise the Aluminium Bharat 2026 event in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to promote the sector.

### **CPA Zone VII Conference 2026**

- ❖ The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference 2026 concluded in Goa.
- ❖ This conference focuses on inclusive governance and democratic strengthening.
- ❖ The conference was held under CPA with the participation of 51 legislators from Zone VII states.
- ❖ Discussions covered the blue economy, coastal development, trade, and sustainable development.
- ❖ CPA, founded in 1911 and headquartered in London, promotes parliamentary democracy and cooperation among legislatures.

### **Mundra Port automobile export**

- ❖ Mundra Port emerged as India's largest automobile export hub by shipping a record 6,008 cars in a single vessel.
- ❖ The port is operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone), marking a major logistics milestone.
- ❖ It uses a Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) terminal, enabling faster loading and lower handling costs.
- ❖ This achievement highlights India's growing automobile exports driven by strong manufacturing and global demand.
- ❖ Key export destinations include Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe.

### **Justice Yashwant Varma Resignation**

- ❖ Allahabad High Court (HC) Justice Yashwant Varma resigned amid parliamentary impeachment proceedings for his removal in New Delhi.
- ❖ He submitted his resignation to the President of India, Droupadi Murmu.
- ❖ He also withdrew from the Judges Inquiry Committee constituted by the Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, calling it an "unfair" inquiry.
- ❖ The Supreme Court (SC) also dismissed his petitions challenging the inquiry process and removal proceedings.
- ❖ Removal of High Court (HC) Judges: Under Article 218 of the Constitution of India, read with Article 124(4), a judge can be removed only on grounds of proven misbehaviour or incapacity.
- ❖ The Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, provides that removal requires a motion in Parliament signed by at least 100 Members of Parliament (MPs) in Lok Sabha or 50 MPs in Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ This should be followed by an inquiry committee and final approval by a special majority in both Houses.
- ❖ Upon resignation, a judge is entitled to the same pensionary benefits as a judge who superannuates from service.
- ❖ With his resignation, the future course of action over allegations levelled against him enters uncharted territory.
- ❖ However, while the threat of an impeachment motion ends, other legal methods could still be looked at by the government but that may require assent of the judiciary.

- ❖ For any court to take cognisance of an offence by a judge (for actions from the time that he held office), the Chief Justice of India would be required to grant sanction for prosecution.

### **Constitution of India in Sindhi Language**

- ❖ Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the Constitution of India in the Sindhi language in 2026.
- ❖ This is the first time the Constitution has been published in Sindhi in Devanagari script since independence.
- ❖ Sindhi was officially recognized and added to the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in 1967.

### **Supreme Court on Voting Rights 2026**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India ruled that the right to vote and contest elections is a statutory right, not a fundamental right.
- ❖ The judgment was given on April 11, 2026, in a case related to cooperative society elections in Rajasthan.
- ❖ The Court said these rights are governed by laws like the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Representation of the People Act, 1951.
- ❖ Statutory rights are created by laws and can be restricted, unlike Fundamental Rights under Part III of the Constitution.
- ❖ The Court upheld eligibility rules (bye-laws) for cooperative elections, saying they are legally valid.
- ❖ It also stated that courts should not interfere in internal matters of cooperative societies unless there is clear illegality.

### **Patent Applications in India 2025–26**

- ❖ India recorded a 30.2% rise in patent applications, reaching 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ India is now the 6th largest patent filer in the world.
- ❖ About 69% of filings are from domestic applicants, showing a shift towards “Invented in India”.
- ❖ Major contributing states include Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.
- ❖ Patent filings increased from 45,444 (2016–17) to 1,43,729 (2025–26), showing steady growth.
- ❖ The process is governed by the Patents Act, 1970.

## **Indian Ocean Conference 2026**

- ❖ The 9th Indian Ocean Conference 2026 concluded in Mauritius, focusing on regional cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region.
- ❖ India highlighted the need to address maritime chokepoint concerns and build trusted partnerships for stability.
- ❖ The conference was started in 2016 by the India Foundation with participation from 40+ countries.
- ❖ It is a key forum for cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region under the SAGAR vision.
- ❖ The region is important for global trade, energy routes, and maritime security with major sea lanes and chokepoints.

## **Article 142 Powers of the Supreme Court**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has dissolved a marriage using Article 142 of the Constitution.
- ❖ Article 142 allows the Court to pass orders for complete justice.
- ❖ The case involved withdrawal from a mutual divorce settlement after receiving money and filing a domestic violence case.
- ❖ The Court held that mediated settlements are legally binding and cannot be misused.
- ❖ It observed that the allegations lacked evidence and termed them improper.
- ❖ The Court quashed all cases and ordered payment of the remaining settlement amount.

## **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0**

- ❖ The Government of India notified Startup India Fund of Funds (FoF) 2.0 with a corpus of ₹10,000 crore.
- ❖ It aims to mobilise capital and support startups, especially in sectors with low private funding.
- ❖ It builds on Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) 1.0, launched in 2016 under Startup India.
- ❖ The fund will invest in Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs).
- ❖ Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will implement the scheme.
- ❖ It focuses on deep technology, early-stage startups, and innovative manufacturing sectors.

### **e-SafeHER Initiative**

- ❖ The Government of India launched the e-SafeHER Cyber Security Awareness Programme for rural women.
- ❖ It aims to train one million women to safely use the digital ecosystem over three years.
- ❖ It is under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA) Programme and implemented by C-DAC with Reliance Foundation.
- ❖ It will create “Cyber Sakhis” to spread cybersecurity awareness and safe digital practices.
- ❖ It follows a community-based approach through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for last-mile digital awareness.
- ❖ The programme will start in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha and expand nationwide in phases.
- ❖ It promotes safe digital transactions, cyber risk awareness, and digital inclusion for women.

### **Lok Sabha Expansion Proposal**

- ❖ The Government of India proposed to expand the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 seats through a Constitutional Amendment.
- ❖ The proposal includes 815 seats for states and 35 seats for Union Territories to better reflect population growth.
- ❖ It is linked to the implementation of 33% reservation for women in Parliament and State Assemblies.
- ❖ The changes are likely to be implemented from the 2029 general elections after delimitation.
- ❖ Delimitation will redraw constituencies based on population, with debate over using 2011 or updated Census data.
- ❖ Article 81 of the Constitution defines the Lok Sabha composition and seat allocation.
- ❖ The last delimitation was done in 2002 based on the 2001 Census.
- ❖ The proposal requires a two-thirds majority in Parliament and approval by the states.

### **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2026**

- ❖ The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, proposed to expand the Lok Sabha and enable early women's reservation.
- ❖ It proposes to increase Lok Sabha strength from 543 to 850 members (815 from States + 35 from Union Territories).
- ❖ It amends Articles 81, 82, and 334A to allow delimitation using the latest data before the 2026 Census.
- ❖ It enables the immediate implementation of a 1/3rd reservation for women after delimitation.
- ❖ A new Delimitation Commission will redraw constituencies; its orders will have legal force and cannot be challenged in court.

### **Delimitation Bill, 2026**

- ❖ The Delimitation Bill, 2026, is proposed to redraw electoral constituencies before the 2029 elections.
- ❖ It aims to redefine the boundaries of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies using the latest population data.
- ❖ It will remove the freeze on delimitation imposed since the 1971 Census (extended till 2026).
- ❖ The process is based on Articles 82 and 170 of the Constitution.
- ❖ A Delimitation Commission headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, with the Chief Election Commissioner and State Election Commissioners, will conduct the exercise.
- ❖ The Commission will ensure equal population representation based on “one person, one vote, one value”.
- ❖ Its orders will have legal force and cannot be challenged in any court.

### **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**

- ❖ The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 16, 2026, after a division vote with 251 Members of Parliament supporting and 185 opposing.
- ❖ It was introduced by Union Law Minister Arjun Meghwal along with the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 as a linked package, where the latter two depend on this amendment.
- ❖ The Bill proposes to amend Articles 81, 82, 170, 332 and 334A of the Constitution.

- ❖ It aims to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha to a maximum of 850 members, including up to 815 from States and 35 from Union Territories.
- ❖ Earlier, Article 81 limited the Lok Sabha strength to 530 members from States and 20 from Union Territories based on population.
- ❖ It removes the long-standing freeze on seat readjustment based on population that has been in effect since 1976.
- ❖ It allows delimitation to be carried out immediately by deleting the condition of waiting for the first Census after 2026.
- ❖ It states that the population for seat allocation will be based on a Census decided by Parliament.
- ❖ It assigns the responsibility of delimitation clearly to a Delimitation Commission instead of leaving it to Parliament to decide.
- ❖ It enables fresh readjustment of seats and redrawing of constituencies in State Legislative Assemblies under Article 170.
- ❖ It removes the third proviso of Article 170 which had postponed delimitation until after the 2026 Census.
- ❖ It ensures that constituency boundaries within States will be redrawn based on updated population data.
- ❖ It enables one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies to be implemented immediately after delimitation.
- ❖ It amends Article 334A to remove the delay condition introduced by the 106th Amendment Act, 2023.
- ❖ It provides that women's reservation will continue for 15 years from the commencement of the 106th Amendment unless extended by Parliament.
- ❖ It ensures that reserved constituencies for women will be rotated in future delimitation exercises.
- ❖ It provides safeguards to protect the representation of Scheduled Tribes in State Assemblies.
- ❖ It amends Article 332 to ensure that Scheduled Tribe seats are not reduced, especially in Northeastern States like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura and Nagaland.

### **Rajya Sabha Vice-Chairpersons Panel**

- ❖ Rajya Sabha has reconstituted its Panel of Vice-Chairpersons, for the smooth functioning of the House.
- ❖ Six members were nominated, including Dinesh Sharma, S. Phangnon Konyak, Ghanshyam Tiwari, Phulo Devi Netam, M. Thambidurai and Sasmit Patra from different political parties.

- ❖ The panel members preside over the House in absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman and manage debates and order.
- ❖ The Chairman of Rajya Sabha is the Vice-President of India, and the Deputy Chairman is elected by members of the House.
- ❖ The panel is not a permanent constitutional post, and members serve on a rotational and temporary basis.
- ❖ This system ensures continuity, flexibility and smooth conduct of parliamentary proceedings.

### **131st Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2026 – Rejection**

- ❖ The Lok Sabha rejected the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill failed to get the required two-thirds majority, with 298 votes in favour and 230 against, and zero abstentions out of 528 members present and voting.
- ❖ It is mandatory for a Constitutional Amendment Bill to secure a special majority (two-thirds of members present and voting).
- ❖ After the defeat, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju withdrew the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The government stated that the three Bills were interlinked and could not be considered separately.
- ❖ Congress MP K. C. Venugopal opposed clubbing the three Bills, calling it against parliamentary rules and practice.
- ❖ Union Home Minister Amit Shah defended the move, stating that such clubbing has precedents and is needed to implement women's reservation.
- ❖ The draft Bills were circulated to MPs less than 48 hours before introduction, leading to opposition protests over the lack of time.
- ❖ The Opposition forced a division of votes at the introduction stage instead of a voice vote to ensure exact counting.
- ❖ A division vote records the exact number of votes for and against a Bill, usually used for contentious legislation.
- ❖ This is the first time in 12 years that a Constitutional Amendment Bill introduced by the Modi government has been defeated.

### **K.G. Balakrishnan Commission Extension**

- ❖ The Centre extended the tenure of the Commission of Inquiry led by K. G. Balakrishnan for the third time till June 10, 2026.

- ❖ The commission was set up in 2022 to examine the SC status for Dalits who converted to other religions.
- ❖ It was constituted by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❖ The extension is for two months from April 11 to June 10, 2026.
- ❖ The issue relates to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, under Article 341.
- ❖ Currently, SC status is limited to Hindus, Sikhs, and Buddhists.

### **Cocoa Self-Sufficiency Target 2040**

- ❖ India has launched a roadmap to achieve cocoa self-sufficiency by 2040 under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- ❖ The plan aims to reduce dependence on cocoa imports, which exceed \$866 million annually.
- ❖ A National Mission on Cocoa will be launched in 2026–28 to boost production.
- ❖ Around 250 hectares of polyclonal seed gardens will be developed initially.
- ❖ The roadmap targets the training of farmers and the expansion of cocoa cultivation up to 1 lakh hectares.
- ❖ India aims to meet domestic demand and become a global cocoa processing hub by 2040.

### **Women's Reservation Act 2023**

- ❖ Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 2023 was brought into force by the Central Government from April 16, 2026.
- ❖ The Central Government notified April 16, 2026, as the date of enforcement of the Act.
- ❖ It is a constitutional amendment law that has been passed, but requires a notification to become operational.
- ❖ Without bringing this law into force, the proposed constitutional amendment cannot be implemented.
- ❖ Though the Act has come into force, women's reservation cannot be implemented in the current House.
- ❖ Implementation is linked to delimitation based on the next Census.
- ❖ The reservation will be enforceable only after the delimitation exercise following the 2027 Census.
- ❖ The law is expected to become fully operational around 2034 after completion of the process.

## **Delimitation Bill, 2026 – Key Provisions**

- ❖ The proposed Delimitation Bill, 2026, outlines the structure and functioning of the Delimitation Commission for redrawing constituencies.
- ❖ The Bill provides for the constitution of a Delimitation Commission by the Central Government.
- ❖ The Commission will be chaired by a sitting or former Supreme Court judge.
- ❖ Members will include the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) or an Election Commissioner nominated by the Election Commission, and the State Election Commissioner of the concerned State.
- ❖ Each State will have 10 associate members, including five Lok Sabha MPs and five State legislators, who will assist but will not have voting rights.
- ❖ The Commission will decide Lok Sabha seat allocation for States and Union Territories, the total strength of State Assemblies, and the redrawing of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies.
- ❖ It will also identify seats reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women.
- ❖ Draft proposals will be published for public consultation and objections before finalisation.
- ❖ Once notified in the Gazette of India, the Commission's orders will have the force of law and cannot be challenged in any court.
- ❖ The orders will come into effect from a date specified by the President of India.
- ❖ The new constituency boundaries will apply to elections held after final orders are issued.
- ❖ The Commission is a high-powered body whose decisions are legally binding and final.
- ❖ Its orders will be laid before the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, but no changes can be made by them.

## **Women's Reservation Bill Without Delimitation**

- ❖ 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.

### **RELIEF Scheme Expansion 2026**

- ❖ India expanded the RELIEF (Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) scheme to include Egypt and Jordan.
- ❖ The scheme was launched on 19 March 2026 to support exporters affected by disruptions in West Asia trade routes.
- ❖ It is implemented through the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC) to provide export insurance support.
- ❖ The scheme helps exporters by covering freight cost rise, insurance premiums, and war-related trade risks.
- ❖ Egypt and Jordan were added due to their strategic role in global trade routes like the Suez Canal and West Asia corridors.
- ❖ The expansion aims to strengthen India's export resilience and ensure stable international supply chains.

