

EVERY INFORMATION YOU NEED RELATED TO YOUR EXAMS

CURRENT AFFAIRS

150 PRACTICE QUESTIONS INCLUDED



Olive Greens Institute

TILL 1 MAY 2026

PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of April 2026.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



INDEX

1. Important Days	Page 04
2. Agreements	Page 10
3. Appointments	Page 13
4. Awards	Page 17
5. Banking	Page 20
6. Books and Author	Page 22
7. Defence	Page 25
8. Economy	Page 30
9. International	Page 35
10. Miscellaneous	Page 43
11. National	Page 46
12. Obituaries	Page 51
13. Ranks & Reports	Page 54
14. Schemes & Committee	Page 59
15. Science & Technology	Page 62
16. Sports	Page 67
17. State	Page 71
18. Summits & Conferences	Page 77

Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

- **QUESTIONS - Page 83**
- **ANSWERS - Page 96**

Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

1. Economics	Page 110
2. Environment & Diversity	Page 120
3. Governance	Page 129
4. History	Page 133
5. International Relations	Page 137
6. Polity	Page 142
7. Science, Tech, Art & Culture	Page 147
8. Security Issues	Page 155
9. Trivia	Page 163

SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



World Autism Awareness Day : 02 April :-

World Autism Awareness Day is observed every year on April 2 to increase understanding and acceptance of people affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The day was established by the United Nations in 2007 and has been observed globally since 2008. Its primary aim is to promote awareness about autism, encourage early diagnosis, and support inclusion in education, employment, and society. The World Autism Awareness Day 2026 theme is "Autism and Humanity – Every Life Has Value".



International Day for Mine Awareness : 04 April :-

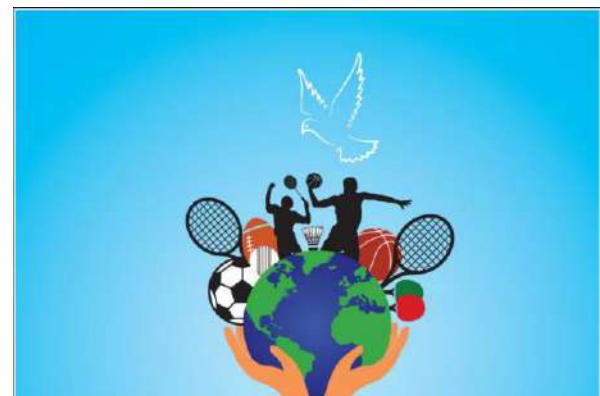
International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed every year on April 4. The day was declared by the United Nations to raise awareness about the dangers posed by landmines and explosive remnants of war. It highlights the need for mine clearance, risk education, and support for victims. Landmines continue to threaten civilian lives in many

post-conflict regions, affecting livelihoods and development. The 2026 theme for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is "Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action".



National Maritime Day (India) : 05 April :-

National Maritime Day is observed every year on April 5 to highlight the importance of India's maritime sector in global trade and economic development. The day commemorates the historic voyage of the Indian-owned ship SS Loyalty, which sailed from Mumbai to London in 1919, marking India's entry into international shipping. The observance recognizes the contributions of seafarers, port authorities, and the shipping industry. It also emphasizes maritime safety, environmental protection, and advancements in shipping technology.



International Day of Sports For Development And Peace : 06 April :-

The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed annually on April 6 to highlight the

powerful role that sports can play in promoting social change, peace, and development across the world. Established by the United Nations, this day commemorates the opening of the first modern Olympic Games in 1896. Governments, organizations, and communities organize sporting events and awareness campaigns to underline how sports can unite people beyond boundaries and contribute to sustainable development goals. The 2026 theme for the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers".

**World Health Day : 07 April :-**

World Health Day is observed every year on April 7 under the leadership of the World Health Organization to highlight global health issues and encourage action for better public health. The day marks the anniversary of WHO's founding in 1948 and serves as a platform for governments, institutions, and communities to promote awareness, improve healthcare access, and strengthen global cooperation in tackling health challenges. The World Health Day 2026 theme is "Together for health. Stand with science."

**World Homoeopathy Day : 10 April :-**

World Homoeopathy Day is observed every year on April 10 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homoeopathy. The day aims to promote awareness about this alternative system of medicine, which is based on the principle of "like cures like" and uses highly diluted substances for treatment. In India, homoeopathy is widely practiced and supported by the government through institutions like the Ministry of AYUSH. The theme of World Homoeopathy Day 2026 is "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health".

**World Parkinson's Day : 11 April :-**

World Parkinson's Day is observed annually on April 11 to spread awareness about Parkinson's disease, a progressive nervous system disorder that affects movement, causing tremors, stiffness, and balance problems. The day commemorates the birth anniversary of James Parkinson, who first described the condition in 1817. It aims to support patients and caregivers, promote early diagnosis, and encourage research for better treatment and a possible cure. The theme for World Parkinson's Day 2026 is "Bridge the Care Gap".

**National Safe Motherhood Day (India) : 11 April :-**

National Safe Motherhood Day is observed every year on April 11 in India to raise awareness about the importance of proper healthcare for pregnant and lactating women. The day marks the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, who is remembered for her contributions to women's welfare. The objective is to reduce maternal mortality by promoting institutional deliveries, prenatal and

postnatal care, and access to skilled healthcare professionals. India continues to focus on improving maternal health through schemes like Janani Suraksha Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan, ensuring safer pregnancies and childbirth.



Jallianwala Bagh Massacre : 13 April :-

The Jallianwala Bagh Massacre remains one of the darkest chapters in India's colonial history. It occurred on April 13, 1919, in Amritsar, when British troops under the command of General Reginald Dyer opened fire on a peaceful gathering of unarmed Indians who had assembled to protest against the repressive Rowlatt Act. Hundreds were killed and many more injured in the enclosed garden with no escape routes. The incident shocked the nation and galvanized the Indian independence movement, prompting leaders like Mahatma Gandhi to intensify the struggle against British rule.



B.R. Ambedkar Remembrance Day : 14 April :-

Ambedkar Jayanti is observed every year on April 14 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, popularly known as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Born in 1891, he was a social reformer, economist, jurist, and

the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. The day is celebrated across India and by Indian communities worldwide to honor his immense contributions toward social justice, equality, and the upliftment of marginalized communities, especially Dalits.



World Art Day : 15 April :-

World Art Day is observed every year on April 15 to promote the development, diffusion, and enjoyment of art across the world. The day was chosen to mark the birth anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci, symbolizing creativity, innovation, and the connection between art and science. It was officially declared by UNESCO in 2019. The day highlights the importance of art in fostering creativity, cultural diversity, and dialogue among civilizations. Various exhibitions, workshops, and cultural events are organized globally to encourage artistic expression and recognize artists' contributions to society.



World Haemophilia Day :17 April :-

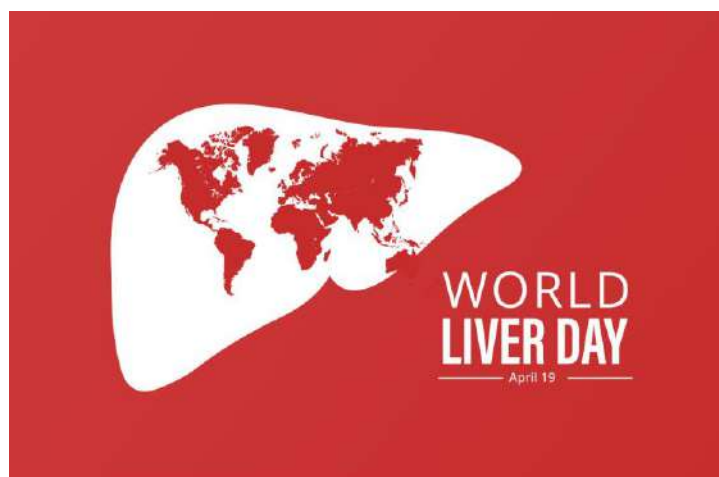
World Haemophilia Day is observed every year on 17 April to raise global awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders. The day was established by the World Federation of Hemophilia to improve diagnosis, treatment, and care for patients worldwide. Haemophilia is a rare genetic condition in which blood does not clot properly, leading to excessive

bleeding even from minor injuries. The theme for World Hemophilia Day 2026 is: "Diagnosis: First step to care."



World Heritage Day : 18 April :-

Also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, World Heritage Day is observed annually on April 18 to raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage and historical monuments across the globe. The day was established in 1982 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites and later approved by UNESCO. The day encourages communities and governments to safeguard monuments, traditions, and sites of historical importance for future generations. The theme for World Heritage Day 2026 is "Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters".



World Liver Day : 19 April :-

World Liver Day is observed every year on April 19 to raise awareness about liver health and the increasing

burden of liver-related diseases such as hepatitis, fatty liver disease, and cirrhosis. This day highlights the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle, including a balanced diet, regular exercise, limited alcohol consumption, and timely medical check-ups to prevent liver damage. In recent years, the rise in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease due to sedentary lifestyles has made this observance even more significant. The World Liver Day 2026 theme is "Solid Habits, Strong Liver".



Civil Services Day: President and PM Praise Civil Servants : 21 April :-

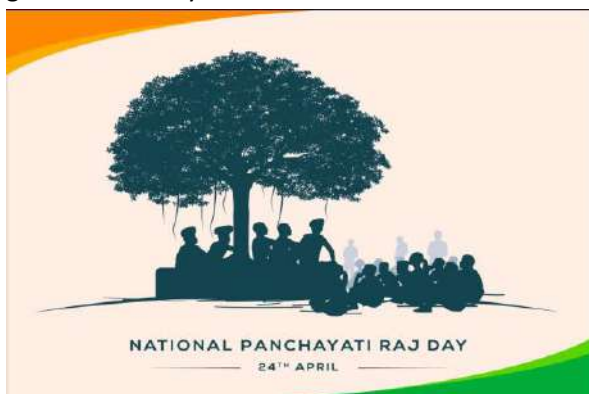
On Civil Services Day, President Murmu and PM Modi extended greetings, acknowledging the critical role of civil servants in governance. The day celebrates the dedication of India's administrative machinery and its impact on national development, inspired by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's vision of civil services as India's 'Steel Frame.'



Earth Day 2026: Celebrating 'Our Power, Our Planet' Worldwide : 22 April :-

The National Science Centre will commemorate World Earth Day on April 22, focusing on the theme 'Our Power,

Our Planet.' The event includes a science lecture by Dr. Amitava Sen Gupta on Antarctica's importance and challenges, followed by an Open House Quiz Contest on environmental science. This initiative aims to engage students and enthusiasts in environmental education and foster scientific curiosity. The celebration reflects ongoing efforts to promote awareness and responsibility towards environmental preservation, aligning with global Earth Day activities.



National Panchayati Raj Day : 24 April :-

National Panchayati Raj Day is observed every year on 24 April in India to commemorate the constitutional establishment of the Panchayati Raj system through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993. This landmark reform gave constitutional status to local self-government institutions, empowering rural local bodies like Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, and Zila Parishads to function as units of grassroots democracy. The theme for National Panchayati Raj Day 2026 is "Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas".



World Malaria Day : 25 April :-

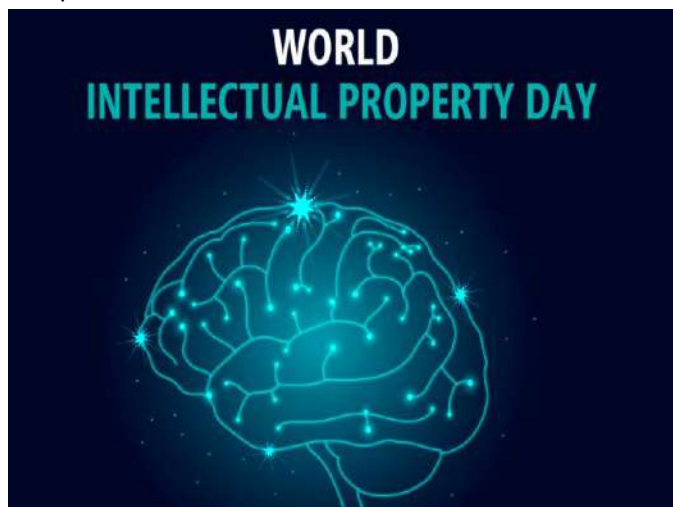
World Malaria Day is observed every year on April 25 to raise global awareness about malaria, a life-threatening

disease caused by parasites transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes. The day was established by the World Health Organization in 2007 during its World Health Assembly to highlight the need for continued investment and political commitment in malaria prevention and control. The theme for World Malaria Day 2026 is "Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.".



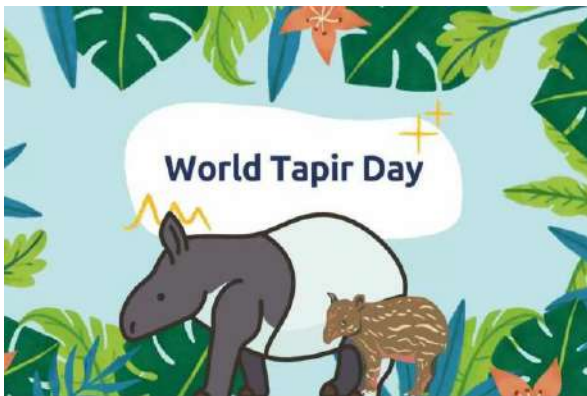
World Penguin Day : 25 April :-

World Penguin Day is celebrated annually on April 25 to recognize and raise awareness about penguins, the unique flightless birds primarily found in the Southern Hemisphere, especially in Antarctica. The date coincides with the annual northward migration of Adélie penguins, marking a natural ecological event that inspired the observance. The day emphasizes the importance of conserving penguin habitats, which are increasingly threatened by climate change, melting ice, overfishing, and pollution.