### **PMGSY-III Extension**

- ❖ Union Cabinet extended Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) till March 2028.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve rural connectivity by building and upgrading all-weather roads in rural areas.
- ❖ It connects villages with Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), schools, and hospitals to improve access and services.
- ❖ The revised total outlay of PMGSY-III has been increased to ₹83,977 crore.
- ❖ It also includes the construction of 161 long-span bridges in hilly and remote regions to ensure continuous connectivity.
- ❖ PMGSY was launched in December 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.

- ❖ PMGSY-III mainly focuses on upgrading existing rural roads and major link routes instead of only new road construction.

### **Vishwa Sutra Initiative**

- ❖ Ministry of Textiles launched “Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World” to promote Indian handlooms globally.
- ❖ It is developed by the Office of Development Commissioner (Handlooms) in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ❖ It showcases around 30 handloom weaves from different states of India.
- ❖ Each weave is inspired by designs from 30 different countries and cultures.
- ❖ It aims to increase international recognition and market access for Indian artisans.
- ❖ It promotes the “Vocal for Local” campaign of the Government of India.
- ❖ It supports the 5F (Farm, Fibre, Factory, Fashion, Foreign) value chain in textiles.

### **River Basin Management Scheme Extension**

- ❖ The Government of India has proposed to continue the River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme with an outlay of ₹2,183 crore for 2026–31.
- ❖ It is a Central Sector Scheme launched in 2014.
- ❖ It is implemented by the Department of Water Resources under the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- ❖ It focuses on river basins like the Brahmaputra and Indus regions.
- ❖ It aims at flood control, erosion management and water resource planning.
- ❖ It includes agencies like the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the National Water Development Agency (NWDA).
- ❖ It supports basin planning, drainage development and community-based water management.

### **NSS Health Survey 2025**

- ❖ The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has released the ‘Household Social Consumption: Health’ survey under the 80th round of the National Sample Survey (NSS).
- ❖ About 13.1% people reported illness, higher than 7.5% in 2017–18; highest among the elderly aged 60 and above.

- ❖ Hospitalization rate was about 2.9%, the highest among the elderly and young children.
- ❖ Institutional deliveries reached about 96%, showing strong maternal healthcare coverage.
- ❖ Health insurance coverage increased to around 44–47%, mainly through government schemes.
- ❖ Infectious diseases declined, while non-communicable diseases like diabetes and hypertension increased after age 30.

### **New Deportation Policy for Illegal Migrants**

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced a new deportation policy to speed up the identification and removal of illegal migrants.
- ❖ It mandates district-level task forces and a 90-day timeline for verification of suspected foreign nationals.
- ❖ Holding centres with basic facilities will be set up, ensuring families are not separated.
- ❖ Illegal documents will be cancelled, and migrants will be blacklisted by the Bureau of Immigration.
- ❖ The policy is backed by the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which strengthens enforcement and monitoring.

### **India's Foodgrain Stock and Production**

- ❖ The government reported that India's foodgrain stock is three times the buffer norms.
- ❖ India has a total food stock of about 602 lakh metric tonnes (LMT), including 222 LMT wheat and 380 LMT rice.
- ❖ Buffer stock is maintained by the government to ensure food security, price stabilisation, and supply through the Public Distribution System (PDS).
- ❖ India is the largest producer of pulses (25.68 million tonnes (MT)) and millets, and 2nd largest producer of rice, wheat, fruits and vegetables.
- ❖ Horticulture production reached 362.08 MT, exceeding foodgrain output, showing a shift to high-value crops.
- ❖ Agricultural exports increased from 34.5 billion United States dollars (USD) in Financial Year (FY) 2020 to 51.1 billion USD in FY 2025, with processed food share at 20.4%.
- ❖ India is also leading in spices and coconut production, and ranks 2nd in sugarcane, cotton, and tea production.

### **India's Seafood Exports**

- ❖ India's seafood exports reached a record ₹72,325.82 crore in FY 2025–26 as per Marine Products Export Development Authority data.
- ❖ Export volume also rose to 19.32 lakh metric tonnes, showing strong global demand.
- ❖ Frozen shrimp contributed the highest share with ₹47,973.13 crore, making it the main export product.
- ❖ Exports to the United States declined, but growth increased in China, the European Union (EU) and Southeast Asia.
- ❖ Major ports supporting exports include Visakhapatnam, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Kochi, Kolkata and Chennai.

### **District-Level Blood Centres**

- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare aims to establish at least one blood centre in every district by December 2026.
- ❖ Around 10% of districts still lack a blood centre, showing gaps in infrastructure and services.
- ❖ The review covered licensing, blood collection, testing for TTIs (Transfusion-Transmitted Infections), storage and reporting.
- ❖ Digital systems like eRaktKosh and BBMS (Blood Bank Management System) are not fully implemented in many centres.
- ❖ The goal is to ensure safe blood access, zero TTIs, and promote voluntary blood donation across India.

### **Atal Pension Yojana Boom**

- ❖ Atal Pension Yojana has crossed 9 crore total enrolments as of April 2026.
- ❖ In FY 2025–26, it recorded a record 1.35 crore new subscribers, the highest annual addition since launch.
- ❖ Atal Pension Yojana was launched on 9th May 2015.
- ❖ The scheme mainly targets workers in the unorganised sector to provide social security after retirement.
- ❖ It is regulated by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- ❖ The scheme ensures a fixed monthly pension after 60 years based on contribution level and promotes financial inclusion.

### **India Textile Exports Rise**

- ❖ India's textile exports increased by 2.1% to ₹3.16 lakh crore in FY 2025–26.
- ❖ Ready-Made Garments (RMG) remained the largest contributor, growing by 2.9% to ₹1.39 lakh crore.
- ❖ Man-made textiles rose by 3.6%, while handicrafts recorded the highest growth of 6.1%.
- ❖ Exports expanded to more than 120 countries, including the UAE, UK, Germany, Japan and Egypt.
- ❖ Growth is supported by government schemes like RoSCTL (Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies) and RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products).

### **Online Gaming Rules 2026**

- ❖ The Government of India notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026, effective from next month.
- ❖ The rules aim to regulate online gaming, protect users, and safeguard the financial system.
- ❖ They provide a clear mechanism to classify games as online money games, social games, or e-sports.
- ❖ An Online Gaming Authority of India has been created as a 6-member regulatory body led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❖ The rules mandate user safety features, grievance redressal, transparency, and penalties with an appellate mechanism.

### **Agricultural Intelligence System**

- ❖ IIT Ropar launched India's first fully integrated agricultural intelligence system.
- ❖ The system includes Swan (advanced weather stations), Krishi intelligence call centres, and Annam Chat Engine (ACE).
- ❖ It is developed by the Centre of Excellence (CoE) in AI for Agriculture under the ANNAM.AI project.
- ❖ The ecosystem integrates Artificial Intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), climate science, and multilingual advisory systems.
- ❖ It is designed to support the entire agricultural value chain, improving decision-making and farm productivity.

### **India–Republic of Korea Strategic Vision 2026–2030**

- ❖ India and the Republic of Korea unveiled a Joint Strategic Vision (2026–2030) during the visit of South Korean President Lee Jae Myung to India.
- ❖ The vision aims to strengthen ties in defence, trade, technology, Indo-Pacific security, and cultural cooperation.
- ❖ It aligns India’s Act East Policy with Korea’s New Southern Policy for a deeper regional partnership.
- ❖ Key initiatives include India–Korea Digital Bridge, space cooperation (ISRO–KASA), and supply chain diversification.
- ❖ Both countries agreed to upgrade the CEPA (Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement) and enhance climate cooperation through ISA (International Solar Alliance) and GGGI (Global Green Growth Institute).

### **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.

### **Right to Safe Travel on Highways under Article 21**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has ruled that safe travel on National Highways is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.
- ❖ The Court stated that road safety is a constitutional duty of the State, not just an administrative issue.
- ❖ National Highways form about 2% of total roads but account for nearly 30% of road accident deaths.
- ❖ The Court banned unauthorised dhabas and encroachments on highway land to reduce accidents.
- ❖ Parking of heavy vehicles on highways is restricted except in designated areas with proper facilities.
- ❖ It also directed better surveillance, patrols, and emergency services like ambulances for faster response.

### **SC permission on Late Pregnancy Termination**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India allowed a 15-year-old minor to terminate her 31-week pregnancy.
- ❖ The Court held that reproductive autonomy is part of the Right to Life under Article 21.

- ❖ It stated that forcing a minor to continue an unwanted pregnancy violates dignity, privacy, and personal liberty.
- ❖ The decision considered the girl's severe mental distress and risk to her well-being.
- ❖ Though the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act generally sets a 24-week limit, the Court allowed an exception in this case.
- ❖ The judgment emphasised that a woman's right over her body must be protected, especially in exceptional situations.

### **ICU Standards in India**

- ❖ The Supreme Court of India has set minimum standards for Intensive Care Units in hospitals across India.
- ❖ The guidelines aim to ensure uniform ICU infrastructure, staffing, and patient care nationwide.
- ❖ Each ICU must have essential facilities like oxygen supply, ventilators, monitors, defibrillators, and uninterrupted power backup.
- ❖ The norms mandate 24×7 trained doctors, strict infection control, and nurse-to-patient ratios up to 1:1 for critical patients.
- ❖ ICUs are classified into different levels to standardise care in both urban and rural hospitals.
- ❖ States and Union Territories have been directed to submit action plans and identify gaps for implementation.

### **UNESCO Gender Inclusion Initiative**

- ❖ Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune, launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion & Skill Development.
- ❖ The initiative was announced at an international conference on "Women Leading the Future of Work" in collaboration with UNESCO.
- ❖ The UNESCO Chair focuses on gender inclusion and skill development, especially for girls and women in emerging sectors.
- ❖ About 10,000 girls have been trained in future skills such as robotics, automation, semiconductor technology, advanced manufacturing, and defence technology.

### **16th Bhairav Battalion**

- ❖ The Indian Army has raised the 16<sup>th</sup> Bhairav Battalion.

- ❖ It was established at the Maratha Light Infantry Regimental Centre in Belagavi.
- ❖ Bhairav Battalion is a light commando infantry unit designed for rapid response and high-mobility operations.
- ❖ Each unit has around 250 specially trained soldiers for reconnaissance and tactical missions.
- ❖ It acts between regular infantry and Special Forces (elite combat units).

### **India's Military Spending 2025**

- ❖ Stockholm International Peace Research Institute reported India's defence expenditure for 2025.
- ❖ India ranked 5th globally with military spending of \$92.1 billion in 2025, showing an 8.9% increase from 2024.
- ❖ The rise was driven by higher operational costs, increased procurement and tensions with Pakistan in 2025.
- ❖ India spent about 2.3% of its GDP on defence, while Pakistan spent around 2.9% of its GDP.
- ❖ Global military spending reached a record \$2,887 billion in 2025, marking the 11th consecutive year of increase.
- ❖ The top spenders were the United States, China and Russia, together with India and Germany, accounting for about 58% of total spending.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **WTO MC14 Ministerial Conference 2026**

- ❖ The WTO Ministerial Conference 14 concluded in Yaoundé, Cameroon, to decide global trade rules.
- ❖ It is the highest decision-making body of the World Trade Organization, which meets every two years.
- ❖ Negotiations on fisheries subsidies were extended, while India opposed certain provisions due to concerns over revenue loss and fairness.
- ❖ Discussions also continued on the e-commerce moratorium and Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD).

### **Atoms4NetZero Initiative**

- ❖ Atoms4NetZero was launched as a global initiative to support countries in using nuclear energy for achieving net zero emissions.
- ❖ It was launched by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in January 2025 at COP27 (27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).
- ❖ It aims to help countries integrate nuclear energy into their national energy mix for clean, reliable, and sustainable power generation.
- ❖ It focuses on reducing carbon emissions, decarbonising electricity, and improving energy security in all sectors.
- ❖ It uses tools like MESSAGE (Model for Energy Supply Strategy Alternatives and their General Environmental Impacts) and FRAMES (Framework for Modelling of Energy Systems) for energy planning.
- ❖ Nuclear energy provides about 10% of global electricity and 25% of low-carbon electricity.

### **Citizenship Rights Battle 2026**

- ❖ On April 1, 2026, Donald Trump became the first sitting U.S. President to attend oral arguments at the Supreme Court of the United States.
- ❖ The visit was linked to the Court hearing Trump's appeal against a lower court ruling that struck down his executive order on birthright citizenship.
- ❖ Birthright citizenship in the United States is guaranteed under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.
- ❖ The amendment (1868) states that all persons born or naturalised in the U.S. and subject to its jurisdiction are citizens of the United States and the state they reside in.
- ❖ This principle means that anyone born on U.S. soil automatically receives citizenship, regardless of their parents' immigration or citizenship status.
- ❖ An exception exists for children born to foreign diplomatic officers, as they have diplomatic immunity and are not subject to U.S. jurisdiction.
- ❖ Trump's executive order, signed on the first day of his second term, aimed to restrict birthright citizenship.
- ❖ The order declared that children born in the U.S. to parents who are in the country illegally or temporarily would not be granted U.S. citizenship.
- ❖ It directed federal agencies to deny recognition of citizenship unless at least one parent is a U.S. citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

- ❖ Opponents also state that it conflicts with established administrative and immigration law principles.
- ❖ The executive order has been blocked nationwide by three U.S. district courts for being unconstitutional.
- ❖ The Supreme Court is now examining whether the executive order can override constitutional guarantees of birthright citizenship.
- ❖ If the Court upholds birthright citizenship, it can only be changed through a constitutional amendment process.
- ❖ Amending the Constitution requires approval by two-thirds of both houses of the U.S. Congress and ratification by three-fourths of state legislatures.
- ❖ Such a constitutional amendment process is lengthy and could take several years to complete.

### **Emergency Measles Vaccination Drive - Bangladesh**

- ❖ Bangladesh has launched an emergency vaccination drive against a rapidly spreading measles outbreak.
- ❖ Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease caused by a virus from the paramyxovirus family.
- ❖ It spreads through coughing, sneezing, and contaminated air or surfaces, and can remain infectious for up to two hours.
- ❖ Common symptoms include high fever, cough, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash, mainly affecting unvaccinated children.
- ❖ The measles-rubella (MR) vaccine provides long-term protection, and prevention through immunisation is the most effective control measure.