World Intellectual Property Day : 26 April :-

World Intellectual Property Day is observed every year on April 26 to raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property (IP) rights such as patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs in fostering innovation and creativity. The day was established by the World Intellectual Property Organization in 2000 to highlight how IP systems contribute to economic growth, cultural development, and technological advancement. The World Intellectual Property Day 2026 theme is "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate".



World Tapir Day : 27 April :-

World Tapir Day is observed every year on April 27 to raise awareness about tapirs, a group of large herbivorous mammals found in Central and South America as well as Southeast Asia. These animals are often called "living fossils" because they have existed for millions of years with little evolutionary change. The day highlights the conservation challenges faced by tapirs, including habitat loss, hunting, and human-wildlife conflict. Organizations and wildlife groups use this occasion to promote protection efforts, educate people about biodiversity, and encourage sustainable coexistence.



World Day for Safety and Health at Work : 28 April :-

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed every year on April 28 under the leadership of the International Labour Organization. The day aims to promote the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally, while encouraging safe, healthy, and decent working conditions across all sectors. The observance traces its roots to the growing recognition of workplace hazards during industrial expansion and the need to protect workers' rights and well-being. The 2026 World Day for Safety and Health at Work theme is "Let's ensure a healthy psychosocial working environment".



International Dance Day : 29 April :-

International Dance Day is celebrated every year on April 29 across the world to promote the art of dance and highlight its universal appeal that transcends cultural, linguistic, and geographical boundaries. The day was established in 1982 by the International Theatre Institute, the main partner for the performing arts of UNESCO. The date marks the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre, a pioneering figure in modern ballet known for reforming dance into a more expressive storytelling art form.

2: Agreements



India-Russia Partnership in Arctic Resource Development Amid Crisis :-

India and Russia explore collaboration in Arctic resource development, with hydrocarbon resources from Russia's Arctic zone attracting interest from India. The partnership reflects the potential for economic cooperation in the region, despite geopolitical challenges. India's robust shipbuilding capabilities and transportation infrastructure complement the collaboration, offering opportunities for mutual benefit. The initiative underscores the strategic importance of the Arctic in ensuring energy security and diversifying supply channels.



NSE to Launch Brent Crude Oil Futures with S&P Global :-

The National Stock Exchange (NSE) of India is set to launch futures contracts for Brent Crude Oil in collaboration with S&P Global Energy. Scheduled for April 13, these contracts will use Platts benchmarks to

provide domestic participants with global price references. This initiative is expected to enhance India's commodity derivatives ecosystem, facilitating efficient price discovery and risk management.



NTPC and EDF Collaborate on Nuclear Power Projects in India :-

NTPC Ltd has signed an MoU with Électricité de France (EDF) to explore nuclear power projects in India. This partnership aims to enhance India's nuclear capacity, contributing to the country's energy security and diversification efforts. The collaboration reflects India's commitment to clean energy and technological advancements in the power sector.



IIM-Jammu, CAHO sign MoU to boost healthcare management :-

The Indian Institute of Management Jammu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Consortium of Accredited Healthcare Organizations to strengthen healthcare management education and

leadership in India. This collaboration aims to create a strong academic-industry ecosystem by combining IIM Jammu's academic expertise with CAHO's healthcare network. The partnership will focus on executive education, research, management development programmes, and case-based learning in healthcare.



NALCO Signs MoU with Union Bank of India to Enhance Employee Benefits Under Corporate Salary Package :-

National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), a major public sector enterprise, has signed an MoU with Union Bank of India to improve employee welfare under a corporate salary package. Such agreements typically provide employees with enhanced banking services like preferential loan rates, higher transaction limits, insurance coverage, and digital banking benefits. The move reflects NALCO's focus on improving employee satisfaction and financial well-being while leveraging Union Bank's banking infrastructure.



Vietnam's Vingroup signs \$6.5 bn MoU with Maharashtra govt to expand EV mobility, urban infra :-

Vietnam's conglomerate giant Vingroup has signed a major MoU with the Government of Maharashtra to explore investments worth about \$6.5 billion in India.

The agreement focuses on electric mobility, urban development, renewable energy, and infrastructure projects, particularly in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Plans include developing large integrated townships, deploying around 60,000 electric vehicles, and investing in green energy and social infrastructure such as healthcare and education.



India-Oman CEPA to Boost Bilateral Trade and Investment :-

India and Oman explored opportunities under the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to enhance trade and investment. Union Minister Piyush Goyal discussed leveraging CEPA for mutual growth, focusing on duty-free access for Indian exports and tariff reductions for Omani products. The agreement, signed in 2025, is expected to strengthen economic ties and diversify trade, reflecting India's strategic engagement with Gulf partners. This initiative underscores India's efforts to expand its economic footprint in West Asia.



Maharashtra Secures Rs 1.75 Lakh Crore Investments in Clean Energy :-

Maharashtra signed MoUs worth Rs 1.75 lakh crore with JW Global Group and Shyam Steel, focusing on clean energy and advanced technology. The investments aim to establish Maharashtra as a global hub for sustainable development, including projects in solar, AI, and steel manufacturing. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis highlighted the state's strategic policy reforms and commitment to supporting investors, positioning Maharashtra as a leader in industrial innovation and economic growth.



Israeli-Lebanese Ceasefire Sparks Optimism for Middle East Peace :-

A 10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon has been announced, with US President Donald Trump expressing hope for lasting peace in the region. The ceasefire aims to halt hostilities involving Hezbollah and potentially pave the way for broader negotiations. The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the development, urging compliance with international law and highlighting the ceasefire's significance in advancing peace efforts in the Middle East.



India-US Trade Talks Progress Towards Final Trade Deal

India and the US are nearing the completion of a trade deal, with most substantive issues resolved. Ongoing

negotiations in Washington aim to finalize the framework, enhancing bilateral trade relations. The deal is expected to provide India preferential market access in the US, boosting economic ties.



Maruti Suzuki Achieves Record Production in FY26 :-

Maruti Suzuki India Limited reported record production of 23.4 lakh units in FY2025–26, becoming the only OEM in India to reach this milestone. Popular models like Dzire and Swift contributed significantly to this achievement. The company plans to expand its production capacity to 40 lakh units. Maruti Suzuki's success reflects strong collaboration with its ecosystem and supportive policies, positioning it as a leader in the automotive industry.



India's Private Sector Sees Surge in Activity and Job Creation :-

India's private sector activity accelerated in April, driven by strong demand and capacity expansion, according to the HSBC Flash India PMI Composite Output Index. The index rose to 58.3, with faster growth in manufacturing and services. Employment reached a 10-month high, reflecting increased new orders and technology investments. Firms are managing supply-side uncertainties by building buffer stocks. Input cost pressures eased, with firms passing on some increases through higher selling prices.



Delhi University Signs MoU to Enhance Maritime Education :-

Delhi University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity to boost maritime education and research. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted the transformative potential of India's maritime sector in driving economic growth. The collaboration aims to strengthen the maritime talent pipeline and position India as a global leader in the sector, aligning with the government's vision for a developed India.



Ukraine and Azerbaijan Sign Security and Energy Agreements :-

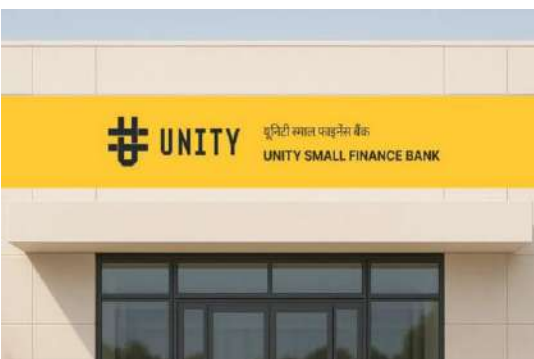
Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev signed agreements on military-industrial cooperation and energy collaboration in Baku. The deals aim to leverage Ukraine's expertise in airspace defense, particularly against long-range drones. The agreements signify a strengthening of bilateral ties amid ongoing regional conflicts, showcasing Ukraine's strategic partnerships in the face of geopolitical tensions.



India and New Zealand to Sign Free Trade Agreement :-

Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal welcomed New Zealand's Trade Minister Todd McClay ahead of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement signing. The agreement aims to enhance trade and market access between the two countries, benefiting sectors like marine exports. The FTA reflects the growing economic partnership and shared vision for sustainable growth, highlighting the commitment to strengthening bilateral ties.

3: Appointments



Mukesh Kumar Choudhary joins Unity Small Finance Bank as National Head Legal :-

Mukesh Kumar Choudhary's appointment as National Head Legal at Unity Small Finance Bank marks a significant addition to the bank's leadership team. In this role, he will oversee legal strategy, regulatory compliance, risk management, and corporate governance, which are crucial in the highly regulated banking sector. Choudhary's expertise is expected to

strengthen the bank's legal framework as it expands its operations. His appointment also reflects the growing importance of strong legal leadership in ensuring transparency and stability in India's evolving financial ecosystem, especially amid increasing regulatory scrutiny and digital banking growth.



ServiceNow Appoints Kulmeet Bawa As India SAARC MD :-

ServiceNow has appointed Kulmeet Bawa as Managing Director and Group Vice President for India and the SAARC region. This leadership move is seen as part of the company's strategy to strengthen its presence in a rapidly growing enterprise technology market. Bawa brings extensive experience, having previously held senior leadership roles at global firms like SAP and Adobe, with a strong background in driving revenue growth and large enterprise deals.



YES Bank names SBI veteran Vinay Tonse as next CEO :-

YES Bank has appointed Vinay Tonse as its next Chief Executive Officer, marking a significant leadership transition for the bank. Tonse brings decades of experience from State Bank of India, where he held senior roles and gained expertise in retail banking,

corporate credit, and risk management. His appointment is expected to strengthen YES Bank's strategic direction as it continues its recovery journey after past financial stress and restructuring efforts. The move reflects the bank's focus on stability, governance, and sustainable growth, while also boosting investor confidence in its long-term turnaround plan.



Abhishek Jain appointed as Group Business Head – Government Banking at TransBnk :-

TransBnk has appointed Abhishek Jain as its Group Business Head for Government Banking, a role focused on strengthening the company's engagement with public sector clients. In this position, Jain will lead initiatives related to government banking services, including managing relationships with central and state institutions, and driving digital financial solutions tailored for governance needs. His appointment comes as TransBnk aims to expand its presence in the government banking segment, which is increasingly adopting fintech solutions for efficient service delivery, transparency, and financial inclusion across various schemes and programs.



Vietnam Elects To Lam as President, Consolidates Power :-

Vietnam's National Assembly has elected Communist Party Secretary General To Lam as the country's president, consolidating leadership in a China-like model. This move signifies a shift in Vietnam's political landscape, potentially enabling faster decision-making while raising concerns about increased authoritarianism.



Oracle Appoints Hilary Maxson As CFO With \$29.7 Million Package After Firing 30,000 Employees :-

Oracle Corporation has appointed Hilary Maxson as its new Chief Financial Officer at a time when the company is undergoing major restructuring. This appointment comes shortly after reports that Oracle laid off around 30,000 employees globally as part of cost-cutting and strategic reorganization efforts. Maxson, who previously served as CFO at Schneider Electric, will receive a compensation package that includes salary, bonus, and stock incentives totaling nearly \$29.7 million.



India Secures Key Positions in UN ECOSOC Elections :-

India has been elected unopposed to several key positions within the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This move underscores India's increasing influence in international

governance and its commitment to promoting global economic and social development. Former diplomat Preeti Saran's re-election highlights India's diplomatic prowess and commitment to multilateralism.



President Droupadi Murmu Nominates Harivansh Singh to Rajya Sabha :-

President Droupadi Murmu nominated Harivansh Narayan Singh to the Rajya Sabha, following Ranjan Gogoi's retirement. Harivansh, previously a JD(U) member from Bihar, has been the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha since 2018. His nomination, under constitutional provisions, fills a critical vacancy and brings extensive parliamentary experience to the Upper House. Harivansh has contributed significantly in committees like the Agriculture and Business Advisory Committees and played pivotal roles in legislative scrutiny of key bills.



Union Berlin appoint Marie-Louise Eta as first woman head coach :-

German football club Union Berlin has made history by appointing Marie-Louise Eta as the head coach of its men's team. With this appointment, she becomes the first woman to manage a team in the Bundesliga and also

the first in Europe's top five football leagues. The decision came after the dismissal of previous coach Steffen Baumgart due to poor team performance. Eta, a former professional player and youth coach, had already broken barriers as the first female assistant coach in the Bundesliga.



Ex-Manchester United Assistant Coach Takes Charge Of Ghana :-

A former assistant coach of Manchester United Carlos Queiroz has been appointed as the head coach of Ghana national football team. This move is seen as part of Ghana's strategy to strengthen its football structure and improve performance in international competitions such as the Africa Cup of Nations and FIFA World Cup qualifiers. Coaches with experience at elite clubs like Manchester United bring tactical expertise, exposure to top-level football, and strong player-management skills.



Israel Appoints Roman Gofman as Mossad Chief Amid Rising Regional Security Concerns :-

Israel has appointed Roman Gofman as the new chief of Mossad, the country's external intelligence agency. This leadership change comes at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions in the Middle East. Mossad plays a crucial role in intelligence gathering, counter-terrorism,

and national security. Gofman's appointment is expected to strengthen Israel's strategic operations and intelligence capabilities as the region faces ongoing conflicts and security challenges.



Susan Coyle appointed first female Army Chief of Australian Defence Force :-

In a historic move, Susan Coyle has been appointed as the first female Army Chief of the Australian Defence Force. This milestone reflects growing gender inclusivity and recognition of women's leadership in the armed forces. Her appointment is expected to inspire more women to pursue careers in defense and contribute to shaping a modern and diverse military leadership structure in Australia.