### **PFAS to Water Pollution List**

- ❖ The European Union (EU) has added PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) to its water pollution monitoring list.
- ❖ PFAS are man-made toxic chemicals known as “forever chemicals” because they do not break down easily in the environment.
- ❖ They include harmful compounds like PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid) and PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid).
- ❖ PFAS are commonly found in non-stick cookware, food packaging, and industrial products.
- ❖ These chemicals can enter water, soil, and air, and accumulate in living organisms.
- ❖ Exposure to PFAS is linked to health issues such as cancer, hormonal imbalance, and reduced fertility.

### **PHC Summit 2026**

- ❖ The Partnership for Healthy Cities (PHC) Summit 2026 has renewed the global commitment to reducing diseases.
- ❖ The summit was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with officials from 55 cities.
- ❖ PHC is a network of 74 cities working to prevent NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases) and injuries.
- ❖ Indian cities like Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru are part of this network.
- ❖ NCDs are long-term diseases that do not spread from person to person.
- ❖ Major NCDs include heart diseases, cancers, respiratory diseases, and diabetes.
- ❖ Over 80% of global deaths are caused by NCDs and injuries.

### **Global Hunger Risk Warning 2026**

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund, World Bank and World Food Programme have warned about rising global hunger risks.
- ❖ Rising oil, gas, and fertiliser prices are increasing food production and transport costs worldwide.
- ❖ Conflicts in West Asia are causing supply disruptions and price volatility.
- ❖ Higher energy costs are leading to global food inflation and increased food insecurity.
- ❖ Low-income and import-dependent countries are most affected due to high dependence on imports.
- ❖ These countries also face high debt and limited ability to control rising prices.
- ❖ Global agencies are monitoring the situation and coordinating actions to prevent a food crisis.

### **Madman Theory in Foreign Policy**

- ❖ Madman Theory is being discussed again in global politics due to recent international crises.
- ❖ It is a foreign policy and strategic doctrine where a leader deliberately appears unpredictable, irrational, or willing to take extreme action.
- ❖ The theory is closely associated with Richard Nixon and his adviser, Henry Kissinger, during the Cold War.
- ❖ It was mainly used in the context of the Vietnam War.
- ❖ The aim is to force opponents to back down by creating fear of extreme actions like war.

- ❖ It relies on psychological pressure and can give a short-term advantage, but reduces long-term trust.

### **25th Amendment of the USA Constitution**

- ❖ The 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution is being discussed in the context of leadership and incapacity debates.
- ❖ It was ratified in 1967 after the assassination of John F. Kennedy to clarify presidential succession.
- ❖ It states that the Vice President becomes President if the President dies, resigns, or is removed.
- ❖ It also provides rules to handle presidential inability and to fill a vacant Vice President post.
- ❖ Section 4 allows the Vice President and the majority of the Cabinet to declare the President unable to perform duties.
- ❖ In such a case, the Vice President becomes Acting President, but Congress can decide the issue with a two-thirds majority if challenged.

### **Hungary Election and Orbán's Rule**

- ❖ Hungary held an election that may end Viktor Orbán's 16-year rule.
- ❖ Orbán served as Prime Minister for 16 years and won four consecutive elections with a strong majority.
- ❖ During his rule, government control increased over the media, judiciary, and key institutions.
- ❖ He followed nationalist policies and maintained close ties with Russia and Vladimir Putin.
- ❖ He used veto power in the European Union to block decisions, including aid to Ukraine.
- ❖ His 16-year rule led to tensions with the EU over democracy, rights, and governance.

### **COP of the Future Vision**

- ❖ Türkiye has announced a new "COP of the Future" vision for the COP31 climate summit.
- ❖ COP31 (Conference of the Parties) will be held in Antalya (Türkiye) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- ❖ Türkiye will host and lead the Action Agenda, while Australia will handle negotiations.
- ❖ The vision focuses on implementation, inclusivity, and global cooperation with principles of Dialogue, Consensus, and Action.
- ❖ Key areas include clean energy, sustainable agriculture, climate-resilient infrastructure, and ocean protection.
- ❖ It emphasises climate finance, technology transfer, and support for developing countries like India.

### **First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026**

- ❖ India hosted the first BRICS Health Working Group meeting in New Delhi to discuss global health cooperation.
- ❖ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised the meeting under the BRICS framework (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).
- ❖ The theme was “Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability, focusing on people-centric healthcare.
- ❖ The meeting aimed to strengthen cooperation in pandemic preparedness, health technology and Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
- ❖ India introduced new focus areas like healthy lifestyles and promotion of mental health and wellness.
- ❖ Key areas included tuberculosis (TB) research, digital health, traditional medicine, early warning systems and access to medicines and vaccines.

### **Pax Silica Initiative – Philippines**

- ❖ The Philippines joined the US-led Pax Silica to strengthen global semiconductor and technology supply chains.
- ❖ The initiative is led by the United States to secure the full technology supply chain from raw materials to advanced chip manufacturing.
- ❖ A 4,000-acre industrial hub will be developed in the Luzon Economic Corridor in the Philippines.
- ❖ The hub will focus on semiconductors, electronics, and the processing of critical minerals like nickel, cobalt, and copper.
- ❖ The Philippines becomes the 13th member of the initiative, joining countries like India, South Korea, Singapore, Qatar, and the UAE.
- ❖ The programme promotes “friend-shoring” to reduce dependence on China and strengthen allied supply chains.

### **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.

### **Global Maritime Security Initiative**

- ❖ UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and French President Emmanuel Macron launched the Global Maritime Security Initiative for the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ The initiative aims to ensure freedom of navigation and secure key global shipping routes.
- ❖ Around 40 countries, including India, participated in the virtual meeting held in 2026.
- ❖ The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf to global markets and is vital for global oil and gas trade.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on protecting commercial shipping and stabilising global energy supply chains amid regional tensions.

### **AZEC Plus Meeting**

- ❖ India participated in the AZEC Plus meeting (held online, convened by Japan) to discuss energy supply disruptions and supply chain resilience.
- ❖ The meeting focused on energy security, decarbonisation, and supply chain resilience.
- ❖ India highlighted the need for safe and uninterrupted maritime shipping routes.
- ❖ The platform is part of the Asia Zero Emission Community (AZEC), launched in 2023.
- ❖ It aims to promote regional cooperation for a stable and sustainable energy supply in Asia.

### **RELOS Pact**

- ❖ India and Russia have operationalised the RELOS (Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement) to boost defence cooperation.

- ❖ It allows the use of each other's military bases, ports and air facilities in war and peacetime.
- ❖ It permits deployment of up to 3,000 military personnel, 5 warships and 10 aircraft in each other's territory.
- ❖ The pact provides logistics support like refuelling, repair, maintenance and supply of spare parts.
- ❖ Costs can be settled through the exchange of goods and services instead of direct payment.
- ❖ It improves joint exercises, training and long-distance military operations.
- ❖ India gets access to Russian facilities, including the Arctic region, while Russia gains support in the Indian Ocean.

### **Ban Tobacco for Future Generations - UK**

- ❖ The United Kingdom passed a tobacco and vapes law banning people born on or after 1 January 2009 from legally buying tobacco.
- ❖ It aims to create a "smoke-free generation" by gradually increasing the legal restriction every year.
- ❖ Smoking causes about 64,000 deaths annually in England and places a heavy burden on the National Health Service (NHS).
- ❖ The law also tightens rules on vaping and expands smoking bans in public places like schools, hospitals, and playgrounds.
- ❖ The bill will become law after receiving royal assent, making it one of the strictest anti-tobacco laws globally.

### **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.

## ECONOMY

### Orange Economy

- ❖ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has launched three initiatives to promote India's Orange Economy (creative economy).
- ❖ The initiatives are the National AI Skilling Initiative, the MyWAVES platform, and the Advanced EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) with in-built satellite tuners in TVs.
- ❖ National AI Skilling Initiative aims to train 15,000 professionals in the AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) sector with support from Google and YouTube.
- ❖ MyWAVES platform promotes user-generated content (UGC) and supports Indian creators in multiple languages.
- ❖ Advanced EPG allows access to DD Free Dish without a set-top box, improving digital access in remote areas.
- ❖ Orange Economy refers to sectors based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property, like media, films, gaming, and design.

### RBI Payments Vision 2028

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India released Payments Vision 2028, focusing on bank account portability.
- ❖ It allows customers to change bank accounts easily without affecting linked services like salary, EMI and bills.
- ❖ The RBI has proposed PaSS (Payments Switching Service) to transfer all payment instructions from one bank to another.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the “stickiness” of accounts and increase customer choice and competition among banks.
- ❖ The vision also focuses on faster and cheaper cross-border payments as per G20 goals.

### Income Tax Act 2025

- ❖ The Income Tax Act, 2025, came into effect from 1 April 2026, replacing the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- ❖ The new Act reduces sections from 819 to 536 and rules from 511 to 333 to simplify tax laws.
- ❖ The Act reduces the total forms from 390 to 190 to make filing easier and faster.

- ❖ TCS (Tax Collected at Source) under LRS (Liberalised Remittance Scheme) is reduced to 2 percent for education, medical, and tour payments above ₹10 lakh.
- ❖ FAST-DS (Foreign Assets of Small Taxpayers Disclosure Scheme) allows small taxpayers to declare foreign assets with a reduced penalty.

### **Two-Factor Authentication Rule - RBI**

- ❖ RBI made Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) mandatory for all digital payments from 1 April 2026 to improve transaction security.
- ❖ Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) means using two different verification methods, such as PIN (Personal Identification Number), OTP, or biometric authentication.
- ❖ At least one authentication factor must be dynamic, like OTP, which changes for every transaction and increases security.
- ❖ Single-factor authentication methods like only PIN or only OTP will no longer be allowed for any digital transaction.
- ❖ The rule is applicable to all digital payment systems, including UPI, debit and credit cards, and mobile wallets.
- ❖ The main objective is to reduce the increasing number of digital payment frauds and protect users from cyber threats.

### **IND AS in the Insurance Sector**

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has introduced Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) for the insurance sector.
- ❖ Ind AS are accounting rules notified by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2015.
- ❖ They are aligned with global standards called International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).
- ❖ These standards focus on fair value accounting, better disclosures, and improved transparency in financial reporting.
- ❖ Earlier, India followed Indian Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (Indian GAAP), which was based on historical cost accounting and had 18 standards.
- ❖ IRDAI is a statutory body set up under the IRDAI Act, 1999, to regulate and develop the insurance sector in India.

### **Critical Financial Status**

- ❖ Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) retained LIC, GIC Re and New India Assurance as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SII) for FY 2025–26.

- ❖ Life Insurance Corporation of India, General Insurance Corporation of India and New India Assurance Company Limited are considered critical for financial stability.
- ❖ These insurers are called “Too Big To Fail” institutions due to their large size and market importance.
- ❖ Any failure of these companies can affect the entire financial system and economy.
- ❖ They are subject to stricter regulations, better governance, and strong risk management norms.

### **CASA Ratio in Banks**

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India data shows that the CASA (Current Account Savings Account) ratio fell to a two-year low of 37.9% in December 2025.
- ❖ CASA deposits are low-cost deposits made in current and savings accounts in banks.
- ❖ The decline happened as people shifted money to higher-return options like stocks, mutual funds, and gold.
- ❖ Savings account share fell to 28.9%, leading to the overall drop in the CASA ratio.
- ❖ Lower CASA increases banks’ cost of funds, as they depend more on costly deposits and borrowings.
- ❖ This can reduce bank profits and affect their lending capacity.

### **India’s Lead for South Asia Growth**

- ❖ The World Bank said India will lead economic growth in South Asia.
- ❖ India’s economy grew from 7.1% in FY25 to 7.6% in FY26, showing strong performance.
- ❖ Growth is expected to be 6.6% in FY27, making India the fastest-growing major economy in the region.
- ❖ Strong private consumption and exports are supporting economic growth and demand.
- ❖ GST (Goods and Services Tax) reforms and low inflation have increased people’s spending power.
- ❖ Risks include rising oil prices and tensions in West Asia affecting supply and inflation.
- ❖ South Asia’s overall growth may slow to 6.3% in 2026 due to global uncertainties.

## **India Seafood Export Growth**

- ❖ India has emerged as the world's 2nd-largest fish-producing nation after China, contributing about 8% of global fish production.
- ❖ India's fisheries sector supports around 30 million fishers and fish farmers.
- ❖ Fish production increased from 141.64 lakh tonnes (2019–20) to 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024–25).
- ❖ India's seafood exports crossed ₹62,408 crore (2024–25), with frozen shrimp as the largest export item and over 350 seafood varieties exported to nearly 130 countries.
- ❖ The United States is the biggest export market, followed by China, the European Union, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Middle East.

## **Retail Inflation in India – March 2026**

- ❖ Retail inflation increased from 3.21% in February 2026 to 3.4% in March 2026.
- ❖ It showing a slight rise in prices of goods and services consumed by households.
- ❖ It is measured using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which includes items like food, fuel, housing, and other essential services.
- ❖ The increase was mainly driven by higher food inflation, especially due to rising prices of vegetables, coconut, and some precious items like gold and silver.
- ❖ The data is based on the new CPI series with 2024 as the base year, which reflects current consumption patterns more accurately.
- ❖ Global factors such as tensions in West Asia also impacted supply chains and increased transportation and commodity costs.
- ❖ Despite the rise, inflation remains within the target range of the Reserve Bank of India ( $4\% \pm 2\%$ ), indicating that inflation is moderate and under control.

## **RBI Utkarsh 2029 Framework**

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched its medium-term strategy “Utkarsh 2029” for April 2026–March 2029.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen the RBI as a leading global central bank with a focus on digital growth and financial stability.
- ❖ Key initiatives include Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), Unified Lending Interface (ULI), and global expansion of Unified Payments Interface (UPI).
- ❖ It promotes internationalisation of the Indian Rupee and better cross-border payments.

- ❖ Focus areas include regulation, customer-centric services, financial markets, and technology like Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ❖ The framework also emphasises innovation, transparency, and efficient resource allocation.

### **6th Largest Economy - India**

- ❖ The International Monetary Fund stated that India became the 6th largest economy in 2025 based on global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) rankings.
- ❖ India's GDP is about 3.92 trillion United States dollars, and rankings are calculated in dollar terms for global comparison.
- ❖ India dropped from 5th position and is now behind the United Kingdom and Japan, while the United States, China and Germany remain ahead.
- ❖ The change is mainly due to depreciation of the Indian rupee and strengthening of the United States dollar, not due to weak domestic growth.
- ❖ India recorded about 9 % nominal GDP growth in rupee terms, showing strong economic performance.