Sunil Bajpai takes over as Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Tamil Nadu & Puducherry :-

Sunil Bajpai has assumed charge as the Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. This role involves overseeing tax administration, ensuring compliance, and improving revenue collection in the region. His appointment is part of routine administrative reshuffles within the Income Tax Department. Bajpai is expected to focus on enhancing transparency, taxpayer services, and the efficiency of tax processes in these regions.



Apple Appoints John Ternus as New CEO :-

Apple has named John Ternus, a veteran in hardware development, as its new CEO, succeeding Tim Cook on September 1. Ternus, who joined Apple in 2001, has been pivotal in the revival of products like the Mac. His appointment comes as Apple seeks to integrate AI more deeply into its products. The transition marks a pivotal moment for Apple as it aims to reclaim its innovative edge amidst rising competition from AI-centric firms.

4: Awards



MITE students bag award for innovative "Multi-Crops Dehusker" project at e-Yantra Innovation Challenge :-

Students from Mangalore Institute of Technology and Engineering (MITE) have earned recognition at the e-Yantra Innovation Challenge for developing an innovative "Multi-Crops Dehusker" machine. This project is designed to efficiently remove husks from various crops, addressing a key challenge faced by farmers, especially in rural areas. The innovation stands out for its versatility, cost-effectiveness, and potential to reduce manual labor while improving productivity in agriculture. The e-Yantra Innovation Challenge, supported by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, encourages students to develop practical technological solutions for real-world problems.



Chiranjeevulu selected for Phule Excellence Award :-

Retired IAS officer T. Chiranjeevulu has been chosen as the recipient of the Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Excellence Award 2026. According to Telangana Citizens Council state president Raj Narayan Mudiraj, he was selected in recognition of his contributions to the welfare and development of Backward Classes (BC). The award will be conferred on April 10 in Hyderabad during the celebrations marking the 199th birth anniversary of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, he added.



Screen Awards 2026 : Aditya Dhar's Dhurandhar wins big, Ranveer Singh gets Best Actor trophy :-

At the Screen Awards 2026, filmmaker Aditya Dhar's film Dhurandhar emerged as a major winner, securing multiple accolades and reinforcing its critical and commercial success. Meanwhile, Ranveer Singh was awarded the Best Actor trophy for his standout performance, further cementing his reputation as one of Bollywood's most versatile stars. The Screen Awards are among the prominent film award ceremonies in India, recognizing excellence in acting, direction, music, and technical crafts.



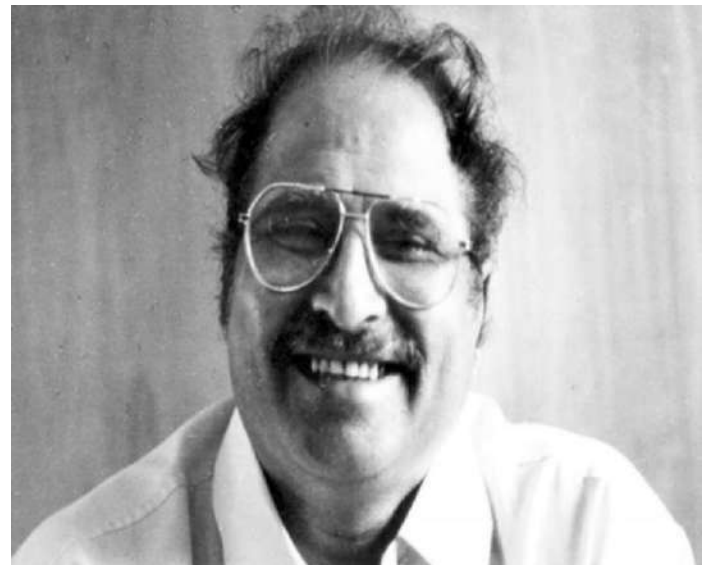
India's Homegrown Preschool App Kiddopia Earns Prestigious Webby Award Nomination :-

Kiddopia, an Indian-developed preschool learning app, has received a nomination for the prestigious Webby Awards, which are considered among the top honours in the digital world. Kiddopia focuses on early childhood education through interactive games, storytelling, and skill-building activities for children aged 2-7. The recognition reflects the app's popularity among parents and educators worldwide, as well as its ability to combine entertainment with foundational learning in areas like math, language, and problem-solving.



General Upendra Dwivedi Honours Veterans with 'Veteran Achievers Award' in Bengaluru :-

Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff, honoured distinguished ex-servicemen with the 'Veteran Achievers Award' at an event in Bengaluru. The awards recognise outstanding contributions of military veterans in various fields after retirement, including social service, entrepreneurship, and community leadership. Such initiatives reflect the Indian Army's continued engagement with its veteran community, acknowledging their lifelong service to the nation and encouraging their active participation in nation-building even after active duty.



Journalist D. Mahadevappa chosen for P. Lankesh Award :-

D. Mahadevappa has been selected for the prestigious P. Lankesh Award, which recognizes excellence in journalism and commitment to progressive values. The award is named after P. Lankesh, a renowned Kannada writer, editor, and social activist known for his fearless journalism and advocacy for social change. Mahadevappa's selection highlights his contributions to investigative reporting and his dedication to bringing grassroots issues to the forefront. The recognition not only celebrates his individual achievements but also reinforces the importance of ethical journalism in strengthening democracy and giving voice to the underrepresented sections of society.



Odisha tops 17th Vishwakarma Awards with 10 projects winning national honours :-

Odisha has emerged as the top performer at the Vishwakarma Awards by securing national honours for 10 outstanding projects. These awards, organized by the Construction Industry Development Council, recognize excellence in construction, engineering, and infrastructure development across the country. Odisha's achievement reflects its growing emphasis on quality infrastructure, innovation, and sustainable development practices. This accomplishment enhances the state's reputation as a leader in infrastructure development and highlights its commitment to modernization and economic growth.



Banaras Hindu University Wins National Moot Court Competition in India :-

Banaras Hindu University has emerged victorious in a prestigious national moot court competition, showcasing excellence in legal education and advocacy skills. Moot court competitions simulate real court proceedings and help law students develop practical legal knowledge, research abilities, and courtroom presentation skills. BHU's success highlights the institution's strong academic environment and its commitment to nurturing future legal professionals capable of contributing effectively to India's judicial system.



Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma named Wisden's Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025 :-

Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc and Indian all-rounder Deepti Sharma have been named Wisden's Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025. This recognition is awarded by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, one of the most respected authorities in cricket. Starc was honored for his exceptional bowling performances across formats, while Deepti Sharma earned the accolade for her consistent all-round contributions. The awards highlight their outstanding impact on international cricket during the year.



PM Modi Hails India's Global Cheese Wins, Calls It Boost for Dairy Sector :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated India's achievements at the Mundial do Queijo do Brasil, an international cheese competition in São Paulo, Brazil. India secured top awards, including one Super Gold, two Golds, and one Silver, showcasing the country's burgeoning artisanal dairy industry. Modi highlighted the event as a proud moment for India's dairy sector, emphasizing the global recognition of traditional flavors and innovation in dairy products. This win is seen as a significant milestone in promoting India's culinary heritage on the world stage, boosting the sector's value addition and export potential.

5: Banking



RBI bans banks from offering clients offshore bets on rupee :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has prohibited banks from allowing their clients to engage in offshore derivative transactions that speculate on the value of the Indian rupee. This move aims to curb excessive speculation in overseas markets, which can lead to volatility in the domestic currency. Offshore betting on the rupee, often conducted through non-deliverable forwards (NDFs), has been a concern for regulators as it operates outside India's regulatory framework. By restricting banks from facilitating such trades, the RBI seeks to strengthen control over currency markets, ensure financial stability, and protect the rupee from undue external pressure.



RBI Plans Bank Account Portability for Customers :-

The Reserve Bank of India is working on a major reform that will allow customers to switch banks without changing their account numbers, similar to mobile number portability. This proposal is part of its Payments Vision 2028, aimed at enhancing customer convenience

and competition in the banking sector. Under the plan, a centralized system—often referred to as a Payments Switching Service—will enable seamless transfer of account details, auto-debit mandates (like EMIs and subscriptions), and other financial linkages.



RBI MPC Meeting: Status Quo on Policy Rate Expected

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) convened for a three-day meeting, with analysts anticipating no change in the repo rate amid geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia. Rising crude oil prices and global tensions have clouded inflation prospects, prompting close attention to the RBI's commentary on inflation, growth, and future rate trajectory. Economists suggest that while the rate cut cycle has ended, a potential rate hike could occur if inflation breaches the upper tolerance band.



Reserve Bank of India clears Emirates NBD's stake purchase in RBL Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India has approved Emirates NBD to acquire a stake in RBL Bank, signaling growing foreign

interest in India's banking sector. This regulatory clearance is an important step for Emirates NBD as it seeks to expand its footprint in the Indian market. For RBL Bank, the investment is expected to enhance capital strength, improve financial resilience, and support future expansion plans. The approval also highlights RBI's cautious yet encouraging stance toward foreign investment in domestic banks, ensuring that such deals align with financial stability and regulatory norms.



RBI Maintains Repo Rate Amid Global Risks, Projects 7.6% GDP Growth :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25% amid global uncertainties and geopolitical tensions. The RBI projects India's GDP growth at 7.6% for FY26, supported by strong domestic demand and manufacturing expansion. Despite rising global risks, the RBI remains optimistic about India's economic resilience. The central bank emphasizes continued vigilance over global energy prices and their potential impact on growth. Inflation is projected at 4.6% for FY27, with the RBI ensuring adequate liquidity to support economic sectors.



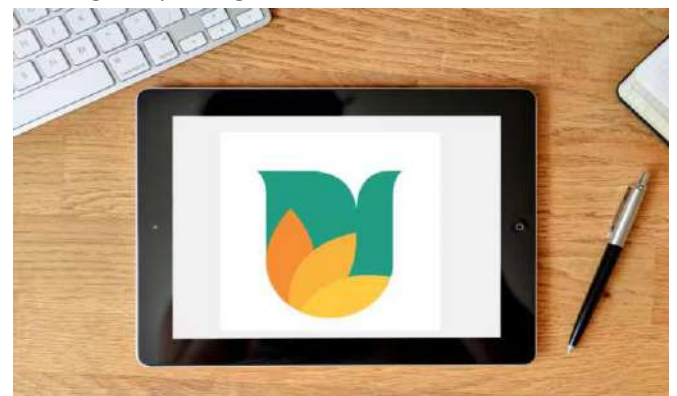
Asian Development Bank raises India's growth forecast for current financial year from 6.5% to 6.9% :-

The Asian Development Bank has revised India's economic growth forecast upward from 6.5% to 6.9% for the current financial year, reflecting optimism about the country's economic resilience. This upward revision indicates strong domestic demand, improved investment activity, and stable macroeconomic fundamentals. India continues to be one of the fastest-growing major economies globally, supported by government infrastructure spending and reforms aimed at boosting manufacturing and services sectors.



Indian Mutual Fund AUM Rises to Rs 73.73 Lakh Crore in FY26 :-

India's mutual fund industry saw its assets under management (AUM) grow by 12.2% to Rs 73.73 lakh crore in FY26, despite market volatility. The surge was driven by increased retail investor participation, with SIP contributions reaching a record Rs 32,087 crore in March. However, the industry faced net outflows due to geopolitical tensions and market fluctuations. The growth rate was lower than previous years due to factors like geopolitical tensions and subdued corporate earnings, impacting overall market sentiment.



Ujjivan fails to get RBI nod for universal banking licence

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has not received approval from the Reserve Bank of India to transition into a universal bank. Universal banks can offer a full range of financial services, including large-scale lending, investment services, and corporate banking, unlike small finance banks which mainly focus on financial inclusion and serving underserved segments. The RBI's decision indicates that Ujjivan may not have met certain regulatory requirements such as capital adequacy, governance standards, or operational track record needed for such an upgrade.



World Bank Releases \$340 Million for Andhra Pradesh's Amaravati Capital City Project :-

The World Bank has approved the release of \$340 million to support infrastructure development in Amaravati, the planned capital city of Andhra Pradesh. This funding aims to enhance urban services, including transport, drainage, and sustainable city planning. The Amaravati project has faced delays and political challenges, but this financial

boost is expected to accelerate its progress. The initiative aligns with the state's vision of building a modern, eco-friendly capital city that can attract investment, improve governance, and provide better living standards for residents.



RBI scraps licence of Paytm Payments Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank, effectively ending its operations as a bank. This action follows years of regulatory scrutiny and repeated non-compliance issues, including lapses in governance and customer verification norms. The RBI stated that the bank's functioning was detrimental to depositors' interests and public interest, and therefore it saw no purpose in allowing it to continue. The central bank will initiate the process of winding up the institution, although it has assured that the bank has enough funds to repay depositors.

6: Books and Author



Vice President C P Radhakrishnan releases the book, Tides of Time, authored by MP Sudha Murty :-

India's Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan recently released the book *Tides of Time*, written by noted author and Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty. Sudha Murty is widely respected for her simple yet impactful writing style, often focusing on human values, social issues, and real-life experiences. The book is expected to reflect her signature storytelling approach, blending personal insights with broader societal themes. The release event

underscores the importance of literature in shaping public thought and preserving cultural narratives.



Subhash Ghai, Sukhwinder Singh, Sivamani launched Flutist Naveen Kumar's book Journey of Bansuri :-

Renowned filmmaker Subhash Ghai, celebrated singer Sukhwinder Singh, and noted percussionist Sivamani jointly launched the book Journey of Bansuri, authored by acclaimed flutist Naveen Kumar. The book provides a detailed account of Naveen Kumar's musical journey, highlighting his experiences, struggles, and achievements in mastering the bansuri (Indian flute). It also sheds light on the evolution of Indian classical and film music, offering insights into collaborations with top composers and artists.