### **6th Largest Economy - India**

- ❖ India ranked 6th globally in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook (WEO) 2026.
- ❖ Global ranking is based on nominal Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in United States (US) dollar terms.
- ❖ India's GDP is about \$4.15 trillion, behind Japan (~\$4.38 trillion) and the United Kingdom (~\$4.27 trillion).
- ❖ Rank fell due to GDP revision (base year change) and depreciation of the Indian rupee.
- ❖ India's GDP revised from ₹357 lakh crore to ₹345 lakh crore for 2025-26.
- ❖ IMF projects India to become the 4th largest by 2027 and the 3rd largest by 2031.

### **E-Mandate Framework 2026**

- ❖ The Reserve Bank of India has issued the new Digital Payments E-Mandate Framework 2026.
- ❖ The framework standardises rules for recurring digital payments across cards, Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and prepaid payment instruments.
- ❖ Customers must complete one-time registration with Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA).

- ❖ Recurring payments up to ₹15,000 can be done without AFA; for insurance, mutual funds and credit cards, the limit is ₹1 lakh.
- ❖ Banks must send pre-debit notification 24 hours before the transaction and allow the opt-out option.
- ❖ No charges will be levied for using the e-mandate facility, improving transparency in digital payments.

### **Panel to Assess AI Risks in Banking**

- ❖ The Government of India has formed a panel to assess risks from the AI platform Mythos.
- ❖ The panel is headed by C. S. Setty, Chairman of State Bank of India (SBI) and includes participation from the banking sector.
- ❖ The move comes amid global concerns that advanced AI systems can create vulnerabilities in banking networks and trigger cyberattacks.
- ❖ The panel will examine potential risks, required investments, and the adoption of new technologies in the banking system.
- ❖ It will recommend measures to mitigate AI-related risks and strengthen cybersecurity in banks.
- ❖ The initiative will also explore the use of AI tools to counter emerging AI-driven threats in the financial sector.

### **DPI@2047 Plan**

- ❖ NITI Aayog launched the DPI@2047 roadmap to transform India into a developed economy.
- ❖ The plan targets a \$30 trillion economy and \$18,000 per capita income by 2047, marking 100 years of independence.
- ❖ It focuses on Digital Public Infrastructure to drive inclusive growth, innovation, productivity and large-scale digital empowerment across sectors.
- ❖ It has two phases: DPI 2.0 (2025–2035) to expand digital access, skills and services, and DPI 3.0 (2035–2047) to promote innovation-driven economic growth.
- ❖ It builds on successful platforms like Aadhaar and UPI, which have improved digital identity and payments.
- ❖ It aims to boost MSMEs, agriculture, education and healthcare.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Bio-Bitumen Technology

- ❖ Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) transferred the bio-bitumen technology for large-scale road construction use.
- ❖ The technology is developed by CSIR–CRRRI (Central Road Research Institute) and CSIR–IIP (Indian Institute of Petroleum).
- ❖ Bio-bitumen is made from crop residue (lignocellulosic biomass) using thermochemical conversion.
- ❖ It helps reduce stubble burning, supports the circular economy, and gives extra income to farmers.
- ❖ It is a low-carbon alternative suitable for national highway construction and supports India's Net Zero goals.

### Celeste Satellites Mission

- ❖ The European Space Agency launched two Celeste satellites to improve navigation systems.
- ❖ The satellites, named Celeste IOD-1 and IOD-2, were launched from New Zealand using an Electron rocket.
- ❖ The mission will support Europe's Galileo navigation system.
- ❖ These satellites work in Low Earth Orbit (LEO), which helps give stronger signals and better accuracy.
- ❖ They use L-band and S-band frequencies for communication and navigation.
- ❖ More satellites will be launched by 2027 for uses like transport, aviation, and disaster management.

### Artemis II Moon Mission

- ❖ NASA is preparing for Artemis II, the first crewed Moon mission in over 50 years.
- ❖ Artemis II will be the first human mission to the Moon since the Apollo missions (1968–1972) conducted by NASA.
- ❖ The mission will use the Space Launch System (SLS) rocket, a 32-storey heavy-lift launch vehicle, and the Orion spacecraft.
- ❖ The spacecraft will orbit the Earth first and then perform a flyby around the Moon without landing.
- ❖ The mission will last about 10 days and end with a splashdown landing in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ It will test critical systems and support future human Moon missions under the Artemis programme.

### **Mission MITRA**

- ❖ ISRO has launched Mission MITRA to test astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission.
- ❖ Mission MITRA Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment is being conducted in Leh from April 2 to 9, 2026.
- ❖ Four astronauts will be tested for physical, mental, and behavioural performance under extreme conditions.
- ❖ The mission studies teamwork, decision-making, stress handling, and communication abilities.
- ❖ It is conducted by ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre with the Indian Air Force Institute of Aerospace Medicine.
- ❖ Ladakh is chosen due to its high altitude, low oxygen, and extreme climate, similar to space conditions.

### **Madras Hedgehog Genome Study**

- ❖ Scientists completed the first mitochondrial genome analysis of the Madras hedgehog, giving new scientific data about this species.
- ❖ The study analysed its complete mitochondrial DNA, which helps understand genetic structure and evolution.
- ❖ It showed that the species is closely related to the Indian hedgehog.
- ❖ Both species separated around 3.69 million years ago during major climatic changes in South Asia.
- ❖ The genome contains 13 protein-coding genes, 22 transfer RNAs, and 2 ribosomal RNAs.

### **Discovery of an Unusual Solar System**

- ❖ Astronomers have discovered a new planetary system with two Earth-like planets about 120 light-years away from Earth.
- ❖ These planets are called super-Earths (planets larger than Earth but smaller than Neptune) and are rocky in nature.
- ❖ The system shows an unusual structure where a rocky planet is located beyond gas giants, unlike our Solar System.
- ❖ This discovery challenges existing theories of planetary formation and suggests different evolution patterns.
- ❖ Scientists used space missions like the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) and CHEOPS to detect the planets.

### **PFBR Criticality**

- ❖ India's PFBR (Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieved criticality.
- ❖ Criticality means a self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction starts in the reactor.
- ❖ PFBR is a 500-megawatt electric sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor using plutonium fuel.
- ❖ It is operated by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) at Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam.
- ❖ Fast breeder reactors produce more fissile fuel than they consume.
- ❖ It marks the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear power programme using plutonium and later thorium.

### **Quantum Communication Breakthrough**

- ❖ India successfully demonstrated a 1,000 km quantum communication network under the National Quantum Mission.
- ❖ The National Quantum Mission was launched by the Department of Science and Technology with an outlay of ₹6003 crore from 2023–24 to 2030–31.
- ❖ Quantum communication uses principles of quantum mechanics to provide highly secure data transmission.
- ❖ The Quantum Communication hub is led by the IIT Madras with the Centre for Development of Telematics.

### **Artemis II - Space Distance Record**

- ❖ NASA's Artemis II mission set a new record for the farthest distance travelled by humans in space.
- ❖ The mission surpassed the record of Apollo 13 by travelling about 252,756 miles from Earth.
- ❖ Artemis II is the first crewed lunar mission since Apollo 17 in 1972.
- ❖ It carries four astronauts, including one from the Canadian Space Agency, on the Orion spacecraft.
- ❖ The mission follows a free-return trajectory around the Moon and includes observing the Moon's far side.
- ❖ It also recorded events like a solar eclipse and a temporary communication blackout.

## **Artemis II Lunar Mission**

- ❖ Artemis II mission astronauts safely returned to Earth after a historic Moon flyby.
- ❖ It is the first crewed lunar mission since the Apollo era by NASA.
- ❖ The Orion spacecraft completed a 10-day journey and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.
- ❖ The crew included Reid Wiseman (USA), Victor Glover (USA), Christina Koch (USA), and Jeremy Hansen (Canada).
- ❖ The mission tested deep-space travel, re-entry, and communication blackout systems.

## **Universe Expansion Measurement Discrepancy**

- ❖ A new study confirms that the “Hubble tension” between two major methods of measuring the Universe’s expansion rate is not caused by a single incorrect measurement.
- ❖ The Universe’s expansion rate shows a long-standing mismatch called the Hubble tension.
- ❖ Early-Universe methods (Cosmic Microwave Background and baryon acoustic oscillations) give about 67 km/s/Mpc.
- ❖ Late-Universe distance ladder methods (Cepheid stars and Type Ia supernovae) give about 73 km/s/Mpc.
- ❖ A comprehensive cross-check using multiple independent techniques shows the results remain consistent even after removing any single method or calibration.
- ❖ The study concludes that “one bad measurement” cannot explain the discrepancy.

## **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.

### **US Space Nuclear Reactor Plan**

- ❖ US plans to deploy nuclear reactors in space by 2028 and on the Moon by 2030.
- ❖ The plan is under the “National Initiative for American Space Nuclear Power” issued to boost US space leadership.
- ❖ The reactor will produce 20 kilowatts (kW) of power for 3 years in orbit and 5 years on the Moon for lunar missions.
- ❖ The US Department of Energy will support development, testing, transport, and launch safety.
- ❖ The plan also supports nuclear propulsion for future Mars missions and reflects the US–China space competition.

### **Genome India Project 2026**

- ❖ Genome India Project (GIP) data revealed about 44 million unique Indian genetic variants.
- ❖ The study identified over 129 million genetic variants in Indian populations.
- ❖ It showed that endogamy (marriage within the same community) created distinct genetic groups.
- ❖ The project was launched in 2020 by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT).
- ❖ It studied 10,000 individuals from 83 population groups across India.
- ❖ It helps in better disease prediction and the development of population-specific healthcare.

### **Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**

- ❖ The Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope has completed assembly and entered final testing before its 2026 launch.
- ❖ Built by NASA, it is considered the next major telescope after the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope.
- ❖ It has a 2.4-metre mirror and can capture images of space covering 100 times larger an area than Hubble.
- ❖ The mission will study dark energy, dark matter and help understand the expansion of the universe.
- ❖ It will also detect exoplanets and will be launched on SpaceX Falcon Heavy to a point called L2 in space.

### **New Lunar Mineral**

- ❖ Chinese scientists discovered a new Moon mineral named Cerium–Magnesium Chancesite, marking the 11th lunar mineral identified so far.
- ❖ The mineral was found in a 44-gram lunar meteorite collected in China by the China Geological Survey.
- ❖ It is colourless, transparent, brittle, and shows unique fluorescence with crystal grains smaller than 10 micrometres.
- ❖ The discovery is important for LED (Light Emitting Diode) technology as cerium is a rare earth element used in lighting and electronics.
- ❖ It helps improve energy efficiency, brightness, and durability in next-generation electronic devices.

### **Finland's Nuclear Waste Vault**

- ❖ Finland is preparing to operationalise the world's first permanent nuclear waste repository.
- ❖ The facility, called Onkalo, is located on Olkiluoto Island.
- ❖ It will store spent nuclear fuel for up to 100,000 years.
- ❖ It is built 400–450 metres underground in stable bedrock using a multi-barrier safety system (metal canisters, copper capsules, bentonite clay, rock layers).
- ❖ Bentonite clay swells on contact with water and prevents leakage of radioactive material.
- ❖ The repository is designed for passive safety, meaning it will remain secure without human maintenance.
- ❖ Finland plans to store about 6,500 tonnes of nuclear waste, providing a model for safe long-term disposal globally.

### **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.

### **Vela Supercluster mapping**

- ❖ Astronomers have mapped the massive Vela Supercluster (Vela-Banzi) for the first time.
- ❖ It is located about 800 million light-years away and spans nearly 300 million light-years across.
- ❖ The structure lies behind the Zone of Avoidance, making it hard to detect earlier.
- ❖ It contains at least 20 galaxy clusters with a mass of about 30 quadrillion suns.
- ❖ Observations were made using the Southern African Large Telescope and the MeerKAT radio telescope.
- ❖ It is one of the most massive known structures, comparable to the Shapley Supercluster and influences galaxy motion (cosmic flows).

### **Zero-Emission Coal Fuel Cell**

- ❖ China developed the world's first coal-based fuel cell that can generate electricity with near-zero carbon emissions.
- ❖ Coal is processed and used inside a fuel cell instead of being burned.
- ❖ Electricity is produced through an electrochemical reaction that directly converts chemical energy into electrical energy.
- ❖ This method avoids combustion, so it gives higher efficiency and reduces pollution.

- ❖ The carbon dioxide produced is captured and converted into useful products like synthesis gas or sodium bicarbonate.
- ❖ This technology helps make coal energy cleaner and supports low-carbon energy use.

## ENVIRONMENT

### Great Indian Bustard in Gujarat

- ❖ A Great Indian Bustard (GIB) chick was born in Gujarat after a decade under a “jumpstart” conservation approach.
- ❖ The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.
- ❖ It is the first inter-state conservation effort where a fertile egg was transported from Rajasthan to Gujarat in a portable incubator over a 770 km journey.
- ❖ The egg was placed in the nest of a female GIB, which successfully incubated and hatched the chick in its natural habitat in Kutch.
- ❖ The initiative is part of Project GIB, coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and the Wildlife Institute of India.

### Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026

- ❖ The Government notified the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, which will come into force from April 1, 2026.
- ❖ The rules replace the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and are notified under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
- ❖ Four-stream segregation of waste at source has been made mandatory for wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste.
- ❖ The rules follow principles like Circular Economy, Extended Producer Responsibility, and the Polluter Pays Principle.
- ❖ Environmental compensation will be imposed for violations and monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards.
- ❖ Bulk Waste Generators are clearly defined and made responsible for the proper collection, processing, and disposal of waste.
- ❖ A centralised online portal will track waste generation, collection, transport, processing, and disposal.
- ❖ Use of Refuse Derived Fuel in industries is made mandatory with a gradual increase in the substitution rate.

- ❖ Strict restrictions are placed on landfilling, and focus is given on biomining and bioremediation of old waste dumps.

### **Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle 2026–2035**

- ❖ The Global Action Plan for Steppe Eagle was adopted at CMS COP15 held in Brazil.
- ❖ It is an international conservation plan to protect the endangered Steppe Eagle (*Aquila nipalensis*).
- ❖ The plan aims to stop population decline through actions like reducing electrocution, illegal hunting, and poisoning.
- ❖ It includes measures for habitat restoration, research cooperation, and better implementation by countries.
- ❖ The Steppe Eagle is a migratory bird found in grasslands and semi-arid regions and follows the Central Asian Flyway.
- ❖ In India, key habitats include Rajasthan regions like Desert National Park and Jorbeer Conservation Reserve.

### **CMS COP15 – New Species Protection**

- ❖ CMS COP15 held in Brazil added 40 new migratory species to the protected list due to increasing extinction risks.
- ❖ The Convention on Migratory Species is an international agreement to conserve migratory animals moving across national boundaries.
- ❖ Species like the cheetah, striped hyena, snowy owl, giant otter, and great hammerhead shark were included for protection.
- ❖ A recent global report showed that about 49% of migratory species are declining, and around 24% are facing extinction risk.
- ❖ Major threats identified include habitat loss, climate change, pollution, illegal hunting, overfishing, and disturbance in migratory routes.
- ❖ Around 188 migratory species across birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish are currently at high risk of extinction.

### **Bhavasagara Referral Centre**

- ❖ Bhavasagara Referral Centre has been designated as a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna by the Government.
- ❖ It is established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to support conservation and research of deep-sea biodiversity.

- ❖ The centre stores and preserves over 3,500 marine specimens, including invertebrates and vertebrates from deep-sea regions.
- ❖ It will act as a national facility for documentation, study, and protection of India's marine biological resources.
- ❖ The repository will also hold type specimens of newly discovered deep-sea species in Indian waters.

### **Snowy Owl under the UN Convention**

- ❖ Snowy Owl has been given international protection under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).
- ❖ Snowy owl (*Bubo scandiacus*) is a large white bird found mainly in Arctic tundra regions of North America and Eurasia.
- ❖ It is different from most owls as it is active during both day and night (not strictly nocturnal).
- ❖ It is listed as Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List due to climate change and habitat loss.
- ❖ CMS protection helps improve international cooperation to conserve migratory species across countries.

### **Gourami Fish Fossils Discovery**

- ❖ Freshwater fish fossils, including gourami, were discovered for the first time in the Shivalik foothills near Dehradun.
- ❖ The fossils were found near Mohand by scientists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology and other institutions.
- ❖ The discovery includes otoliths (ear bones) of fish like snakehead (*Channa*), goby, and gourami.
- ❖ The gourami fossil is the first record in India and only the second in the world after Sumatra.
- ❖ The fossils are about 4.5 million years old and belong to the Pliocene epoch (about 5.3 to 2.6 million years ago).

### **Blackbuck Revival in Chhattisgarh**

- ❖ The Blackbuck has returned to Chhattisgarh after nearly a century, with around 130 animals now in the wild.
- ❖ The species had disappeared due to habitat loss and hunting, with the last sighting recorded in 1927.

- ❖ Reintroduction began in 2018 at Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary with 77 blackbucks brought from Delhi and Kanan Pendari Zoo.
- ❖ The conservation programme is implemented under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 using scientific methods like acclimatization, monitoring, and protection.
- ❖ About 60 blackbucks are still in enclosures, and more are planned to be released, with expansion to Gomardha Wildlife Sanctuary, Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List.

### **Tar Balls Management Rules 2026**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change released draft Tar Balls Management Rules, 2026, to protect coastal areas from pollution.
- ❖ Tar balls are small, sticky lumps of oil found floating in the sea or on beaches.
- ❖ They are formed when spilled crude oil undergoes weathering processes like evaporation, mixing with water, and hardening.
- ❖ Tar balls contain hydrocarbons, asphaltenes, and impurities like sand and microplastics.
- ❖ They harm marine life like fish, birds, and turtles, and can damage coral reefs and sea grass.

### **Jammu and Kashmir Lakes Ecological Crisis**

- ❖ A report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) highlights large-scale loss of lakes in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ Out of 697 lakes recorded in 1967, about 315 lakes have completely disappeared, covering around 1,537 hectares of area.
- ❖ Around 203 lakes have shrunk, and in total, 518 lakes have lost nearly 2,851 hectares of water spread.
- ❖ The decline is caused by encroachment, pollution, land-use change, poor sewage treatment, and weak monitoring.
- ❖ Conservation efforts were limited to only six lakes, including Dal Lake and Wular Lake, while most lakes had no proper plans.

### **New Marine Nematode Species**

- ❖ Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) discovered two new marine species off the coast of Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The species are named *Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica*.

- ❖ Corononema dhriti is the fourth known species of its genus in the world and is named after ZSI Director Dr Dhriti Banerjee.
- ❖ Epacanthion indica is a predatory nematode with special mandibles and tooth-like structures.
- ❖ Nematodes belong to the phylum Nematoda and can be free-living or parasitic organisms.
- ❖ These marine nematodes help in nutrient cycling, maintain ocean health, and act as bioindicators of environmental change.

### **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna**

- ❖ The Government of India notified new centres as National Repositories under the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- ❖ “Bhavasagara” Referral Centre at CMLRE (Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology) in Kerala was designated as a National Repository.
- ❖ Agharkar Research Institute in Maharashtra was also notified as a National Repository.
- ❖ These centres will store and preserve deep-sea animals and biological samples.
- ❖ They will keep voucher specimens, DNA data, and new species found in Indian waters.

### **Sanderling Bird Migration**

- ❖ A Sanderling was spotted in Narcondam Island after a long-distance migration.
- ❖ The bird travelled about 7,400 km from South Australia, showing strong migration ability.
- ❖ Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) is a small, fast-moving shorebird found along sandy coasts.
- ❖ It migrates 3,000–10,000 km between breeding (Arctic regions) and wintering areas.
- ❖ Its conservation status is “Least Concern” as per IUCN, but habitat loss is a threat.

### **Climate Change on Antarctic Species**

- ❖ IUCN updated its Red List, marking key Antarctic species as endangered due to climate change.
- ❖ Emperor penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) is now Endangered, with its population expected to decline by half by the 2080s due to sea-ice loss.

- ❖ Antarctic fur seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*) is also Endangered, with its population falling by over 50% since 2000 due to reduced food (krill) availability.
- ❖ The Southern elephant seal (*Mirounga leonina*) is now Vulnerable due to disease outbreaks like Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- ❖ Melting sea ice, rising ocean temperatures, and climate change are the main causes affecting breeding, feeding, and survival.
- ❖ The Red List highlights the urgent need for global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect biodiversity.

### **Woolly-Necked Stork in Thanjavur**

- ❖ A rare sighting of the Woolly-Necked Stork was reported in paddy fields near Thanjavur.
- ❖ The Woolly-Necked Stork (*Ciconia episcopus*) is a large wading bird of the stork family (Ciconiidae).
- ❖ It is also called the White-necked Stork or Bishop Stork and is found across Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It prefers wetlands, riverbanks, ponds, grasslands, and agricultural fields where food is available.
- ❖ It is classified as Near Threatened by the IUCN due to habitat loss and wetland degradation.

### **White-rumped Vulture Conservation**

- ❖ A White-rumped vulture is being monitored in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The bird was radio-tagged by Bombay Natural History Society in December 2025 at Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra.
- ❖ It later moved to Karnataka, was treated, and re-released on April 7, 2026, by forest officials.
- ❖ The vulture was spotted on April 11, 2026, near Moyar village in Nilgiris district, Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ The effort aims to help the bird adapt and join other vultures in the Mudumalai-Bandipur-Wayanad region.

### **First Wildlife Offence**

- ❖ The first wildlife offence prosecuted through the Central Bureau of Investigation marked a significant step in wildlife law enforcement.

- ❖ A Delhi court convicted a person for illegal export of Shahtoosh shawls in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- ❖ The operation was jointly conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation, Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, Customs and the Wildlife Institute of India.
- ❖ Shahtoosh wool is obtained from the under-fleece of the Tibetan Antelope.
- ❖ Most Shahtoosh products are illegally produced in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ The trade of Shahtoosh has been globally banned since 1975 under CITES.
- ❖ The Chiru has the scientific name *Pantholops hodgsonii*.
- ❖ It lives in cold regions like the Tibetan Plateau and parts of Xinjiang and Qinghai in China, and migrates into India.
- ❖ Its conservation status is Schedule I and IV under the Wildlife Protection Act, Appendix I under CITES and Near Threatened under the IUCN Red List.
- ❖ Major threats include illegal poaching, habitat loss and harsh environmental conditions.

### **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.

### **NBA Guidelines on the Biodiversity Act**

- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) approved revised guidelines under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to improve the use of ABS (Access and Benefit Sharing) funds.
- ❖ Guidelines aim to ensure fair sharing of benefits from biological resources with local communities.
- ❖ When the source is known, 60–75% funds go to local communities and 25–40% to institutions.

- ❖ When the source is not known, 70% funds go to the NBA/State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs) and 30% to institutions.
- ❖ Digital repositories and proper documentation are promoted to track biological resources.
- ❖ The rules help prevent biopiracy and support biodiversity conservation.

### **Arsenic Pollution in the Salween River**

- ❖ The Salween River, also known as the Nu River in China, shows high arsenic contamination above safe limits.
- ❖ The Salween River is Asia's longest free-flowing (undammed) river, stretching about 3,300 km.
- ❖ Arsenic levels exceed the World Health Organization safety limit of 0.01 milligram per litre (mg/L), reaching up to 0.554 mg/L in some areas.
- ❖ Pollution is mainly due to unregulated mining activities in Myanmar's Shan State.
- ❖ Around 127 mining sites were identified in the basin, including rare earth and gold mining operations.
- ❖ Methane and heavy metal pollution threaten biodiversity and local communities depending on the river.

### **Rare Big Cat Convergence in Ranthambore**

- ❖ A tiger, leopard and cheetah were sighted together in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan, making it an extremely rare wildlife event in India.
- ❖ The sighting took place in Zone 9 near the Chakal River, with all three apex predators seen within a 1–2 km range at the same time.
- ❖ Experts stated that such coexistence is rare due to “niche partitioning”, where species reduce competition by using different habitats and hunting times.
- ❖ Tigers are dominant territorial carnivores, leopards are adaptable and avoid direct conflict, while cheetahs prefer open grasslands and rely on speed for hunting.
- ❖ Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan is a major biodiversity hotspot with around 70 tigers and rich wildlife diversity.

### **Dolphin Friends Initiative**

- ❖ The Forest Department in Prayagraj launched the Dolphin Friends volunteer network to conserve the endangered Ganges River dolphin.

- ❖ It is a community-based initiative to monitor dolphin movement, breeding, and habitat conditions in rivers.
- ❖ The aim is to protect dolphins during the breeding season (monsoon) and create awareness through local participation.
- ❖ Fishermen and boatmen are actively involved, along with researchers and teachers, in scientific monitoring.
- ❖ The initiative supports programmes like Project Dolphin and highlights dolphins as indicators of river ecosystem health.

### **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary - Eco-Sensitive Zone**

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a draft notification to declare an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The proposed ESZ will cover 408.7 sq km, including about 307 villages, to regulate activities and protect the surrounding ecosystem.
- ❖ Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZs) are buffer areas around national parks and wildlife sanctuaries that act as “shock absorbers” by controlling development, industrial activities, and land use changes.
- ❖ The sanctuary is located across five districts — Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, Hapur, Bijnor, and Amroha, making it an important habitat in western Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The notification aims to reduce human pressure, conserve biodiversity, and ensure sustainable development while protecting the Barasingha (swamp deer), a key species of the region.

### **Nilgiri Tahr Survey 2026**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has conducted the third synchronized survey of Nilgiri Tahr, a state animal, under Project Nilgiri Tahr.
- ❖ The survey was conducted across the Western Ghats in coordination with the Kerala Forest Department to avoid double-counting of animals moving between states.
- ❖ It covered 14 forest divisions, 43 ranges, 124 beats, and 177 survey blocks over more than 3,100 km from Kanniyakumari to Gudalur.
- ❖ A mobile application named “Varudai” is used for real-time data collection, GPS tracking, and reporting.
- ❖ Previous surveys recorded 1,031 Nilgiri Tahr in 2024 and 1,303 in 2025, showing population growth and habitat recolonisation.

### **Pichavaram Mangrove Ecosystem - Microplastic Contamination**

- ❖ A recent study has reported high microplastic contamination in fish and shellfish in the Pichavaram mangrove ecosystem.
- ❖ Microplastic levels were highest during the monsoon season at about 45% due to heavy runoff carrying plastic waste into the area.
- ❖ Fish such as Rock Mullet and Pearl Spot, and shellfish like blue swimming crab and mud crab showed high levels of microplastic ingestion.
- ❖ About 32% of particles were very small, less than 1 mm, mainly coloured fibres such as blue and red, made of common plastics like polyethylene, polypropylene and PET.
- ❖ Mangrove roots and sediments trap these plastics, causing accumulation and entry into the food chain, which creates ecological risks.

### **Grassroots Biodiversity Project**

- ❖ The Government of India launched a new biodiversity conservation project in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya.
- ❖ The project is led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) with the National Biodiversity Authority.
- ❖ It is supported by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with \$4.88 million in funding for 2025–2030.
- ❖ In Tamil Nadu, it covers Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Erode district and Mudumalai Tiger Reserve in Nilgiris district.
- ❖ In Meghalaya, it includes the Nokrek Biosphere Reserve in the West Garo Hills district.
- ❖ The project aims to strengthen local governance bodies, promote community participation, and support funding through Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

### **Turtle Migration**

- ❖ Olive Ridley turtle from Tamil Nadu has migrated towards the Sri Lanka Dome.
- ❖ The turtles were tagged and released off the Chennai coast under a satellite telemetry study.
- ❖ The study is conducted with the Wildlife Institute of India to track migration, nesting, and movement patterns.
- ❖ The Sri Lanka Dome is a seasonal upwelling zone that brings nutrient-rich waters, attracting plankton, fish, whales, and turtles.

- ❖ It forms from May, peaks in July, and declines by September, making it a key feeding hotspot in the Indian Ocean.

### **Chernobyl Disaster – 40 Years**

- ❖ The 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster was marked on 26 April 2026.
- ❖ Radioactive materials are unstable substances that release energy (radiation) when atoms break down; in a reactor, uranium atoms split (nuclear fission) to produce heat and energy.
- ❖ In 1986, an explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear plant released radioactive particles into the air, spreading across Europe and exposing millions.
- ❖ These particles travelled as dust and smoke, contaminating land, water and living beings, and causing diseases like cancer.
- ❖ The area became an exclusion zone and is now covered by a protective structure called New Safe Confinement.
- ❖ Recent risks during the Russia-Ukraine war, including damage near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, have raised fresh safety concerns.

## **REPORTS AND INDICATES**

### **Global Education Monitoring Report 2026**

- ❖ The Global Education Monitoring Report 2026, titled “Access and Equity: Countdown to 2030”, was released by UNESCO to assess progress towards SDG 4 (quality education).
- ❖ It is the first part of the Countdown to 2030 series, focusing on education access and equity across pre-primary to post-secondary levels.
- ❖ The report highlights global disparities in education linked to gender, location, wealth, and disability, despite some progress in enrolment rates.
- ❖ It warns that many countries are off-track to meet 2030 targets, with over 270 million children still out of school globally.

### **Climate Change Impact on Health in India**

- ❖ A new report titled “Under the Weather: India’s Climate-Health Intersections and Pathways to Resilience,” released by Dasra, shows that Climate change is affecting health systems and disease patterns in India.
- ❖ Around 40% of districts in India are at high risk due to extreme weather events like floods, heatwaves, and cyclones.