Book on management concepts for healthcare providers in India launched :-

A book focusing on the various management aspects of healthcare in India, titled "Management of Healthcare in India – Need for a Paradigm Shift", edited by Tilak Shankar, former director of AF Ferguson & Co. and CEO of Management Solutions, was launched in Chennai. The book was unveiled by V. Mohan, Chairman of Dr.

Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre and Madras Diabetes Research Foundation. He handed over the first copy to industrialist Lakshmi Narayanan, Vice Chairman of Kanchi Kamakoti CHILDS Trust Hospital and Chancellor of Krea University, as well as Pritha Venkatachalam, Partner and Co-Head for Asia and Africa at The Bridgespan Group.



Book on Income Tax provisions for NPOs launched :-

A new book titled "Income Tax Provisions for NPOs – Journey from 1961 to 2025" has been launched in Chennai to help understand the complex taxation framework governing non-profit organisations (NPOs). Authored by R. Ramachandran, the book was released by Madras High Court judge C. Saravanan, who highlighted that NPOs often face interpretational challenges due to multiple overlapping tax provisions. The publication gains importance as India transitions from the decades-old Income-tax Act, 1961 to the new Income-tax Act, 2025, which came into effect from April 1, 2026, aiming to simplify and modernise tax laws.



President Murmu Receives "Vriksha Vedam 2.0" at Rashtrapati Bhavan :-

President Droupadi Murmu received a copy of the book "Vriksha Vedam 2.0" at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Authored by Green India Challenge founder and former Rajya Sabha MP Joginipally Santosh Kumar, the book focuses on the ecological, cultural, and spiritual importance of trees in Indian tradition, blending environmental awareness with ancient knowledge systems. Such works aim to promote environmental responsibility among citizens by reconnecting them with traditional wisdom related to nature, aligning with national and global efforts toward environmental protection and sustainable development.



Book On Sadhguru's 100-Day Global Save Soil Movement Launched in Hyderabad :-

A book 'Save Soil: 100 Days That Moved The World' documenting the 100-day global journey of the "Save Soil Movement," led by Sadhguru, was launched in Hyderabad. The Save Soil Movement is an international awareness campaign aimed at addressing soil degradation and promoting sustainable agricultural practices. During the 100-day journey, Sadhguru traveled across multiple countries to advocate for policy changes and encourage governments to adopt soil-friendly measures.



Dr Rajkumar's long-lost autobiography now in book form :-

At the launch of Kathanayakana Kathe (The Hero's Story), several prominent personalities were in attendance, including Dr Rajkumar's son and actor Shivarajkumar, actor Chi Gurudutt (nephew of autobiographer Chi Dattaraj), noted writer Baraguru Ramachandrappa, and senior film figures Jayamala and Bhargava. Prof. A. S. Prabhakar, who serves as the coordinator of the Dr Rajkumar Study Chair at Kannada University, Hampi, described the challenging and determined search for the original manuscripts. The autobiography had originally been dictated by Dr Rajkumar to Dattaraj—brother of renowned lyricist Chi Udayashankar—and was later serialized in 94 installments in the magazine Vijayachitra from 1975 to 1984.



Bharatiya Nyaya Shastra book launched by Dr Veerappa Moily at JGLS :-

A significant academic contribution to Indian legal thought was marked by the launch of the book "Bharatiya Nyaya Shastra: Reflections on Indian Jurisprudence Perspective for Posterity" authored by former Union Law Minister Dr. M. Veerappa Moily. The book was released at Jindal Global Law School, part of O.P. Jindal Global University. It explores ancient Indian jurisprudence, drawing upon Neeti Shastras and classical texts to highlight how early Indian legal systems were

structured around principles of fairness, rule of law, and institutional hierarchy.



Former Army Chief General MM Naravane has released a new book, 'The Curious and the Classified' :-

Former Chief of Army Staff Manoj Mukund Naravane has released his new book titled 'The Curious and the Classified'. The book provides a blend of personal experiences, leadership insights, and behind-the-scenes glimpses into military life, offering readers an understanding of the complexities of national security and strategic decision-making. Drawing from his distinguished career in the Indian Army, Naravane shares anecdotes that highlight curiosity, discipline, and critical thinking as essential traits for leadership. The book is expected to appeal to defence enthusiasts, students, and

general readers interested in India's military affairs and the functioning of armed forces at the highest level.



P. Chidambaram releases 'Tamizhiyal Kalaikalanjiyam,' book in Madurai :-

Senior Congress leader and former Union Finance Minister P. Chidambaram released the Tamil reference work Tamizhiyal Kalaikalanjiyam in Madurai. The book is an encyclopedic compilation focusing on Tamil language, literature, and cultural heritage. Its release underscores efforts to preserve and promote Tamil scholarship, especially in an era of rapid globalization and linguistic change. Events like this are significant because they encourage academic research and cultural pride among younger generations.

7: Defence



Indian Navy Enhances Coastal Defence with ASW Shallow Water Craft :-

The Indian Navy received 'Malwan', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, boosting coastal defence capabilities. Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, the vessel is part of a series aimed at strengthening operations in shallow waters. Equipped with advanced combat systems and waterjet propulsion, 'Malwan' can undertake underwater surveillance and anti-submarine warfare. The induction of this indigenously built warship marks a significant step in enhancing the Navy's operational readiness, supporting India's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.



Intensified Fighting in Southern Lebanon as Israeli Forces Advance :-

Fighting in southern Lebanon has intensified as Israeli forces push deeper into border areas, facing resistance from Hezbollah fighters. The escalating conflict raises concerns of a wider regional confrontation. Casualties have been reported on both sides, with Israeli airstrikes targeting Hezbollah positions. The situation highlights the fragile security environment in West Asia, with humanitarian conditions deteriorating amid ongoing hostilities. International efforts continue to seek a resolution to prevent further escalation.



India's Defence Exports Hit Record High in FY 2025-26 :-

India's defence exports surged to ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, marking a 62.66% increase from the previous year. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded the efforts, emphasizing India's growing role as a global defence equipment supplier. The rise reflects increased contributions from Defence Public Sector Undertakings and private firms, with exports reaching over 80 countries. Policy measures have facilitated this growth,

underscoring India's strategic push to become a global manufacturing hub in defence.



Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Refineries Targeted Amid Gulf Conflict :-

Saudi Arabia intercepted seven drones, while a drone attack hit Kuwait's Mina Al Ahmadi refinery, sparking fires. These incidents mark a shift to targeting civilian infrastructure amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, raising concerns over global energy supplies. Authorities confirm no injuries but stress the heightened risk to regional stability.



Rajnath Singh Lays Foundation Stone for Naval Research Tunnel :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the foundation for a Large Cavitation Tunnel at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory in Visakhapatnam. This facility, under DRDO, will enhance India's naval capabilities by allowing advanced testing for ships and submarines. The project aligns with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision, emphasizing self-reliance in defence

technology, and aims to reduce India's dependence on foreign testing facilities.



INS Taragiri Commissioned, Boosting India's Naval Strength :-

The Indian Navy commissioned the stealth frigate INS Taragiri, symbolizing India's growing maritime capability and self-reliance in defense. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted the warship's advanced features, including BrahMos missiles, reinforcing India's naval power. The commissioning aligns with the national mission for self-reliance in defense manufacturing and maritime security.



US Rescues Airman After Fighter Jet Downed Over Iran

The US military completed a rescue mission in Iran, recovering an airman after an F-15E Strike Eagle was shot down. The operation, involving multiple aircraft and special forces, was successful despite encountering small arms fire. Iran had claimed responsibility for the downing, escalating tensions in the region. Both airmen are receiving medical care and are expected to recover.



SAIL Supplies Steel for INS Taragiri, Boosting Self-Reliance :-

The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has contributed significantly to India's defense self-reliance by supplying specialized steel for the newly commissioned stealth frigate INS Taragiri. As the fourth vessel under the Nilgiri-class, INS Taragiri showcases SAIL's advanced metallurgical capabilities. The collaboration with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders highlights India's progress in defense manufacturing under initiatives like 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India,' enhancing the country's maritime and strategic capabilities.



North Korea's Missile Launch Provokes Global Condemnation :-

North Korea's recent ballistic missile launches have drawn sharp criticism from South Korea, Japan, and the international community. The missiles, launched from the east coast, traveled 240 km before impacting the sea. These actions violate UN Security Council resolutions and heighten regional tensions. South Korea's National Security Council convened an emergency meeting, urging North Korea to cease such provocations. Japan confirmed no damage from the missiles but condemned

the threat they pose to regional peace. The launches follow North Korea's dismissal of Seoul's diplomatic overtures.



US-India Air Force Chiefs Discuss Indo-Pacific Cooperation :-

In a high-level meeting, US Air Force Chief Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach and Indian Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh reaffirmed the strategic defence partnership between the two countries. Discussions focused on interoperability and regional deterrence in the Indo-Pacific. The talks also covered India's procurement of MQ-9B aircraft, emphasizing support for Indian Air Force modernization. These engagements are crucial for advancing joint capabilities and enhancing regional security.



Trump Announces US Navy Blockade of Strait of Hormuz :-

In response to failed negotiations with Iran, US President Donald Trump has ordered a naval blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. This strategic waterway, crucial for global energy supplies, has been a focal point of tensions. The US demands Iran cease its nuclear ambitions and halt tolls on vessels. This development could significantly impact global oil prices and regional stability.



India and Uzbekistan Conduct Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK :-

India and Uzbekistan are conducting the 7th edition of their joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK' in Namangan. The exercise, running from April 12 to 25, focuses on enhancing cooperation and operational readiness in semi-mountainous terrains. It involves physical fitness, tactical drills, and joint planning, culminating in a validation exercise. The initiative strengthens military ties and offers an opportunity for personnel to exchange best practices, reflecting the growing defense collaboration between the two nations.



Defence Production Secretary Inaugurates LCH Production Line :-

Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar inaugurated the Prachand Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) production line at HAL's Tumakuru factory. The facility will support future helicopter programs, enhancing India's indigenous defence capabilities. The LCH is designed for high-altitude operations, vital for India's strategic needs. This development aligns with India's focus on self-reliance in defence production, showcasing advancements in indigenous technology and strengthening national security.



India Strengthens Defence Ties with Germany :-

India is enhancing its defence partnership with Germany, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invites German industry leaders to co-create and innovate under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Singh's address in Berlin emphasized the need for coordinated responses to emerging security threats and highlighted India's defence sector transformation. The collaboration aims to leverage Germany's industrial base for mutual gains, reinforcing the strategic partnership between the two nations. Singh also pointed out the impact of geopolitical instability on India's energy security, advocating for a coordinated response.



India Strengthens Minefield Combat Capability with Defence Deal :-

The Ministry of Defence has signed contracts worth ₹975 crore to procure TRAWL Assemblies for T-72 and T-90 tanks, enhancing the Indian Army's minefield breaching capability. Developed by DRDO, the TRAWL system allows tanks to navigate safely through minefields, aligning with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision. This procurement will enhance operational effectiveness and support the MSME sector through increased domestic manufacturing. The deal reflects India's commitment to

strengthening its defence capabilities and promoting indigenous development in the defence sector.



India-Egypt Strengthen Defence Ties at Joint Committee Meeting :-

The India-Egypt Joint Defence Committee's 11th meeting focused on deepening defence cooperation, including military interactions, joint training, and maritime security. India showcased its growing defence manufacturing capabilities, with exports reaching over 100 countries. Co-development and co-production opportunities were explored, emphasizing defence industry collaboration. The meeting underscored both nations' commitment to regional security, highlighting the importance of India's Information Fusion Centre in maritime security.



NSAs of India and UK Discuss Strategic Partnership and Security :-

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and his UK counterpart Jonathan Powell held the annual India-UK Strategic Dialogue in New Delhi. Discussions focused on advancing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, emphasizing defense and security cooperation. They also shared views on regional and global security challenges. The dialogue reinforces shared commitments to address contemporary threats and enhance bilateral ties,

aligning with broader goals of maintaining peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.



India-Uzbekistan Conduct Joint Military Exercise 'Dustlik' :-

The seventh edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'Dustlik' concluded in Namangam, enhancing military cooperation and interoperability. The exercise focused on counter-terrorism operations and joint tactical drills, strengthening the collaborative capabilities of the Indian and Uzbek armed forces. This annual event reflects India's commitment to fostering strong defence ties with strategic partners.

8: Economy



India-EU FTA Discussions Advance with Focus on Early Implementation :-

Union Minister Piyush Goyal held significant discussions with a European Parliamentary delegation led by Angelika Niebler on the early implementation of the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This agreement, concluded on January 27, 2026, aims to strengthen bilateral ties and boost trade in goods, services, and investment. Expected to come into force by early 2027, it targets key sectors such as engineering, manufacturing, and green energy, potentially unlocking new opportunities for businesses and skilled professionals.



Govt Caps ATF Price Hike for Domestic Airlines Amid Fuel Shock :-

In response to a global surge in fuel prices, the Indian government has capped the increase in Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) prices for domestic airlines at 25%. This measure aims to shield the aviation sector from drastic fare hikes, ensuring stability in domestic air travel. The decision, welcomed by Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, is part of efforts to ease financial pressure on airlines and maintain vital air connectivity, amidst escalating geopolitical tensions affecting global energy markets.



Four Semiconductor Plants to Be Ready in India by 2026

Union Electronics Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced the completion of four semiconductor plants in India by 2026, marking a significant step in the country's technological advancement. The announcement follows the inauguration of a new facility in Gujarat, reflecting India's commitment to building a domestic chip ecosystem. The initiative aligns with the India Semiconductor Mission, positioning the country as a reliable supplier amid global supply chain disruptions, and supporting industries such as electronics and renewable energy.



Centre Offers Customs Duty Relief Amid West Asia Conflict :-

In response to supply chain disruptions due to the West Asia conflict, the Indian government has announced full customs duty exemption on critical petrochemical products until June 30, 2026. This move aims to stabilize domestic industries reliant on petrochemical inputs, including textiles, pharmaceuticals, and automotive components. The exemption is part of broader efforts to mitigate economic impacts from geopolitical tensions,

ensuring continued availability of essential raw materials.



Centre Grants DTA Sales Relief for SEZ Units Amid Global Trade Disruptions :-

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) announced a one-time relief for SEZ units, allowing them to sell goods in the Domestic Tariff Area at concessional customs duty rates. Effective from April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, this measure aims to support SEZ units facing challenges from global trade disruptions. The relief is part of the government's strategy to bolster domestic manufacturing and maintain SEZs' export-oriented nature.



India's New Income-tax Act 2025 Replaces 1961 Law :-

The Income-tax Act, 2025, came into force on April 1, 2026, replacing the six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961. The new legislation aims to simplify and modernize India's tax framework, enhancing transparency and compliance. With streamlined processes and user-friendly formats, the Act is expected to improve the ease

of doing business and align India's tax system with its broader economic vision.



Union Minister Jitendra Singh Inaugurates BioNEST at CFTRI Mysuru :-

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BIRAC-BioNEST Incubation Centre at CFTRI Mysuru, supporting food startups. The facility, aiding advanced research and commercialization, reflects a focus on nutraceuticals and biotechnology innovation, promoting industry linkages and market relevance.



Barabanki-Bahraich Highway to Boost India-Nepal Trade :-

The construction of the 4-lane Barabanki-Bahraich highway is set to enhance trade between India and Nepal. This project aims to improve connectivity to the Rupaiddiha Land Port, facilitating faster and more reliable cross-border commerce. The highway is expected to reduce transportation time by 50%, benefiting farmers and traders. This infrastructure development highlights India's focus on strengthening regional trade ties.



Rajasthan Petro Zone to Boost Industrial Growth :-

Rajasthan is set to witness accelerated industrial growth with the development of the Rajasthan Petro Zone (RPZ) in Balotra. The RPZ is linked to a 9 MMTPA Petroleum Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex, a joint venture between the state government and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited. Chief Secretary V. Srinivas emphasized the importance of creating a robust industrial ecosystem to facilitate efficient utilization of refinery outputs. The project aims to create significant investment and employment opportunities in sectors like plastics and chemicals, driving the state's economic development.



Union Ministers Engage with South Korean Leaders to Boost Trade :-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal held talks with South Korean leaders in New Delhi to enhance economic ties. Discussions focused on fintech, trade, and industrial collaboration. The engagements coincide with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's state visit, aiming to expand bilateral trade to USD 50 billion by 2030.



India's Food Processing Sector Transforms with PLI Scheme :-

India's food processing industry is undergoing a transformation, driven by the Production-Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) with a budget of ₹10,900 crore. The scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing, incentivize sales, and promote Indian food brands globally. It has already resulted in significant investments, job creation, and capacity expansion. With 165 approved applications, the scheme supports both large-scale manufacturing and MSMEs. The initiative also enhances India's global presence, with exports growing at a 13.23% CAGR, reflecting the sector's potential in strengthening the agriculture-industry link.



US-Iran Tensions Impact Global Supply Chains and Costs

The ongoing US-Iran conflict has disrupted supply chains and increased costs in various sectors, affecting consumer goods, travel, and mining. Companies flagged rising transport and raw material costs, particularly linked to the Strait of Hormuz disruption. The conflict's duration and its impact on energy and transport remain key concerns. Companies are adjusting forecasts and pricing strategies amid geopolitical uncertainties,

highlighting the broader economic implications of the crisis.



Rajasthan Leads in E-Trade Volume on National Agriculture Market :-

Rajasthan ranks first in e-trade volume on the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform, enhancing agricultural trade through digital integration. With 173 mandis connected, e-NAM facilitates transparent auctions and direct payments, benefiting over 15.55 lakh farmers. The state's innovative use of AI for quality assessments further strengthens market efficiency. Since 2016, Rajasthan has traded over 3.16 crore metric tonnes of produce worth Rs 1,30,772 crore, highlighting its leadership in agricultural digitalization and commitment to farmer prosperity.



Centre to Increase Wheat Procurement to Support Farmers :-

The Union Government has raised its wheat procurement target by 15% to 34.5 million tonnes for the current season. This move aims to support farmers affected by unseasonal rains, especially in major wheat-producing states like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The procurement will add to the opening

wheat stocks, ensuring adequate availability. This decision underscores the government's commitment to stabilizing farmers' incomes and maintaining food security amidst adverse weather conditions.



India-Netherlands Strengthen Ties in Water, Agriculture, and Technology :-

India and the Netherlands are strengthening their strategic partnership with a focus on water management, agriculture, and technology. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the bilateral ties at the Netherlands' National Day celebration. The partnership reflects mutual trust and collaboration in key sectors, with a focus on sustainable development and innovation. The presence of Dutch multinational Philips in India exemplifies the deep economic engagement between the two countries, fostering economic growth and technological advancement.



Australia Proposes Levy on Big Tech for Local News Deals :-

Australia plans to impose a 2.25% levy on Meta, Google, and TikTok unless they negotiate payments to local media for news content. The proposed News Bargaining Incentive aims to support Australian journalism by redirecting levy proceeds to news companies. This move replaces the 2021 laws deemed ineffective. The draft legislation, set for the 2025-26 financial year, reflects Australia's stance on ensuring fair contributions from digital platforms benefiting from journalism.



Gold and Silver Steady Ahead of US Fed Interest Rate Decision :-

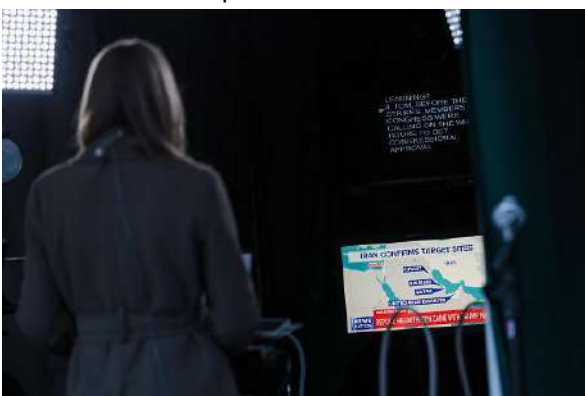
Gold and silver prices remained stable on the Multi Commodity Exchange, awaiting the US Federal Reserve's interest rate decision. Gold contracts for June opened at Rs 1,50,720 per 10 grams, while silver for July began at Rs 2,43,589 per kg. Internationally, COMEX gold and silver also traded positively. The US Fed's decision is anticipated to impact global markets, influencing investor sentiment towards precious metals. The current trading reflects cautious optimism, with market participants closely monitoring upcoming announcements for potential price movements.

9: International



Bangladesh Faces Measles Outbreak Amid Vaccination Gaps :-

Bangladesh is grappling with a severe measles outbreak, resulting in at least 38 child deaths this year. Health experts attribute the surge to vaccination gaps and widespread malnutrition. The outbreak, affecting multiple districts, has overwhelmed hospitals, with shortages of vaccines and health workers complicating the response. The absence of a nationwide measles-rubella campaign since 2020 has exacerbated the situation. Officials warn that without urgent intervention to restore immunisation coverage, the outbreak could lead to more fatalities, highlighting the critical need for renewed focus on public health and nutrition.



American Journalist Kidnapped in Baghdad Amid Rising Tensions :-

An American journalist, Shelly Kittleson, was kidnapped in Baghdad, as confirmed by Iraqi police officials. The abduction highlights ongoing security challenges in the region. The U.S. State Department has acknowledged the

incident, reiterating previous warnings to avoid travel to Iraq. Efforts to locate and secure her release are underway, with one suspect already in custody. The incident underscores the risks faced by journalists in conflict zones, emphasizing the need for heightened security measures and international cooperation to ensure their safety.



Judge Rules Trump Administration Unlawfully Revoked Migrant Status :-

A U.S. federal judge has ordered the reversal of the Trump administration's termination of legal status for thousands of migrants who used a Biden-era app to enter the country. The ruling highlights the ongoing legal challenges surrounding immigration policies. The decision, hailed by advocates, underscores the need for adherence to legal procedures in immigration decisions. The case reflects broader debates over immigration reform and the treatment of migrants under changing U.S. administrations.



US Signals Possible End to Iran War Amid Continued Attacks :-

U.S. President Donald Trump and Secretary of State Marco Rubio indicated a potential end to the Iran war, suggesting direct talks with Tehran's leadership. Despite ongoing attacks, Washington's remarks signal a shift towards diplomatic resolution. The conflict has heavily impacted global oil supplies, with attacks reported on both sides. The situation remains fluid, with international stakeholders closely monitoring developments for signs of de-escalation and peace-building efforts.

**Iran Sets Oil Tanker Ablaze Near Dubai Amid Tensions :-**

Iran attacked and set ablaze an oil tanker off Dubai, despite warnings from U.S. President Donald Trump. The incident, involving a Kuwait-flagged vessel, underscores the volatile situation in the Strait of Hormuz. Crude oil prices spiked briefly, reflecting the impact of ongoing regional tensions on global energy markets. The attack highlights the challenges in securing vital shipping lanes, with international efforts focused on de-escalating the conflict and ensuring the safety of maritime operations.

**India Evacuates Nationals from Iran Amid West Asia Tensions :-**

The Ministry of External Affairs announced the safe evacuation of over 1,200 Indian nationals from Iran. Most have been relocated to Armenia and Azerbaijan, with ongoing efforts for their return to India. The evacuation follows heightened regional tensions, with India emphasizing secure shipping lanes and energy infrastructure protection.

**UN to Vote on Strait of Hormuz Resolution Amid Oil Price Surge :-**

The UN Security Council is set to vote on a Bahraini resolution to protect shipping in the Strait of Hormuz. While the draft allows defensive measures, China opposes authorizing force, citing potential escalation. The resolution comes amid oil price surges due to regional conflicts affecting global energy corridors.

**Trump Agrees to Two-Week Ceasefire with Iran, Easing Global Tensions :-**

US President Donald Trump has agreed to a two-week ceasefire with Iran, temporarily halting hostilities and easing global tensions. The agreement, mediated by Pakistan, calls for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a crucial global energy corridor. The ceasefire aims to pave the way for further negotiations and prevent potential

escalation. Global markets responded positively, with oil prices falling and stock indices rising. The ceasefire marks a significant diplomatic development, with implications for regional stability and global economic conditions.



US-Iran Nuclear Talks in Pakistan End Without Agreement :-

US Vice President JD Vance announced that nuclear talks with Iran in Islamabad ended without a deal. Despite intensive negotiations, key issues like Iran's nuclear program and long-term commitments remained unresolved. The US demands assurance against Iran pursuing nuclear weapons. The failure to reach an agreement underscores the complexities of international diplomacy and the challenges in addressing nuclear non-proliferation.



India Rejects China's Attempt to Rename Arunachal Places :-

India has firmly rejected China's attempts to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh, reaffirming the region as an integral part of India. The Ministry of External Affairs criticized these actions as baseless and detrimental to India-China relations. The statement underscores India's

unwavering stance on its territorial integrity and calls for constructive engagement to stabilize bilateral ties. This issue highlights ongoing tensions and the need for diplomacy in maintaining regional stability.



Kuwait Cracks Down on Terror Funding, Arrests 24 :-

Kuwaiti authorities have arrested 24 individuals in a major operation targeting terror financing networks. The suspects were involved in funneling funds to terrorist groups under the guise of charitable donations. The crackdown highlights Kuwait's commitment to national security and its proactive stance against terrorism. This development is part of broader efforts to enhance regional security and disrupt illicit financial activities.



Iran Accuses US of Blocking Islamabad MoU :-

Iran has accused the United States of preventing the finalization of the 'Islamabad MoU' due to 'maximalism' and shifting demands. Despite high-level talks aimed at resolving conflicts, negotiations have stalled. This highlights ongoing tensions over Iran's nuclear program and regional conflicts. This situation exemplifies the complexities of international diplomacy and the challenges in reaching multilateral agreements.



NATO Allies Decline U.S. Proposal for Strait of Hormuz Blockade :-

NATO allies, including Britain and France, refused to join U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, opting for diplomatic intervention post-conflict instead. The decision aims to de-escalate tensions and maintain alliance unity, despite U.S. pressure. European nations plan to organize a multinational mission to ensure safe passage through the strait, emphasizing non-belligerent roles. This stance underlines the complexity of global strategic alliances amid geopolitical tensions.



EU Urges Coordination on Energy Prices Amid Iran Conflict :-

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen called for coordinated action on energy prices amidst the Iran conflict, which has raised fossil fuel bills significantly. The EU plans to propose energy price measures and an electrification strategy to stabilize markets. Von der Leyen emphasized the need for structural changes to lower energy costs, highlighting the long-term importance of decarbonization. This initiative reflects

the EU's strategic approach to managing energy dependencies and mitigating geopolitical risks.



India Pushes for Global Financial Reforms and UNSC Overhaul :-

India has called for extensive reforms in global financial systems and the United Nations Security Council to better represent the Global South. During the 2026 ECOSOC Forum, India emphasized the need for a fair, development-oriented financial system and highlighted the necessity of reforming international financial institutions. India also advocated for UNSC reforms to include greater representation of developing nations, particularly in its permanent membership, aligning with the African model of reform. These initiatives aim to enhance the voice of the Global South in global governance.



EU Immigration Reaches Record 64.2 Million in 2025:-

The number of immigrants in the EU reached a record 64.2 million in 2025, up from 40 million in 2010. Germany hosts nearly 18 million foreign-born individuals, while Spain saw rapid growth, adding 700,000 immigrants. Asylum claims are concentrated in countries like Spain, Italy, and Germany. The study highlights uneven migration patterns, with Luxembourg and Malta facing

higher immigrant shares relative to their population size. This demographic shift has significant implications for EU policy and integration strategies.