- ❖ Climate change is increasing diseases like cholera and hepatitis (water-borne) and dengue and malaria (vector-borne).
- ❖ Heatwaves cause problems like dehydration, heatstroke, and heart-related diseases, while air pollution leads to respiratory illness.
- ❖ Poor and vulnerable groups like rural people, women, and children are most affected and face higher risks.

### **Report on Women's Credit Market**

- ❖ NITI Aayog released a report titled "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market."
- ❖ Women hold a credit portfolio of ₹76 lakh crore, which is 26% of total system credit.
- ❖ Women's credit has increased 4.8 times from 2017 to 2025, showing growth in financial participation.
- ❖ Credit penetration among women rose from 19% in 2017 to 36% in 2025.
- ❖ Growth is strong in business loans, with women borrowers increasingly shifting to retail and commercial credit.

### **Land Inequality in India**

- ❖ A report by the World Inequality Database highlighted high land inequality in rural India.
- ❖ About 46% of rural households are landless, showing very unequal land distribution.
- ❖ Land inequality is very high with a Gini index of around 71 (scale 0–100).
- ❖ Top 10% households own about 44% of land, top 5% own 32%, and top 1% own 18%.
- ❖ The study used SECC (Socio-Economic and Caste Census) 2011 data covering about 270,000 villages and 650 million people.
- ❖ Areas with better farming conditions and colonial landlord systems show higher land concentration.
- ❖ Social factors like the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have higher landlessness, and market access has a limited impact on reducing inequality.

### **Global Development Financing Report 2026**

- ❖ The report was released by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, highlighting global financing challenges for development.

- ❖ It shows issues like a weak global economy, low-income levels, and high borrowing costs in developing countries.
- ❖ It notes a \$4 trillion gap in funding for Sustainable Development Goals.
- ❖ It stresses strengthening domestic finance, private sector growth, and resilient financial systems.
- ❖ It highlights the Sevilla Commitment adopted to improve global financing.

### **Middle East Conflict Impacts on Asia-Pacific**

- ❖ The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) released the report titled “Military Escalation in the Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia and the Pacific.”
- ❖ The report highlights that military escalation in the Middle East is affecting human development across Asia and the Pacific.
- ❖ Rising fuel, transport, and input costs are reducing purchasing power, increasing food insecurity, and straining government budgets.
- ❖ A ceasefire agreement supported by Pakistan came into effect on 7 April 2026 to ease tensions.
- ❖ Output losses in Asia-Pacific are estimated between \$97–299 billion (0.3–0.8% of GDP), with South Asia most affected.
- ❖ Around 8.8 million people may fall into poverty, with a major impact in Iran.
- ❖ Low-skilled workers are expected to face higher unemployment, and human development progress may decline significantly if conflict continues.

### **ILO Report on Universal Social Protection**

- ❖ The International Labour Organization (ILO) released a report on universal social protection in changing labour markets.
- ❖ The report titled “Universal social protection in changing labour markets: Protecting workers in all types of employment”.
- ❖ Social protection includes benefits like health care, unemployment support, maternity benefits, and pensions.
- ❖ It aims to reduce poverty, improve economic stability, and address gender inequalities.
- ❖ The report stresses the inclusion of gig, self-employed, and informal workers under social security systems.

### **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.

### **Global Electricity Review 2026**

- ❖ The Ember report highlights major global electricity trends and clean energy growth in 2025.
- ❖ Renewable energy met all new electricity demand growth in 2025, stopping the increase in fossil fuel generation.
- ❖ Solar power grew by 636 terawatt-hours (TWh) to 2,778 TWh and met 75% of the 849 TWh demand rise.
- ❖ Renewables reached 33.8% share, surpassing coal (33.0%) for the first time in 100 years.
- ❖ Fossil fuel generation declined by 38 TWh, with major drops in China (-56 TWh) and India (-52 TWh).
- ❖ India's renewable generation increased by 98 TWh, with solar adding 53 TWh and wind 22 TWh.
- ❖ India's electricity demand rose by 49 TWh, while coal generation declined by about 44 TWh.

### **Top Methane Emitting Landfills 2025**

- ❖ The "Spotlight on the Top 25 Methane Plumes in 2025: Landfills" report, released by the University of California, Los Angeles, identified the top global methane-emitting waste sites.
- ❖ Report lists 25 landfill sites across 18 countries with the highest methane emissions (3.6–7.6 tonnes/hour), based on satellite data.
- ❖ India's Jawahar Nagar landfill in Telangana (5.9 tonnes/hour) ranked 4th, and Kanjurmarg landfill in Mumbai (4.9 tonnes/hour) ranked 12th globally.

- ❖ Data analysed nearly 3,000 methane plumes from over 700 waste sites using satellites like NASA EMIT and Carbon Mapper.
- ❖ Landfills contribute about 20% of global methane emissions, making them a key target for climate action.
- ❖ Methane is 86 times more heat-trapping than carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and causes over 45% of recent global warming.

### **UN ESCAP Economic Survey 2026**

- ❖ The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific released its 2026 Economic Survey, highlighting rising energy and food costs.
- ❖ Inflation in Asia-Pacific is projected to rise to 4.6% in 2026 from 3.5% in 2025.
- ❖ Economic growth in developing economies is expected to slow to 4.0% from 4.6%.
- ❖ Energy, gas and fertilizer prices increased sharply, with gas up ~55% and urea up ~35%.
- ❖ India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is projected at 6.4% in 2026 with inflation at 4.4%.
- ❖ Rising costs may reduce purchasing power and affect low-income households the most.

### **Extreme Heat and Agriculture Report 2026**

- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organization and World Meteorological Organization jointly released the report "Extreme Heat and Agriculture" on April 22, 2026 (Earth Day).
- ❖ The report warns that extreme heat could make farm work unsafe for up to 250 days a year by century's end.
- ❖ Farm workers are 35 times more likely to die from heat exposure, with about 470 billion working hours lost annually.
- ❖ Crop yields decline with rising temperatures, with losses of up to 7.5% per 1°C increase.
- ❖ Around 1 billion livelihoods are at risk, especially in regions like the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
- ❖ The report also highlights "thermal safety margin" reduction and rise of flash droughts, worsening agricultural stress and productivity.

## STATES

### **Elderly Support Bill 2026 - Telangana**

- ❖ Telangana passed the Telangana Employees Accountability and Monitoring of Parental Support Bill, 2026, to ensure financial support for elderly parents.
- ❖ The Bill makes it legally compulsory for government, private employees, and public representatives to support their parents.
- ❖ If neglected, up to 15% salary or ₹10,000 (whichever is lower) can be deducted and given to parents.
- ❖ It expands the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, by including more categories, like private employees.

### **Balirajgarh Excavation**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has started new excavation work in 2026 at the historic Balirajgarh site.
- ❖ Balirajgarh is located in the Madhubani district of Bihar and was an important centre of the ancient Videha Kingdom.
- ❖ The site is also linked with King Bali, a legendary ruler in Indian mythology, and is believed to be his capital.
- ❖ Excavations have revealed cultural remains from the Sunga, Kushan, Gupta, and Pala periods, showing long historical continuity.
- ❖ It was declared a protected monument of national importance in 1938 under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904.

### **Varkala – Zero Waste Initiative**

- ❖ Varkala has been selected under the global “20 Cities Towards Zero Waste” initiative for its strong efforts in sustainable waste management and environmental conservation.
- ❖ The initiative is led by the United Nations Environment Programme and UN-Habitat to promote eco-friendly urban systems and reduce waste generation worldwide.
- ❖ It focuses on reducing waste at source, increasing recycling and reuse, and promoting a circular economy where resources are used efficiently instead of being discarded.
- ❖ Varkala’s selection highlights its innovative waste management practices, improved sanitation systems, and commitment to reducing landfill waste and pollution.

- ❖ The initiative also encourages global cooperation among cities, sharing of best practices, and supports achieving sustainable development goals related to a clean environment and urban sustainability.

### **Amaravati - Capital Bill**

- ❖ The Union Government is planning to introduce the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, in the Lok Sabha.
- ❖ The main aim of this Bill is to officially recognise Amaravati as the only and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh State.
- ❖ The Bill proposes to amend the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- ❖ Earlier, Hyderabad was declared as the joint capital for both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana for a period of 10 years after bifurcation.
- ❖ The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly passed a resolution on March 28, 2026, requesting the Centre to give legal status to Amaravati.
- ❖ After the Bill is passed and notified in the Gazette, Amaravati will become the legally recognised capital.

### **Gig Workers Bill 2026 - Telangana**

- ❖ Telangana Assembly passed the Telangana Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill aims to provide legal recognition and social security to gig workers like delivery workers and drivers.
- ❖ It requires platform companies to register workers and submit transaction details regularly.
- ❖ Similar laws have been passed in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, and Bihar.

### **Permanent Capital of Andhra Pradesh - Amaravati**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was passed by the Lok Sabha to declare Amaravati as the sole capital.
- ❖ The Bill declares Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh with effect from June 2, 2024.
- ❖ It was passed by the Lok Sabha on April 1, 2026 and will be sent to the Rajya Sabha and then to the President for assent.
- ❖ It provides the statutory backing and prevents any future attempt to change the capital decision.

- ❖ It was introduced by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai as a public bill.
- ❖ Earlier, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy proposed a three-capital model (Visakhapatnam–administrative, Amaravati–legislative, Kurnool–judicial).
- ❖ It is among the first instances of Parliament formally declaring a specific location as a state capital.
- ❖ The amendment modifies the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which had Hyderabad as a temporary joint capital for 10 years.

### **Right to Promotion Consideration - Fundamental Right**

- ❖ The Punjab and Haryana High Court ruled that the right to be considered for promotion is a fundamental right in public employment.
- ❖ The case involved a junior engineer who was excluded from the Departmental Promotion Committee meeting due to an administrative error.
- ❖ The Court stated that eligible employees must be fairly considered for promotion under Articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution.
- ❖ It clarified that while promotion itself is not guaranteed, fair consideration for promotion is a protected right.
- ❖ The Court granted notional promotion with retrospective effect and ordered regular meetings of promotion committees.
- ❖ This principle follows earlier rulings of the Supreme Court of India, reinforcing equality in government jobs.

### **Women Pilots under Namu Drone Didi Yojana**

- ❖ Karnataka has the highest number of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs – Self Help Groups) trained as drone pilots under Namu Drone Didi Yojana.
- ❖ A total of 145 SHG women members in Karnataka have received drone pilot training, which is the highest among all states in India.
- ❖ The scheme aims to provide 15,000 agricultural drones to women SHGs during the period from 2023–24 to 2025–26.
- ❖ Across India, a total of 1,094 SHG members have been trained as drone pilots under this programme.
- ❖ The training helps women use drones for spraying fertilizers and pesticides, which improves farming efficiency and crop production.

### **Safe Reuse of Treated Water Policy 2026**

- ❖ Uttar Pradesh (UP) cabinet approved the Safe Reuse of Treated Water Policy, 2026, to promote large-scale reuse of wastewater.
- ❖ The policy was supported by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) (Centre for Science and Environment) and aims to shift towards a circular economy in water management.
- ❖ It sets phased targets: 50% reuse by 2030 and 100% reuse in later phases where Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) exist, and gradual targets up to 2045 in non-operational areas.
- ❖ The treated water will be reused in agriculture, industry, construction, and urban landscaping to reduce freshwater use and groundwater extraction.
- ❖ City-Level Reuse Action Plans (CLRAPs) are being prepared; Agra and Prayagraj have started projects worth ₹93 crore and ₹1,625 crore, respectively.

### **Meghalaya - Satellite Internet**

- ❖ Meghalaya signed an MoU with Starlink to boost satellite internet services.
- ❖ Meghalaya became the third state, after Maharashtra and Gujarat, to partner with Starlink.
- ❖ Starlink was launched in 2019 by SpaceX to provide internet using satellites.
- ❖ Satellite internet uses satellites in orbits like Low Earth Orbit (LEO) to provide connectivity without cables.
- ❖ It helps connect remote areas, allows fast setup, and works during disasters.

### **1500-Year-Old Reservoir - Elephanta Island**

- ❖ The Archaeological Survey of India discovered a 1,500-year-old stepped reservoir on Elephanta Island, East of Mumbai.
- ❖ The reservoir is T-shaped with 20 stone steps, showing advanced ancient water management.
- ❖ Around 60 coins, including those of Krishnaraja of the Kalachuri dynasty, were found.
- ❖ Amphorae and jars indicate trade links with Rome and West Asia.
- ❖ Artefacts like beads, bangles, and terracotta items show cultural and craft activity.
- ❖ The island was an important ancient trading hub with multiple ports.

### **Cancer as Notifiable Disease**

- ❖ The Telangana government declared cancer as a notifiable disease through a new government order.
- ❖ All hospitals, clinics, AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy) centres, and labs must report cancer cases and deaths within one month.
- ❖ The data will be collected through a central online portal to keep proper records.
- ❖ MNJ Institute of Oncology will verify the data before sending it to the National Cancer Registry.
- ❖ The aim is early detection, better treatment and improved healthcare planning.

### **Puducherry Elections 2026 - Robot 'Nila'**

- ❖ Unique polling stations and a humanoid robot 'Nila' were used during the Puducherry Assembly Elections 2026 to attract voters.
- ❖ Theme-based polling booths showcased Tamil art, eco-friendly materials, and freedom history.
- ❖ At V.O. Chidambaranar Higher Secondary School, robot 'Nila' welcomed voters and assisted them.
- ❖ Keezhur polling station highlighted its role in the 1954 referendum for the merger of French territories with India.
- ❖ Voters were offered traditional food items, and first-time voters received saplings.
- ❖ The initiative aimed to increase voter awareness and participation.

### **First Community Radio in Sikkim**

- ❖ The Indian Army launched Sikkim's first border village community radio station named "Sikkim Sundari."
- ❖ The initiative was taken by the Trishakti Corps in Sikkim to improve communication in remote border areas.
- ❖ The radio will broadcast local news, weather updates, and government schemes.
- ❖ It will promote local culture and community participation.
- ❖ It aims to enhance connectivity in the high-altitude border villages of Sikkim.

### **World Bank Funding for Amaravati Project**

- ❖ The World Bank released \$340 million for Phase I of Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh.

- ❖ An additional \$130–150 million is expected to be released in April 2026.
- ❖ The project is jointly supported by the World Bank and Asian Development Bank with a total commitment of \$1.6 billion.
- ❖ The Government of India has also committed about ₹15,000 crore for the project.
- ❖ It is implemented under the Amaravati Integrated Urban Development Programme (AIUDP) using a Program-for-Results (PforR) model.

### **Lanjia Saora Community**

- ❖ The Lanjia Saora community is preserving its unique visual heritage, like traditional metal earrings, metal earrings, music, dance, nature-based religious beliefs and tattoos, while adapting to modern lifestyles.
- ❖ They are a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) mainly found in the forested hills of Odisha, especially Rayagada and Gajapati districts.
- ❖ They are known for Saora paintings called Idital, which are wall murals used for ritual and spiritual communication.
- ❖ Their lifestyle includes shifting cultivation, forest-based livelihood, and strong community living.

### **Karnataka Menstrual Leave Policy**

- ❖ Karnataka High Court directed the State to strictly implement the menstrual leave policy across all sectors, recognising it under Article 21 (Right to Life).
- ❖ The policy mandates one day of menstrual leave per month for women aged 18–52 years in registered establishments.
- ❖ The Court ordered the State to issue guidelines to ensure uniform implementation in both organised and unorganised sectors.
- ❖ It stated that recognising biological differences does not violate equality under Article 14 but supports dignity and health.
- ❖ The proposed Karnataka Menstrual Leave and Hygiene Bill, 2025, will formalise the policy and rules must be framed without delay after its enactment.
- ❖ The policy currently applies to workers under laws like the Factories Act, Shops and Establishments Act, Plantation Labour Act, Beedi and Cigar Workers Act and Motor Transport Workers Act.

### **Sports Genomics Programme**

- ❖ Gujarat launched the Sports Genomics Programme to create an athlete genome database before the 2030 Commonwealth Games.

- ❖ The programme aims to build a Gujarat Athlete Genome Database combining genetic, physiological, and performance data.
- ❖ It focuses on identifying talent early based on traits like speed, endurance, and strength.
- ❖ Genetic factors are estimated to contribute up to 66% to athletic performance.
- ❖ It supports injury prevention, personalised training, and performance optimisation.
- ❖ Concerns include genetic discrimination, privacy issues, and ethical use of athlete data.

### **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.

### **Women's Quota Law in Union Territories**

- ❖ Women's quota law came into effect in the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Puducherry from 17 April 2026.
- ❖ The Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023, provides 1/3 reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies.
- ❖ Similar provisions for J&K and Puducherry were made through separate amendment laws in 2023.
- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) issued a gazette notification to implement the law.
- ❖ The reservation will become effective after delimitation based on the Census 2027.

### **Water Neutral Railway Depot**

- ❖ Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad became India's first 'water neutral' railway depot.
- ❖ It saves around 1.60 lakh litres of water every day through reuse and treatment systems.
- ❖ The depot treats wastewater using phytoremediation, a natural process using plants to clean water.
- ❖ Water is further purified through filtration and UV disinfection for reuse in railway operations.
- ❖ The initiative supports water conservation, reduces freshwater use, and promotes eco-friendly railway operations.

### **Karnataka Rohith Vemula Bill 2026**

- ❖ Karnataka Cabinet approved the Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Discrimination, Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill aims to protect the rights and dignity of Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in higher education institutions.
- ❖ It covers public, private, charitable, and deemed universities in Karnataka.
- ❖ The Bill lists around 30 forms of discrimination, including denial of admission, caste-based abuse, and financial harassment.
- ❖ It provides punishment, including imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹10 lakh for violations.
- ❖ The law also establishes enquiry and appeal mechanisms to address complaints of discrimination in institutions.

### **Punjab Anti-Sacrilege Law 2026**

- ❖ Punjab Governor gave assent to the Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ❖ The Bill was passed unanimously in the Punjab Legislative Assembly on 13 April 2026.
- ❖ It makes sacrilege (beadbi) of Sri Guru Granth Sahib a punishable offence under a stricter legal framework.
- ❖ It provides punishment, including life imprisonment and a fine of up to ₹25 lakh for such offences.
- ❖ The law strengthens the earlier Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar Act, 2008.

- ❖ It aims to deter sacrilege incidents and ensure the protection of the religious sanctity of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

### **3D Chip Packaging Unit in Odisha**

- ❖ Odisha will host the ground-breaking of India's first Advanced 3D semiconductor chip packaging unit.
- ❖ The unit will be set up in Bhubaneswar using glass substrate-based advanced packaging technology.
- ❖ It will introduce 3D heterogeneous integration (advanced chip stacking technology) in India.
- ❖ Odisha becomes the first state in India to have both semiconductor fabrication and advanced packaging units.

### **Gold Mining Project**

- ❖ India's first large-scale private gold mining project is set to start operations in Andhra Pradesh in May 2026.
- ❖ The Jonnagiri gold project is located in the Kurnool district.
- ❖ It is developed by Geomysore Services India Private Limited with support from private sector partners.
- ❖ It is expected to produce about 1,000 kilograms of gold per year for the next 15 years.
- ❖ The project has estimated gold resources of about 13.1 tonnes, with potential up to 42.5 tonnes.

### **Market Intervention Scheme - Potato Procurement**

- ❖ The Government approved potato procurement in Uttar Pradesh under the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) for 2025–26.
- ❖ The procurement price is fixed at ₹6.5 per kilogram for potatoes.
- ❖ Around 20 lakh metric tonnes of potatoes will be procured in the state.
- ❖ The Government of India will provide financial support of about ₹203.15 crore.
- ❖ The scheme aims to support farmers when market prices fall due to excess supply or other factors.
- ❖ It also includes the procurement of chickpeas in Andhra Pradesh and pigeon pea in Karnataka.

### **Marine Spatial Plan in Odisha**

- ❖ Odisha became the first state to launch a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP).
- ❖ MSP is a tool to map and manage marine areas for activities like fishing, tourism, and conservation.
- ❖ The plan aims to balance economic growth and environmental protection.
- ❖ The state signed an MoU with the National Centre for Coastal Research under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- ❖ It is part of India–Norway cooperation on sustainable ocean management.

### **Vibrant Village Programme II - Kathua Villages**

- ❖ Six border villages in Kathua, Jammu and Kashmir have been included under the Vibrant Village Programme Phase II.
- ❖ The selected villages are Bobiya, Kadyala, Gajnal, Karol Krishna, Rathua, and Gujjar Chak along the International Border.
- ❖ The scheme aims to improve infrastructure like roads, healthcare, education, electricity, and drinking water in these areas.
- ❖ It focuses on the last-mile delivery of welfare schemes and full coverage of eligible households.
- ❖ The programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for the development of remote and strategic border villages.
- ❖ It helps reduce migration, improve livelihoods, and strengthen border security in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Mushroom Mission 2026**

- ❖ Andhra Pradesh has launched its first Mushroom Mission with an investment of ₹13,000 crore.
- ❖ The mission aims to make the state the largest mushroom producer in India.
- ❖ It targets an annual production of 67,500 tonnes, higher than Bihar's current output.
- ❖ Around 1.62 lakh mushroom units will be set up across the state.
- ❖ The scheme focuses on small farmers and Self-Help Groups (SHGs) for employment generation.
- ❖ The government will provide about 40% subsidy support to promote participation.

### **Virli Khandar Excavation**

- ❖ A new excavation at Virli Khandar revealed unique burial structures and artefacts.
- ❖ It is a 2,500-year-old megalithic burial site located in the Bhandara district, Maharashtra.
- ❖ Excavation found composite structures with stone circles and Menhirs, different from dolmen burials.
- ❖ Pots were placed upside down in a systematic pattern over black cotton soil for stability.
- ❖ Artefacts include a copper necklace, iron tools, carnelian beads, a gold earring and bone remains.
- ❖ The site dates around 500 BCE, with cultural evidence ranging from 1000 BCE to 300 CE.

## **PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS**

### **First Queer MP - Menaka Guruswamy**

- ❖ Menaka Guruswamy has become India's first openly queer Member of Parliament (MP).
- ❖ She took oath as a Rajya Sabha member on April 6, 2026.
- ❖ She was elected with support from the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) from West Bengal.
- ❖ She is a senior advocate in the Supreme Court of India.
- ❖ She was part of the legal team in the 2018 case that decriminalised homosexuality by reading down Section 377 (Indian Penal Code).

### **Mohsina Kidwai's demise**

- ❖ Mohsina Kidwai, veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister, passed away in Noida at the age of 94.
- ❖ She served as Union Minister in departments like Labour, Health and Family Welfare, Rural Development, Transport, and Urban Development.
- ❖ She began her political career in 1960 as a member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council and later became a state minister.
- ❖ She was elected to the Lok Sabha from Azamgarh in 1978 and also served as a Rajya Sabha member.

- ❖ She was a senior leader of the Indian National Congress and a member of the Congress Working Committee and Central Election Committee.
- ❖ She is one of the few leaders to serve in four legislatures: the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha.

### **Singer Asha Bhosle's Demise**

- ❖ Asha Bhosle passed away at the age of 92 in Mumbai.
- ❖ She sang over 12,000 songs in 20+ languages, making her one of the most prolific singers in the world.
- ❖ She was awarded the Padma Vibhushan and the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for her contribution to music.

### **Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha - Harivansh**

- ❖ Harivansh from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was elected unopposed for a third consecutive term as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on April 17, 2026.
- ❖ In a first, a nominated Member of Parliament (MP) was made to occupy the chair.
- ❖ His election was unopposed, reflecting a rare moment of consensus in the Upper House.

### **Samridhh Gram Initiative – WSIS Prizes**

- ❖ Samridhh Gram Initiative has been nominated for the WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Prizes 2026.
- ❖ It is launched by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) using BharatNet broadband.
- ❖ It provides one-stop digital services through Samridhhi Kendras in rural areas.
- ❖ Services include telemedicine, education, e-governance, and smart agriculture.
- ❖ It aims to reduce the rural-digital divide and improve village services.
- ❖ WSIS Prizes are given by the International Telecommunication Union for ICT (Information and Communication Technology) projects.

### **Breakthrough Prizes 2026**

- ❖ The Breakthrough Prize Foundation announced the Breakthrough Prizes 2026, known as the “Oscars of Science”.
- ❖ The foundation was started by tech leaders like Sergey Brin and Mark Zuckerberg.

- ❖ Life sciences winners include Jean Bennett, Katherine A. High, Albert Maguire, Stuart Orkin and Swee Lay Thein; Rosa Rademakers and Bryan Traynor.
- ❖ The mathematics prize was given to Frank Merle; the physics prize to Muon g-2 teams at CERN, Brookhaven, and Fermilab.
- ❖ A special prize was given to David Gross; the event was held in Santa Monica, USA.

### **Goldman Environmental Prize 2026**

- ❖ Goldman Environmental Foundation awarded the 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize to an all-women group for the first time.
- ❖ The prize was started in 1989 by the Goldman Environmental Foundation and is called the “Green Nobel Prize”.
- ❖ The award honours grassroots environmental activists from six regions of the world.
- ❖ Six women winners are Iroko Tanshi (Nigeria), Borim Kim (South Korea), Sarah Finch (United Kingdom), Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea), Alannah Acaq Hurley (United States), and Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia).
- ❖ It recognises work in climate change, biodiversity conservation, and the protection of Indigenous rights.

### **Nadendla Bhaskar Rao's demise**

- ❖ Nadendla Bhaskar Rao passed away at the age of 90 in Hyderabad.
- ❖ He was a former Chief Minister of united Andhra Pradesh and served briefly in 1984.
- ❖ He was a founding member of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) under N.T. Rama Rao in 1982.
- ❖ He also served as a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA), Minister, and Member of Parliament (MP) from Khammam, Telangana.
- ❖ His tenure in 1984 led to a major political and constitutional crisis, after which N.T. Rama Rao was reinstated as Chief Minister.

### **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.

## **SPORTS**

### **Para Archer of the Year 2025**

- ❖ Sheetal Devi was named Para Archer of the Year 2025 by World Archery for her outstanding performance.
- ❖ She is a 19-year-old archer from Jammu and Kashmir.
- ❖ She became the first armless female archer to win gold at the World Para Archery Championships in Gwangju, South Korea.
- ❖ She won three medals (gold, silver, bronze) in one championship, showing consistency at the international level.
- ❖ She also won a bronze medal at the Paris Paralympics and silver medals at the Asian Para Games and Asian Championships.

### **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026**

- ❖ Khelo India Tribal Games concluded in Chhattisgarh, where Karnataka emerged as the overall champion in the medal tally.
- ❖ The Games were organised to promote sports among tribal communities and to identify, nurture, and showcase indigenous sporting talent from across India.

- ❖ Karnataka secured the first position with 23 gold, 8 silver, and 7 bronze medals.
- ❖ Odisha ranked second with 21 gold, 15 silver, and 21 bronze medals, while Jharkhand finished third with 16 gold medals.

### **Asian Wrestling Championships 2026**

- ❖ At the 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), Iran secured the top position, while India finished 5th with 17 medals.
- ❖ The 22nd edition of the championships was held from 6–12 April 2026.
- ❖ India won 2 gold, 7 silver, and 8 bronze medals in total.
- ❖ Sujeet Kalkal and Abhimanyu Mandwal won gold in the men's freestyle 65 kg and 70 kg categories.
- ❖ The men's freestyle team won 7 medals, the Greco-Roman team 5 medals, and the women's team 5 medals.

### **Asian Boxing Championships 2026**

- ❖ India finished 2nd with 16 medals at the 2026 Asian Boxing Championships held in Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia), while Kazakhstan topped the medal tally.
- ❖ India won 5 gold, 3 silver, and 8 bronze medals in total.
- ❖ Vishvanath Suresh won gold in the men's 50 kg category, ending India's 5-year wait for a men's Asian title.
- ❖ Sachin Siwach won silver in the men's 60 kg category.
- ❖ Indian women boxers won 10 medals, including 4 gold medals.
- ❖ India had the highest total medal count but ranked second due to fewer gold medals than Kazakhstan.

### **OmegaBall Introduction**

- ❖ Indian Institute of Technology Madras introduced OmegaBall, a new three-team football format, in 2026.
- ❖ The institute plans to create a national-level OmegaBall club in India.
- ❖ OmegaBall is a football game where three teams play together on a circular field with three goals.
- ❖ Each team attacks two goals and defends one goal at the same time.
- ❖ The format increases speed, scoring chances, and continuous gameplay.
- ❖ OmegaBall is already played in countries like the United States, Brazil, and parts of Europe.