Strait of Malacca: A Vital Maritime Chokepoint under Spotlight :-

The Strait of Malacca, the world's busiest maritime chokepoint, is crucial for global trade, carrying 22% of maritime oil flows. Concerns over its security have grown amid rising tensions in the Middle East. The strait's narrowness poses risks of collisions and oil spills, while piracy remains a threat. Countries like Indonesia and Malaysia conduct joint patrols to ensure safety. The strategic importance of the strait to China and the global economy underscores the need for international cooperation to maintain open sea routes.



Jaishankar Launches India-Africa Forum Summit Logo and Theme :-

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar launched the logo, theme, and website for the 4th India-Africa Forum Summit, aimed at strengthening ties with African nations. The summit will focus on inclusive, future-oriented partnerships, sharing development experiences, and addressing common challenges. India's

development initiatives in Africa, including digital technology and sustainability, will be highlighted. The summit reaffirms India's support for Africa's global representation, marking a significant step in deepening bilateral relations.



Rajnath Singh Boosts Indo-German Defence Ties in Berlin :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and German counterpart Boris Pistorius agreed on a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap to enhance strategic ties. The focus is on co-development of defence equipment, military cooperation, and regional stability. Singh highlighted the India-EU Security and Defence Partnership as a framework for bilateral engagement. The visit marked 25 years of Indo-German partnership, reinforcing collaboration in defence, trade, technology, and cultural exchanges, amid global uncertainties.



India-Japan Hold Inaugural AI Strategic Dialogue in Mumbai :-

India and Japan held their first AI Strategic Dialogue to enhance cooperation in emerging technologies. The discussions focused on co-creation, policy alignment, and AI governance. The dialogue builds on the India-

Japan AI Cooperation Initiative, aiming to foster a robust AI ecosystem. Key areas include joint research, international mobility of AI professionals, and collaboration on global platforms. The initiative is part of a broader vision to deepen technological ties and innovation between the two countries.



India Welcomes France's Visa-Free Transit for Indian Travelers :-

India welcomed France's decision to allow visa-free transit for Indian nationals through French airports. The move, agreed upon during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron, reflects the deepened India-France partnership. Effective from April 10, 2026, this development enhances travel ease and strengthens people-to-people connections, further solidifying the bilateral relationship elevated to a Special Global Strategic Partnership during Macron's recent visit.



U.S. Proposes New Execution Methods Amid Drug Shortages :-

The U.S. Department of Justice has proposed adding firing squads, electrocution, and gas asphyxiation as execution methods for federal criminals. This move

follows difficulties in obtaining drugs for lethal injections and aligns with President Trump's promise to resume capital punishment. The proposal aims to ensure the DOJ can carry out lawful executions despite drug shortages, reflecting ongoing debates around ethical and legal aspects of capital punishment in the U.S.



Ukraine and Russia Swap Prisoners of War with U.S. and UAE Mediation :-

In a significant diplomatic development, Ukraine and Russia have exchanged 193 prisoners of war each, facilitated by the United States and the United Arab Emirates. This exchange highlights ongoing efforts to address humanitarian concerns amid the prolonged conflict between the two nations. Ukrainian President Zelenskyy emphasized the importance of such exchanges in bringing back captured personnel, reflecting the complex geopolitical dynamics in Eastern Europe.



Russia Reaffirms Support for Cuba Amid U.S. Pressure :-

Russia has pledged continued humanitarian aid to Cuba, rejecting what it describes as U.S. blackmail and threats. This support highlights the historical ties between Russia and Cuba, as Moscow stands in solidarity with Havana against U.S. pressures. The geopolitical dynamics reflect

ongoing tensions as Russia challenges U.S. influence in the region, emphasizing its commitment to bilateral cooperation with Cuba.



Norway Plans to Ban Social Media for Children Under 16 :-

Norway is set to introduce legislation banning social media use for children under 16, holding technology companies responsible for age verification. This move aims to protect children from excessive digital exposure, following similar actions by Australia. The proposed bill reflects growing concerns over children's digital well-being and the impact of social media on their development.



Mali Witnesses Coordinated Attacks Amidst Ongoing Insurgency :-

Mali experienced simultaneous attacks in its capital, Bamako, and other regions, attributed to terrorist groups. These assaults underscore Mali's ongoing struggle with insurgencies linked to al-Qaeda and Islamic State affiliates. The Mali army reported gunfire near military bases and in several towns, reflecting the persistent security challenges faced by the country.

despite military efforts to restore peace. The attacks highlight the volatile security situation in West Africa.



UN Commemorates 40th Anniversary of Chernobyl, Urges Peaceful Nuclear Use :-

The UN General Assembly marked the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster, emphasizing the need for peaceful nuclear technology use. The 1986 accident highlighted the risks associated with nuclear energy. The UN calls for robust safeguards and international cooperation to prevent similar incidents. The commemoration serves as a reminder of the global impact of nuclear accidents and the importance of safety measures.



Trump Safe After Shooting at White House Correspondents Dinner :-

A shooting incident disrupted the White House Correspondents' Association dinner, leading to the swift evacuation of President Donald Trump and other officials. The suspect was apprehended after firing shots at a security checkpoint. Trump praised the Secret Service for their rapid response, ensuring the safety of all attendees. The event highlighted ongoing security challenges and the need for enhanced protective measures.

measures at high-profile venues. This incident adds to the history of threats faced by Trump, underscoring the persistent risks associated with national leadership roles.



Romania Condemns Russian Drone Attack Damaging Property :-

Romania recovered drone fragments following a Russian attack on Ukraine, with damage reported in the city of Galati. Although no casualties occurred, the incident has heightened tensions in the region. Romania, a NATO member, condemned Russia's actions as a threat to regional security and collective safety. The attack underscores the ongoing instability along Europe's eastern flank and the challenges posed by drone warfare.



US Negotiators Head to Pakistan Amid Iran Talks :-

U.S. negotiators are set to travel to Pakistan for discussions with Iranian officials, despite Iran's statement of no direct meetings planned. The talks aim to address the ongoing conflict impacting global markets and oil shipments. President Trump expressed hope for progress, citing Iran's potential offer to satisfy U.S. demands. The situation remains tense, with both sides at an impasse over maritime blockades and nuclear concerns.



Sherpas Successfully Open Route to Everest Camp I Amid Challenges :-

Sherpa climbers have successfully opened the route to Camp I on Mount Everest, overcoming the challenges posed by a massive serac that delayed access. This development marks the start of the annual climbing season, crucial for mountaineers aiming to summit the 8,849-meter peak. The route, fixed with ropes and ladders, ensures safer passage through the Khumbu icefall. Hundreds of climbers, stranded at base camp, can now proceed with their summit attempts.



Top Jalisco Cartel Commander Arrested in Mexico, Major Blow to CJNG :-

Mexican special forces have captured Audias Flores, known as 'El Jardinero,' a top commander of the Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG). This arrest, in collaboration with US authorities, marks a significant blow to the cartel following the death of its leader 'El Mencho.' Flores controlled key smuggling routes and drug operations in Mexico. His capture highlights intensified efforts against drug cartels, underscoring the ongoing battle against organized crime. The arrest aligns

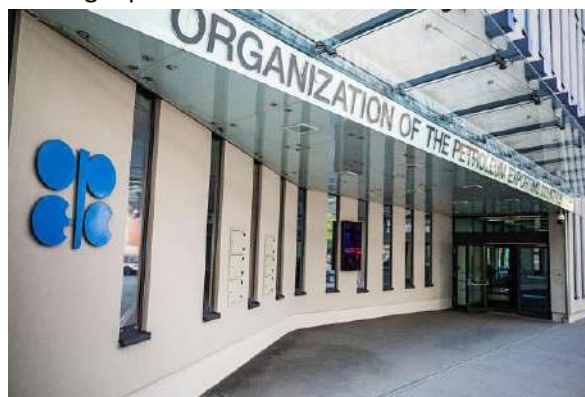
with Mexico's increased security measures and cooperation with the US to combat narcotics trafficking.



US Demands UN Reforms, Citing China's Influence and Cost-Cutting :-

The United States has set conditions for releasing billions owed to the United Nations, including reforms to curb China's influence and reduce costs. Proposed changes involve overhauling the UN pension system and cutting peacekeeping missions. This move reflects ongoing US efforts to push for UN reforms and address financial obligations. China's response highlights the importance of fulfilling financial commitments. The situation underscores the complexities of international diplomacy

and the challenges of managing global governance in an era of geopolitical tensions.



UAE Exits OPEC to Pursue Strategic Energy Transition :-

The United Arab Emirates announced its exit from OPEC and OPEC+, effective May 2026, to focus on national energy priorities. The decision reflects the UAE's evolving energy profile and desire for flexibility in responding to global market dynamics. The move highlights challenges within OPEC amidst geopolitical strains and market volatility. The UAE's departure marks a significant shift in global energy politics, with potential implications for oil production and pricing strategies in the region and beyond.

10: Miscellaneous



PM Modi Lauds Prayoga Institute for Innovative Science Learning :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the Bengaluru-based Prayoga Institute of Education Research for its 'Anveshana' initiative, promoting experiential science learning among school students. Featured in the 'Mann Ki Baat' program, the initiative aims to foster innovation in fields like Chemistry and Earth Science, offering

students hands-on experience and research publication opportunities. Prayoga's founder, H S Nagaraja, expressed that the PM's recognition has boosted their confidence, inspiring the potential spread of such centers nationwide, aligning with the National Education Policy's emphasis on experiential learning.



PM Modi Discusses Bilateral Cooperation with Dutch PM :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten, focusing on strengthening bilateral ties in key sectors such as semiconductors, green hydrogen, and water management. The discussion highlighted opportunities for collaboration, leveraging the Netherlands' expertise in technology and clean energy. Both leaders emphasized skilled professional mobility and shared views on the West Asia situation, advocating for peace and stability. The meeting underscores India's ongoing efforts to enhance international partnerships across diverse sectors.



Shri Krishna Devaraya Sainik School Inaugurated in Karnataka :-

The Shri Krishna Devaraya Sainik School was inaugurated in Karnataka's Sindhanur, enhancing defence-oriented education. Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy and Defence Minister Sanjay Seth emphasized the school's role in fostering discipline and leadership. The initiative aligns with expanding the Sainik School network, reflecting a commitment to accessible, quality education for nation-building.



Ladakh Police Offers Free Training for Recruitment Aspirants :-

Ladakh Police is conducting a free orientation program for sub-inspector and constable exam aspirants, training 150-200 candidates daily. The initiative aims to assist candidates in preparing for the upcoming recruitment drive. The program includes practice sessions for physical efficiency tests and guidance for written exams. Thousands have enrolled in the program, which is being held at the Khree Sultan Cho Sports Stadium. The recruitment process will involve physical tests, written exams, and police verification, aiming to enhance employment opportunities in the region.



Stefano Gabbana Steps Down as Dolce Gabbana Chair :-

Stefano Gabbana, co-founder of Dolce Gabbana, resigned as chair of the iconic fashion house in January 2026. The decision, revealed in a company filing, comes amidst financial restructuring efforts that require an infusion of €150 million. Gabbana, who holds a 40% stake, is mulling over options for his shares. The company, known for its luxury fashion, faces lender pressure to refinance €450 million in debt. Creative direction remains under the co-founders, Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, but Alfonso Dolce, Domenico's brother, has taken over as chair.



Cyclone Vaianu Threatens New Zealand with Heavy Flooding :-

Cyclone Vaianu is set to hit New Zealand, with Auckland potentially experiencing severe flooding. The cyclone is expected to bring heavy rain and winds of up to 130 km/h. Authorities have issued evacuation orders for parts of the North Island, warning residents to be prepared for rapid rises in streams and rivers. The storm is reminiscent of Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023, which caused significant destruction. Preparations include ensuring drains are clear and being ready for possible power outages.



Kedarnath Yatra Helicopter Bookings Open, Ensuring Smooth Pilgrimage :-

The booking for helicopter services for the Shri Kedarnath Yatra is now open, offering convenience for pilgrims. Available from April 22 to June 23, tickets can be booked via the IRCTC website. The initiative focuses on transparency and preventing fraud. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami emphasized the government's commitment to enhancing infrastructure and safety measures for a seamless pilgrimage experience. The state is prioritizing crowd management, connectivity, and disaster preparedness to accommodate the influx of devotees.



Puri Beach Sand Art Honors Legendary Singer Asha Bhosle :-

Renowned sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik created a 20-foot-long Veena sand sculpture at Puri Beach in tribute to the late Asha Bhosle. The art piece, crafted with the help of students, celebrates the singer's timeless voice and contribution to Indian music. Asha Bhosle's career spanned decades, touching hearts with her versatile performances. The tribute reflects her enduring legacy and the deep emotional connection she shared with music lovers across generations.



NCC Launches Cyber Security Training Programme for Cadets :-

The National Cadet Corps (NCC), in collaboration with NIELIT, launched a cyber security training programme for cadets. The initiative aims to enhance digital literacy and cyber defence skills, aligning with the Digital India initiative. The programme includes an online module for basic awareness and an advanced offline training for selected cadets. This initiative seeks to create a network of NCC Cyber Cadets, promoting safe digital practices and enhancing cyber security awareness at grassroots levels.



Delhi CM Launches 200 New Electric Buses for Sustainable Transport :-

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated 200 new electric buses, marking a significant step towards sustainable public transport. This initiative is part of a broader plan to expand the city's e-bus fleet to 6,300, emphasizing Delhi's commitment to reducing carbon emissions and enhancing commuter experience. The launch also included the Delhi-Rohtak interstate electric bus service, showcasing the government's dedication to green regional connectivity. Transport Minister Pankaj Kumar Singh highlighted this as a move towards a clean, efficient transport system, aligning with the city's environmental goals.



Heatwave Hits Rajasthan: Jaisalmer Records 46.4°C, New April High :-

Rajasthan is experiencing an intense heatwave with Jaisalmer hitting a record 46.4°C, surpassing the previous high of 46.3°C set in April 2025. Severe heat conditions have affected major cities, prompting authorities to

implement measures like water ponds for animals. The Meteorological Centre in Jaipur issued a 'yellow alert' for thunderstorms and rain in various districts, though heatwave conditions persist in others. This weather pattern highlights the challenges of climate change, with authorities advising precautions and monitoring the situation closely to safeguard public health.



Tamil Nadu Faces Intensifying Heatwave, Temperatures Rise :-

Tamil Nadu is grappling with a severe heatwave, with temperatures exceeding 38°C in several districts. Tiruchirappalli recorded the highest temperature at 40.5°C. The India Meteorological Department forecasts further increases, with dry weather and high solar radiation contributing to discomfort. Authorities advise precautions against heat-related illnesses, especially in coastal areas experiencing high humidity. Residents are urged to stay hydrated and limit outdoor activities. The heatwave highlights the need for awareness and preparation in managing extreme weather conditions.

11: National



IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26 Kicks Off in Noida :-

The IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26 commenced in Greater Noida, showcasing over 650 talented youth competing across 63 skill categories. Organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the event aims to promote excellence in skills and align the workforce with global standards. Participants were selected from regional competitions, highlighting India's commitment to strengthening its skilling ecosystem. Winners will represent India at the

WorldSkills Competition 2026, furthering the vision of a developed and skilled nation.



India's First Fully Digital Census Set for 2027 Launch :-

India is set to conduct its first fully digital population Census in 2027, beginning in April 2026. The Census will employ mobile applications for data collection and offer self-enumeration options. Covering over 3 million officials, this exercise aims to enhance data accuracy and support policy-making. The Census will be conducted in two phases, focusing on housing, demographics, and socio-economic data. With an outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore, the initiative represents a significant shift towards digital governance and comprehensive data collection.



Indian Ships Safely Navigate Strait of Hormuz Amid Tensions :-

The Ministry of External Affairs confirmed the safe passage of six Indian-flagged ships through the Strait of Hormuz. Amidst ongoing regional tensions, India remains in dialogue with Iran and other Gulf nations to ensure maritime security, reflecting the strategic importance of this global energy corridor.



BRO's Project Chetak Celebrates 47th Raising Day :-

Project Chetak of the Border Roads Organisation marked its 47th Raising Day, celebrating its role in enhancing infrastructure in India's western border regions. Established in 1980, the project maintains over 4,000 km of road network, contributing to national security and connectivity. The motto 'Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas' underscores its commitment to national development.



Election Commission Intensifies Vigil Ahead of Polls :-

The Election Commission of India has intensified surveillance ahead of upcoming assembly elections, reporting seizures worth over ₹650 crore related to cash, liquor, and other inducements. The Commission deployed flying squads and surveillance teams to ensure free and fair elections. It emphasized adherence to the Model Code of Conduct while avoiding inconvenience to citizens. The ECI's proactive measures underscore its commitment to transparent and violence-free elections, safeguarding the democratic process.



Rajya Sabha Rejects Opposition's Motion to Impeach CEC :-

Rajya Sabha Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have rejected an impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Filed by opposition members citing constitutional grounds, the motion failed to pass due to lack of admission. The decision highlights the complexities involved in the impeachment process of high-ranking officials in India.



Rajnath Singh Advocates for Agri Modernization :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh advocated for agricultural modernization at the 'Unnat Krishi Mahotsav' in Raisen, emphasizing local procurement for Army cantonments. He highlighted the benefits of technology-driven farming and sustainable practices. Singh called for innovation and modern techniques to boost productivity and profitability. His speech underscores the importance of agricultural reform in India's economic development.



Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Laser Show at Smritika War Memorial :-

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP CM Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a laser, light, and sound show at the Smritika War Memorial. The multimedia presentation showcases the Indian Army's history and operations, enhancing public engagement with military heritage. The show highlights significant wars and modern advancements, reflecting India's defence capabilities and ongoing modernization efforts. The initiative aims to foster national pride and awareness of military contributions.



India Pays Tribute to Jyotiba Phule on 200th Birth Anniversary :-

In a historic ceremony, India paid tribute to social reformer Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his 200th birth anniversary at the Parliament House. The event, led by President Murmu and PM Modi, marks formal recognition of Phule's contributions to social justice and education. The year-long celebrations aim to spread his message of equality and reform, reinforcing his legacy in India's national narrative and commitment to an inclusive society.



42 Years of Operation Meghdoot: Tribute to Siachen Bravehearts :-

Operation Meghdoot marks its 42nd anniversary as the Indian Armed Forces pay tribute to the soldiers defending the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield. Launched in 1984, the operation secured strategic heights in Northern Ladakh. The Indian Air Force continues to support logistics and casualty evacuation in harsh conditions, upholding the legacy of courage and sacrifice. The anniversary is a reminder of the operational excellence and resilience of India's defense forces in extreme environments.



President Murmu Inaugurates Projects During Odisha Visit :-

President Droupadi Murmu is visiting Odisha to inaugurate key infrastructure projects in Rourkela, including a Planetarium, Science Centre, and tribal museum. These projects aim to enhance scientific education and preserve cultural heritage. Her visit highlights ongoing development and cultural initiatives in her home state.



Vice President Radhakrishnan to Address Civil Services Day Event :-

Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan will address the 18th Civil Services Day at Vigyan Bhawan, focusing on citizen-centric governance. The event celebrates civil servants' commitment to public service, aligning with India's vision for inclusive development and enhanced service delivery across the nation.



Vice-President Encourages AIIMS Graduates to Serve with Empathy :-

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan urged AIIMS Rishikesh graduates to embrace their professional responsibilities with empathy, integrity, and nation-building spirit. Highlighting India's resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic, he praised the Vaccine Maitri initiative's global outreach. The event marked the growth of healthcare infrastructure, with new AIIMS institutions improving access in underserved regions. The Vice-President lauded telemedicine and innovative healthcare delivery solutions like helicopter emergency services. He emphasized healthcare as a public trust, advocating for preventive care and rural outreach.



Indian Government Disburses Educational Aid to Marginalised Students :-

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has disbursed over Rs 7,900 crore to more than 75 lakh SC beneficiaries in the 2025-26 fiscal year. This initiative aims to empower marginalised students through scholarships and educational support schemes. The government remains committed to inclusive development and social justice, focusing on the upliftment of diverse sections of society, including Scheduled Castes and Economically Weaker Sections.



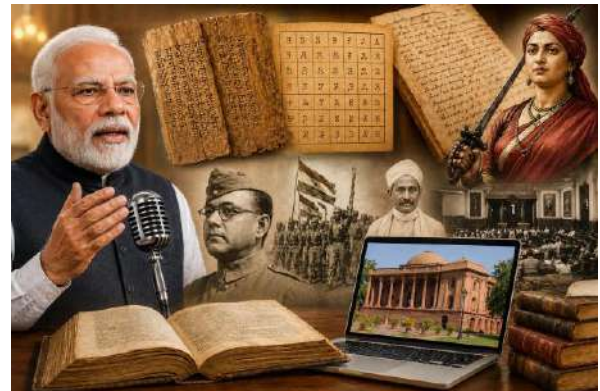
ECI Rules Out Repoll in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu After Scrutiny :-

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced no need for repolls in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu following scrutiny of polling documents from recent assembly elections. The ECI conducted comprehensive scrutiny in the presence of candidates and observers, concluding that the elections were conducted fairly. The decision underscores the robustness of India's electoral process and the ECI's commitment to transparency.



India's First Digital Census in 2027 to Enhance Data-Driven Policymaking :-

Census 2027 will be India's first digital enumeration, utilizing mobile-based data collection to provide comprehensive demographic insights. The census will include caste enumeration for the first time since 2011, supported by robust data security measures. This digital approach aims to enhance policymaking and resource allocation, offering granular data for targeted government interventions. The initiative marks a significant step in modernizing India's statistical systems, ensuring accurate assessments for inclusive development and planning.



PM Modi Highlights Digital Archive 'Abhilekh Patal' :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the 'Abhilekh Patal' digital archive, which hosts over 200 million digitized documents, including rare manuscripts and historical records. This initiative by the National Archives of India aims to provide deeper insights into India's historical legacy. The archive features significant documents related to figures like Rani Lakshmibai and Subhas Chandra Bose. Modi encouraged citizens to

explore the portal to gain a better understanding of India's rich history and cultural heritage.



Security Measures Enhanced for Kedarnath Pilgrimage with 'Operation Kalanemi' :-

To ensure a safe pilgrimage for devotees visiting the Kedarnath Dham, the Rudraprayag District Administration has implemented strict security measures. Under the directive of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, 'Operation Kalanemi' has been launched to identify and take action against individuals posing as sadhus and engaging in anti-social activities. The district police are actively verifying suspicious individuals to maintain peace and order. Over 90 cameras have been installed for real-time monitoring from Shri Kedarnath Dham to the district administration office.

12: Obituaries



Anil Gurav, the 'Vivian Richards of Mumbai', passes away :-

Anil Gurav, popularly known as the "Vivian Richards of Mumbai," passed away, leaving behind a legacy in local cricket. His nickname reflected his aggressive batting style, reminiscent of West Indies legend Vivian Richards. Though he did not achieve international fame, Gurav was a prominent figure in Mumbai's domestic and club cricket circuits, admired for his fearless approach and match-winning performances. His contributions helped nurture grassroots cricket talent, and he was respected among peers and young cricketers.



Assam's football icon Gilbert Sangma passes away at 71

Gilbert Sangma, a celebrated football figure from Assam, passed away at the age of 71, marking the end of an era in regional Indian football. Known for his exceptional skills and dedication to the sport, Sangma played a crucial role in promoting football in northeastern India, a region widely regarded as a talent hub for the game. His contributions extended beyond playing, as he inspired younger generations and helped strengthen grassroots football development. His passing is seen as a significant loss to the sporting community, especially in Assam, where he was regarded as a pioneer and role model.



Ex-Union Minister Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury dies at 89 :-

Veteran Congress leader Abu Hasem Khan Choudhury, a former Union Minister and four-time Member of Parliament from West Bengal's Malda, passed away at the age of 89. He had served as Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and was known for his long-standing contribution to public service and regional politics. He died in Kolkata after suffering from age-related ailments, marking the end of a significant political career that spanned decades.



Veteran Congress leader Mohsina Kidwai passes away

Senior Congress leader Mohsina Kidwai passed away at the age of 94. She held several key positions in the Union government under Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi, including portfolios such as Health, Urban Development, and Rural Development. Kidwai was also a Member of Parliament in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha and played an important role in the Indian National Congress organization. Her death marks the loss of one of the senior-most women leaders in Indian politics.



Gopinath, India's Last Surviving First Test-Winning Cricketer, Dies at 96 :-

Chingleput Gopinath, the last surviving member of India's first Test-winning cricket team, passed away at 96. Gopinath was part of the historic 1952 match in Chennai, where India secured its first Test win against England. Batting at number eight, he contributed significantly to the victory, showcasing his skill and resilience. Gopinath's passing marks the end of an era in Indian cricket, as he is remembered for his pioneering role and contributions that laid the foundation for India's success in international cricket.



Colonel Sonam Wangchuk, Kargil war hero, dies at 61 :-

Sonam Wangchuk, a decorated officer of the Indian Army and a hero of the Kargil War, has passed away at the age of 61. He was widely respected for his bravery and leadership during the conflict, where Indian forces successfully pushed back intruders from high-altitude positions in Jammu and Kashmir. Wangchuk was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra, India's second-highest wartime gallantry award, for his exceptional courage. His contributions symbolized the resilience and

determination of Indian soldiers in one of the toughest terrains in the world.



Legendary singer Asha Bhosle passes away at 92 :-

Legendary playback singer Asha Bhosle passed away on 12 April 2026 at the age of 92 in Mumbai, marking the end of an extraordinary era in Indian music. Asha Bhosle was one of the most versatile and prolific voices in the history of Indian cinema. Her career spanned over seven to eight decades, during which she recorded more than 11,000–12,000 songs in multiple languages, covering genres like film music, ghazals, pop, classical, and folk. She began singing at a very young age and went on to become a defining voice of Bollywood playback singing.



Gwalior Gharana Icon Neela Bhagwat Passes Away :-

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Neela Bhagwat, associated with the Gwalior gharana, passed away, marking a significant loss to Indian classical music. She was widely respected for her deep understanding of traditional khayal singing and her efforts to preserve and promote classical music heritage. Apart from her musical achievements, she was also known for incorporating social themes into her performances and compositions,

making her work both culturally rich and socially relevant.



Bikaji Founder Shiv Ratan Agarwal dies in Chennai :-

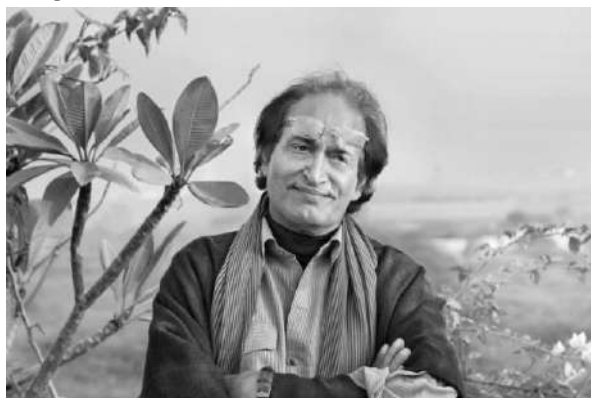
Shiv Ratan Agarwal, the founder and Chairman Managing Director of Bikaji Foods International, passed away in Chennai at the age of around 74. He was a key figure in transforming Bikaji into one of India's leading packaged snacks and sweets brands, with a strong presence both domestically and internationally. Under his leadership, the company expanded its product range and market reach, contributing significantly to the growth of the Indian FMCG snack sector. His death marks the end of an era for the company and the industry, as he was widely respected for his entrepreneurial vision and contribution to building a global identity for traditional Indian food products.