### **Laureus World Sports Awards 2026**

- ❖ The Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 were held in Madrid, Spain, to honour global sporting excellence for performances in 2025.
- ❖ Carlos Alcaraz (tennis) won Sportsman of the Year, Aryna Sabalenka (tennis) won Sportswoman of the Year, and Paris Saint-Germain (football club) won Team of the Year.
- ❖ Lando Norris (F1) won Breakthrough of the Year, and Rory McIlroy (golf) won Comeback of the Year.
- ❖ Lamine Yamal (football) won Young Sportsman of the Year, and Chloe Kim (snowboarding) won Action Sportsman of the Year.
- ❖ Gabriel Araújo won Sportsman with Disability, Toni Kroos received the Sporting Inspiration Award, and Nadia Comăneci got the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- ❖ India Women's Cricket Team was nominated for Team of the Year but did not win.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup 2026**

- ❖ India topped the medal tally at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 held in Cairo, Egypt.
- ❖ India won a total of 16 medals, including 5 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronzes.
- ❖ Hemant Burman won a silver medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions event.
- ❖ India also won a bronze medal in the Trap Mixed Team event.
- ❖ The next major event is the ISSF Junior World Championship to be held in Suhl in June 2026.

## **IMPORTANT DAYS**

### **International Day of Zero Waste 2026 – March 30**

- ❖ It is organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat to promote better waste management.
- ❖ The day aims to reduce waste generation and promote sustainable consumption and production.
- ❖ Every year, the world generates about 2.1–2.3 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, which may reach 3.8 billion tonnes by 2050.
- ❖ Around 1 billion tonnes of food was wasted in 2022, nearly one-fifth of total food.
- ❖ Food waste causes up to 10% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and about 14% of methane emissions.

### **Utkal Divas 2026 - April 01**

- ❖ Utkal Divas, also known as Odisha Foundation Day, is celebrated to mark the formation of Odisha.
- ❖ Odisha was formed on 1 April 1936 by separating Odia-speaking regions from different provinces under British rule.
- ❖ It is the first state in India formed on a linguistic basis to protect the Odia language and cultural identity.
- ❖ The movement for a separate state was led by leaders like Madhusudan Das and Gopabandhu Das.
- ❖ Initially, the state included six districts: Cuttack, Puri, Baleswar, Sambalpur, Koraput, and Ganjam.

### **RBI Foundation Day 2026 - April 01**

- ❖ It was established in 1935 under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- ❖ It is the central bank of India and manages inflation, money supply, and banking system.
- ❖ Its headquarters shifted from Kolkata to Mumbai in 1937 and it was nationalised in 1949.
- ❖ It performs functions like monetary policy, currency issue, and foreign exchange management (Foreign Exchange Management Act – FEMA).
- ❖ It introduced E-cheques and MuleHunter.AI for fraud detection.

### **International Day for Mine Awareness 2026 - April 04**

- ❖ The day was declared by the United Nations General Assembly in 2005 and has been observed since 2006.
- ❖ The main aim is to spread awareness about the dangers of landmines and to support their removal to protect people.
- ❖ Mine action includes activities like detecting and removing landmines, helping victims, and making land safe for use.
- ❖ Landmines, UXO (Unexploded Ordnance), and IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices) are dangerous and can harm or kill civilians even after wars end.
- ❖ The theme of the year 2026 is “Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action”.

### **World Health Day 2026 - April 07**

- ❖ The day aims to promote trust in science, encourage the use of evidence-based health decisions, and support science-led solutions for a healthier future.
- ❖ The day is organised by the WHO and launched a year-long global campaign promoting scientific collaboration for health.
- ❖ The campaign focuses on the “One Health approach,” which connects the health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment.
- ❖ Two major events support the campaign: the International One Health Summit (hosted by France under G7 Presidency) and the Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres (7–9 April 2026).
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Together for health. Stand with science.”

### **International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Rwanda Genocide 2026 - April 07**

- ❖ The day aims to remember victims, promote peace through education and dialogue, and prevent future genocides.
- ❖ The day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in 2003 to remember the victims of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.
- ❖ The genocide began on 7 April 1994, when the Tutsi minority were targeted by a Hutu -led government.
- ❖ In about 100 days, more than 1 million Tutsi were killed, along with moderate Hutu and others who opposed the violence.
- ❖ UNESCO promotes education about genocide to spread awareness and prevent discrimination and violence.

### **Prevention of Blindness Week 2026 - April 1/7**

- ❖ It is observed every year in the first week of April to spread awareness about eye health and prevent vision loss.
- ❖ The aim is to reduce avoidable blindness through awareness, early detection, and timely treatment.
- ❖ Glaucoma is a major cause of permanent blindness and is called the “silent thief of sight.”
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Uniting for a Glaucoma-Free World.”

### **Raising Day of Army Medical Corps 2026 – April 03**

- ❖ The day marks the formation of the Army Medical Corps on April 3, 1943.
- ❖ It was formed by merging the Indian Medical Service (IMS), Indian Medical Department (IMD), and Indian Hospital Corps (IHC).
- ❖ The Corps provides medical services to the armed forces during war and peace.
- ❖ Its motto is “Sarve Santu Niramaya” (Let all be free from disease).

### **CRPF Valour Day 2026 - April 09**

- ❖ The day commemorates the bravery of CRPF soldiers in the 1965 battle at the Rann of Kutch.
- ❖ Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) companies defended against a brigade-level attack by the Pakistan Army.
- ❖ CRPF was established in 1939 and became a statutory force under the CRPF Act, 1949.
- ❖ It plays an important role in maintaining law and order, counter-insurgency, and conducting elections in India.

### **International Day of Human Space Flight 2026 - April 12**

- ❖ On 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin of the Soviet Union became the first human to travel into space and orbit Earth.
- ❖ The United Nations General Assembly declared this day in 2011.
- ❖ The day highlights the importance of space science and technology for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improving human life.

### **National Safe Motherhood Day 2026 - April 11**

- ❖ The day aims to reduce maternal and infant deaths by improving healthcare access and awareness.
- ❖ It is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi.
- ❖ The day was proposed by White Ribbon Alliance India and declared by the Government of India in 2003.
- ❖ It focuses on safe pregnancy, skilled birth care, antenatal (before birth) and postnatal (after birth) services.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving No Mother Behind.”

### **Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Day 2026 - April 13**

- ❖ The massacre occurred on April 13, 1919, at Jallianwala Bagh during British rule.
- ❖ People had gathered peacefully to protest against the Rowlatt Act.
- ❖ British officer Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire on unarmed civilians.
- ❖ The incident became a turning point in India's freedom struggle and led to the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement by Mahatma Gandhi.
- ❖ The Hunter Commission was set up to investigate the incident, but did not give strict punishment to Dyer.

### **Equality Day/ Bhim Jayanti 2026 - April 14**

- ❖ It marks the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar, known as the Architect of the Indian Constitution.
- ❖ The day is celebrated to promote equality among all people regardless of caste, religion, or gender.
- ❖ M. K. Stalin declared 14 April as "Samathuva Naal" (Equality Day) in Tamil Nadu in 2022.
- ❖ Dr Ambedkar worked for social justice and played a key role in drafting the Constitution of India.
- ❖ He was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee and is called the Father of the Constitution of India.
- ❖ He took part in all three Round Table Conferences and signed the Poona Pact with M.K Gandhi.
- ❖ He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1990.

### **Himachal Day 2026 - April 15**

- ❖ The day is observed to mark the formation of Himachal Pradesh in 1948.
- ❖ On this day, around 28–30 princely states were merged to form a single administrative unit.
- ❖ It was first formed as a Chief Commissioner's Province in 1948 and became a Union Territory in 1950.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh became a full state on January 25, 1971 as the 18th state of India.
- ❖ Shimla is the capital and was once the summer capital of British India.

### **World Hemophilia Day 2026 - April 17**

- ❖ The day is observed to raise awareness about bleeding disorders and improve diagnosis and care.
- ❖ It is organised by the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH).
- ❖ Hemophilia is a genetic disorder caused by a deficiency of clotting factors VIII (Type A) or IX (Type B), leading to prolonged bleeding.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Diagnosis: First Step to Care”, highlighting that over 75% of patients remain undiagnosed globally.

### **Siachen Day 2026 – April 13**

- ❖ It commemorates Operation Meghdoot, launched in 1984 to secure the Siachen Glacier, the world’s highest battlefield.
- ❖ The operation aimed to pre-empt Pakistan’s moves to occupy key heights in the region.
- ❖ Soldiers operate in extreme conditions with temperatures below  $-50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and high-altitude terrain.
- ❖ The day honours the courage, sacrifice, and endurance of soldiers guarding the glacier.

### **World Chagas Disease Day 2026 – April 14**

- ❖ The day is marked by the World Health Organization to raise awareness about Chagas disease.
- ❖ Chagas disease is caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi* and spreads mainly through triatomine bug bites or contaminated food.
- ❖ Around 8 million people are infected globally, and about 10,000 deaths occur every year.
- ❖ Women, especially of childbearing age, are a key focus due to the risk of mother-to-child transmission.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Women at the Heart: Protecting the Next Generation from Chagas Disease”.

### **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.”

### **World Liver Day 2026 - April 19**

- ❖ The day is observed to raise global awareness about liver health and the prevention of liver diseases.
- ❖ The day aims to reduce the global burden of liver diseases through awareness, prevention, and timely diagnosis.
- ❖ It is an annual global health awareness day focused on the importance of the liver in human body functions like detoxification, metabolism, and digestion.
- ❖ The liver performs over 500 functions and has a natural ability to regenerate, but diseases often show late symptoms.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Solid Habits, Strong Liver”.

### **Civil Services Day - April 21**

- ❖ The day is observed to honour the contribution of civil servants in governance and nation-building.
- ❖ It is linked to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s speech on 21 April 1947 at Metcalf House, Delhi, where he called civil servants the “Steel Frame of India”.
- ❖ The day was first officially observed in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi by the Government of India.

- ❖ The day is observed by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and includes Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration.
- ❖ Civil services support policy implementation, law and order, disaster management, and delivery of government services across India.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is "Holistic Development – Saturation of Government Schemes".

### **World Book and Copyright Day 2026 – April 23**

- ❖ The day aims to promote reading, publishing, and copyright awareness worldwide.
- ❖ The day was established by UNESCO in 1995 to honour books and authors.
- ❖ Rabat is selected as the World Book Capital for 2026.
- ❖ The date 23 April is linked to famous writers like William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes.
- ❖ The day highlights literacy through multilingual learning and access to books for all.

### **World Day for Animals in Laboratories 2026 - April 24**

- ❖ It is observed every year to raise awareness about the use of animals in laboratories and to promote non-animal alternatives.
- ❖ Laboratory animals are used in biomedical research, drug testing, and cosmetics to study diseases and treatments.
- ❖ Animals like mice are used because they share more than 98% DNA with humans.
- ❖ Alternative methods include computer algorithms, organs-on-chips, and microdosing techniques.

### **National Panchayati Raj Day 2026 - April 24**

- ❖ The day marks the implementation of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- ❖ The amendment came into force on April 24, 1993, adding Part IX (Articles 243 to 243O) to the Constitution of India.
- ❖ It promotes local self-government through a three-tier system: Gram Panchayat (village), Panchayat Samiti (block), and Zila Parishad (district).
- ❖ It also ensures reservation for women and Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in local bodies.

### **World Malaria Day 2026 - April 25**

- ❖ The day aims to promote prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malaria worldwide.
- ❖ Malaria is a life-threatening disease caused by parasites and spread through the bite of an infected mosquito.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.”

### **International Day of Women in Industry 2026 – April 21**

- ❖ The first-ever global celebration of International Day of Women in Industry was held on 21 April 2026.
- ❖ The day was proclaimed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) during its 21st General Conference in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
- ❖ It aims to promote women’s participation and leadership in industries for inclusive and sustainable development.
- ❖ The day highlights the need for equal opportunities for women in sectors like manufacturing, clean energy and digital technology.
- ❖ The theme for the year 2026 is “Celebrating Women's Leadership in Industrial Development.”

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **200 Ancient Sites in Greece**

- ❖ A major archaeological survey discovered over 200 ancient sites in Evia, Greece, showing 6,000 years of human history.
- ❖ The survey was conducted by the Swiss School of Archaeology in Greece across more than 30 square km of land.
- ❖ Researchers found farms, settlements, quarries, and roads linked to the ancient city of Eretria.
- ❖ LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) was used to detect hidden structures like buried walls and paths.
- ❖ The region had “demes” (rural administrative units) which supported agriculture and economic activities.

### **Mahatma Jyotirao Phule – 200th Birth Anniversary**

- ❖ Celebration of the 200th birth anniversary of Jyotirao Phule has started in 2026.
- ❖ He was born in 1827 in Maharashtra and is known as the Father of Indian Social Revolution.
- ❖ He founded Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873 to fight caste discrimination.
- ❖ He opened the first school for girls in Pune in 1848 and worked for women's education.
- ❖ He supported the rights of Shudras, Ati-Shudras, and farmers and opposed social inequality.
- ❖ His famous works include Gulamgiri and Shetkaryacha Asud, focusing on social justice.

### **9,000-Year-Old Underwater Site**

- ❖ The Archaeologists have discovered a 9,000-year-old submerged human settlement beneath Lake Huron, North America.
- ❖ The discovery includes stone structures like hunting pits, drive lanes and tool caches.
- ❖ It is considered the earliest evidence of human activity in the Great Lakes region.
- ❖ Around 80 sites linked to ancient caribou hunting practices were identified.
- ❖ The site lies on the Alpena–Amberley Ridge, an ancient land bridge now underwater
- ❖ The structures were preserved due to clear and low-sediment lake conditions.
- ❖ The findings provide insights into early human survival and adaptation after the Ice Age.

### **500 Years of the First Battle of Panipat**

- ❖ April 21, 2026 marks 500 years of the First Battle of Panipat, a key event in Indian history.
- ❖ The First Battle of Panipat was fought on April 21, 1526 at Panipat in present-day Haryana, India.
- ❖ It was fought between Babur, founder of the Mughal Empire, and Ibrahim Lodi, the last Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate.
- ❖ Babur used advanced Tulughma tactics (flanking movement) and field artillery including cannons and matchlocks, which gave him a major advantage.

- ❖ Babur's disciplined army defeated the larger Lodi forces, and Ibrahim Lodi was killed in the battle.
- ❖ The victory led to the end of the Delhi Sultanate and the establishment of the Mughal Empire in India.

### **Ice Age Zombie Worm Revival**

- ❖ Scientists revived a 24,000-year-old microscopic organism from Siberian permafrost and observed it reproducing.
- ❖ The organism is a bdelloid rotifer (a multicellular freshwater animal), often called a "zombie worm" in the media.
- ❖ It was discovered near the Alazeya River in Siberia and dated to the Late Pleistocene period using radiocarbon dating.
- ❖ It remained frozen in Yedoma permafrost (ice-rich permanently frozen soil) at about  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for thousands of years.
- ❖ It survived through cryptobiosis (a state of almost zero metabolism where life processes nearly stop).
- ❖ After thawing in laboratory conditions, it resumed movement, feeding, and reproduced asexually, producing clones.