Gujarat's master puppeteer Mahipat Kavi dies at 97 :-

Renowned puppeteer Mahipat Kavi from Gujarat passed away at the age of 97, marking the end of an era in traditional Indian puppetry. He was widely celebrated for preserving and promoting the ancient art of string puppetry (Kathputli), using it as a medium to convey social messages, folklore, and cultural heritage. Over decades, Kavi performed across India and

internationally, earning recognition for his contribution to folk arts. His efforts played a crucial role in keeping this traditional storytelling form alive in modern times, inspiring younger generations to take interest in indigenous art forms.



Renowned photographer Raghu Rai passed away at 83 :-

Raghu Rai, one of India's most iconic and influential photographers, passed away at the age of 83 in New Delhi. He had been battling cancer along with age-related health complications and was admitted to a private hospital before his demise. Raghu Rai was widely regarded as a pioneer of modern photojournalism in India. Over a career spanning more than six decades, he created a powerful visual archive of India's social, political, and cultural life. His photographs captured major historical events such as the Bangladesh refugee crisis and the Bhopal gas tragedy, while also portraying everyday life with deep sensitivity.

13: Ranks & Reports



Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
(MoEFCC)

India Leads Global Issuance of Compliance Certificates Under Nagoya Protocol :-

India has emerged as the top country in issuing Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS), accounting for over 56% of the certificates issued globally. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change reported that India has issued 3,561 IRCCs, far surpassing other nations. These certificates are crucial for ensuring transparency and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources.



India's Renewable Energy Capacity Surges as Demand Grows: NSO Report :-

The National Statistics Office (NSO) released its Energy Statistics India 2026 report, highlighting significant growth in renewable energy capacity, which reached 47,04,043 megawatts by March 2025. Solar energy, accounting for 71% of potential, leads the renewable surge. The report notes a 10.93% CAGR in installed capacity since 2016, with electricity generation from renewables more than doubling. Coal remains the dominant energy source, but the rise in renewables underscores India's commitment to sustainable energy.



Indian Railways Records Highest-Ever Freight Loading :-

Indian Railways achieved its highest-ever freight loading of 1670 million tonnes in FY 2025-26, reflecting a 3.25% growth over the previous year. The increase is attributed to improved operational efficiency and rising demand across sectors, particularly for fertilisers and steel. This milestone highlights the railways' critical role in supporting economic activities and reducing logistics costs through efficient and sustainable transport solutions.



Services Sector Growth Eases in March; PMI at 57.5 :-

India's services sector growth moderated in March, with the HSBC India Services PMI dropping to 57.5 from 58.1 in February, marking the slowest expansion in 14 months. Despite the decline, the index remained above its long-term average, indicating continued growth. The report cited a slowdown in new business inflows, with external factors such as the West Asia conflict affecting demand. Export demand remained robust, supporting growth, while input cost inflation accelerated.



Auto Retail Sales Hit Record High Near 3 Crore Mark :-

India's automobile sector achieved record retail sales in FY26, with registrations nearing the 3 crore mark, reflecting a 13.30% year-on-year growth. The surge was driven by strong demand across segments, with two-wheelers leading the recovery. Passenger vehicles and tractors also recorded significant growth, supported by favorable economic conditions and new model launches. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) noted improved affordability, rising mobility demand, and a diversified powertrain mix as key growth drivers.



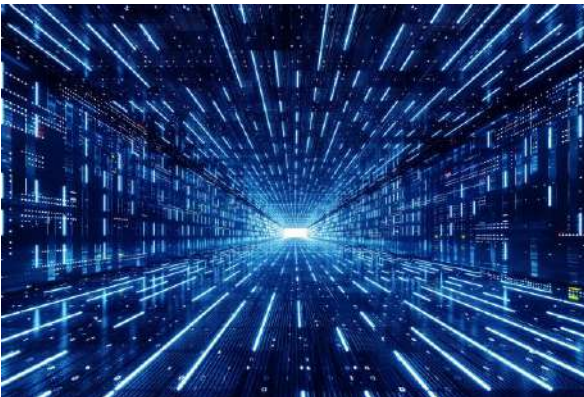
India's Economic Growth Robust According to World Bank :-

The World Bank's latest report highlights India's strong economic growth, projecting a 7.6% increase for FY 2025-26. This growth is driven by robust domestic demand, resilient services exports, and ongoing structural reforms. The report emphasizes India's stable macroeconomic environment, with inflation within target ranges and strong industrial output, positioning the country as a key player in global economic recovery.



Vande Bharat Trains Witness 34% Surge in Ridership :-

India's Vande Bharat Express trains have seen a 34% increase in ridership, with nearly 4 crore passengers traveling in the fiscal year 2025-26. The trains are part of a nationwide network connecting key cities and pilgrimage centers. The success of Vande Bharat trains reflects the 'Make in India' initiative, as they are indigenously designed and manufactured. The introduction of a sleeper variant has further enhanced long-distance travel, indicating strong demand for modern rail services.



India's Data Centre Market Set to Double by 2030 :-

India's data centre market is projected to expand from \$10 billion in 2025 to \$22 billion by 2030, driven by digital transformation and strategic investments. The Vestian report highlights India's potential as a data hub in Asia-Pacific, with anticipated capacity reaching 4–5 GW by 2030. Government incentives, including tax exemptions and GST benefits, enhance India's appeal for data infrastructure development. Major cities like Mumbai and Chennai lead the sector, while emerging hubs gain traction due to favorable conditions.



Patent Applications in India Jump 30.2% in FY 2025-26, Marking Historic High :-

India has witnessed a remarkable surge in patent applications during the financial year 2025–26, with a growth of 30.2%, indicating a strong rise in innovation and research activity. This increase reflects the success of government initiatives like “Make in India” and “Startup India,” which encourage entrepreneurship and intellectual property protection. The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks reported this record growth, showcasing India’s evolving position as a global innovation hub. The rise is also driven by increased participation from domestic inventors, universities, and startups, strengthening India’s knowledge-based economy.



Middle-Income Economies to Lead Global Growth: WEF Report :-

The World Economic Forum's latest report highlights the pivotal role of middle-income economies in driving future global growth, despite emerging structural challenges. The report forecasts that these economies will contribute nearly two-thirds of global GDP growth by 2030, with Asia leading the way. It emphasizes the need for strategic policy approaches in technology, human capital, global cooperation, and sustainability to navigate

complex trade-offs. Key growth sectors identified include IT services, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare.



Barmer Records 42.9°C, IMD Warns of Dust Storms in Rajasthan :-

Rajasthan's Barmer district experienced scorching temperatures of 42.9°C, prompting the IMD to issue dust storm alerts for eight districts. A weak weather disturbance is expected to trigger thunderstorms and gusty winds in the region. Despite the weather activity, relief from the heatwave remains unlikely, with temperatures forecasted to stay above normal levels. The Meteorological Centre emphasizes the importance of adhering to safety guidelines during this period of extreme heat.



Heatwave Alert Issued for Delhi-NCR as Temperatures Soar :-

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a heatwave alert for the Delhi-NCR region, with temperatures expected to exceed 40°C. The rising mercury levels signal the onset of peak summer conditions, prompting health advisories for residents. Authorities emphasize the importance of staying hydrated and limiting outdoor exposure to mitigate heat-related health risks. The forecast highlights the need for

preparedness and adaptation to extreme weather conditions in urban areas.



Shekha Jheel Declared India's 99th Ramsar Site:-

The Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh has been designated as a Ramsar site, bringing India's total number of internationally recognized wetlands to 99. This designation highlights the ecological significance of the sanctuary, which supports migratory bird species. The move is expected to boost local livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and water security. This step aligns with India's commitment to ecosystem restoration, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and positions the country closer to achieving 100 Ramsar sites.



Assembly Elections: Historic Voter Turnout in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu :-

West Bengal and Tamil Nadu witnessed historic voter turnouts in the recent Assembly elections, with 91.91% and 84.80% respectively. The Election Commission of India lauded voters for their active participation. West Bengal saw districts like Dakshin Dinajpur and Cooch Behar surpassing 94% turnout, while Tamil Nadu's Karur led with 92.48%. This significant civic engagement

underscores the democratic spirit in both states, reflecting citizens' commitment to shaping their governance and future.



India's Bio-economy Projected to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2047 :-

India's bio-economy is on track to become a global leader, projected to grow to \$1 trillion by 2047. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted this at an international conference, emphasizing India's advancements in technology and innovation. With a rapidly expanding biotech startup ecosystem and significant policy reforms, India aims to harness its biological resources for sustainable economic growth. This development reflects India's strategic focus on science and innovation as drivers of future economic prosperity.



IMD Issues Heatwave and Rain Alerts for Rajasthan :-

The India Meteorological Department issued mixed weather alerts for Rajasthan, predicting continued heatwave conditions alongside potential storms and light rainfall. A western disturbance is expected to bring temporary relief from the intense heat affecting several districts. Authorities are implementing measures to mitigate heat impacts, including water sprinkling on roads. Residents are advised to take precautions against

extreme weather, highlighting the state's ongoing challenges in adapting to climate variability and ensuring public safety.



India Achieves Record Wind Energy Capacity Addition in FY26 :-

India has recorded its highest-ever wind capacity addition, surpassing 5.5 GW in the fiscal year 2025-26. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described this achievement as a significant milestone in India's renewable energy journey. The country now ranks fourth globally in wind energy capacity. This growth is supported by improved policy frameworks, enhanced infrastructure, and competitive tariffs. The expansion aligns with India's goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel-based energy capacity by 2030, reinforcing its commitment to sustainable energy solutions.



UNICEF Warns of Female Workforce Loss in Afghanistan Amid Restrictions :-

UNICEF reports that Afghanistan risks losing over 25,000 female health workers and teachers by 2030 due to the Taliban's restrictions on girls' education and women's employment. These policies have already impacted at least 1 million girls, with projections indicating a doubling by 2030 if unchanged. The report highlights the urgent need to lift these bans to prevent economic and societal

decline. UNICEF calls for safeguarding skills training and women's labor market participation, emphasizing the critical role of women in sustaining essential services and contributing to Afghanistan's economic stability.



Tropical Forest Loss Decreases in 2025, Driven by Brazil's Efforts :-

A report highlights a 36% reduction in tropical forest loss in 2025, largely due to Brazil's deforestation control measures. Despite the progress, global deforestation rates remain high, driven by agricultural expansion. The findings emphasize the impact of effective policy interventions in preserving forest ecosystems. However, challenges persist, with countries needing to further reduce deforestation to meet global targets. The report underscores the importance of continued efforts to protect forests, which play a critical role in climate regulation and biodiversity conservation.

14: Schemes & Committees



Gujarat Expands AI Infrastructure with Over 100 GPUs for Startups :-

Gujarat is set to deploy more than 100 high-performance GPUs to support AI development across startups, educational institutions, and government departments. This initiative, led by Gujarat Informatics Limited, aligns with the IndiaAI Mission and aims to democratize access to AI resources. The shared infrastructure will facilitate faster development of AI-driven applications, reducing costs and development time for individual organizations. This step is part of Gujarat's broader strategy to establish itself as a national hub for artificial intelligence and digital governance.



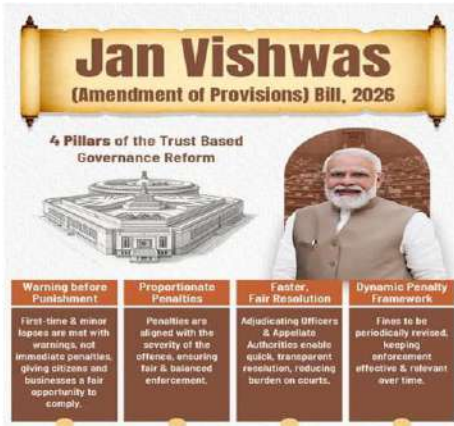
Centre Allocates Over Rs 1,500 Crore for Rural Governance in Six States :-

The Indian government has released more than Rs 1,500 crore as grants under the 15th Finance Commission to strengthen rural local governance in Telangana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, and Meghalaya. These funds, intended to empower Panchayati Raj Institutions and Rural Local Bodies, aim to promote grassroots governance and foster local development. For instance, Telangana received Rs 247.94 crore as the first installment of untied grants, benefiting 12,600 Gram Panchayats, while Uttarakhand received Rs 91.31 crore for its district and block panchayats.



Jan Samarth Portal Processes Over ₹1 Lakh Crore in Loans :-

The Jan Samarth portal, launched in June 2022, has processed more than 41 lakh loan applications worth ₹1,06,306 crore, providing digital approvals to over 35 lakh beneficiaries. The portal, a national platform for credit-linked government schemes, aims to improve credit access and streamline loan applications. It supports 15 schemes across sectors like agriculture and business, integrating stakeholders for seamless credit delivery. With 254 lending institutions onboarded, the portal enhances financial inclusion, offering a single-window facility for applying to multiple schemes, supported by advanced analytics and real-time tracking.



Parliament Passes Jan Vishwas Bill, 2026 for Regulatory Reform :-

Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, to reduce compliance burdens and decriminalize minor offenses across sectors. The bill introduces civil penalties for procedural violations, aiming to enhance ease of doing business. It impacts key health sector laws, promoting a balanced governance

framework and reducing litigation to improve regulatory efficiency.



ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy Launched in Telangana :-

In a drive to foster school-level innovation, the Atal Innovation Mission under NITI Aayog launched the ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy in Telangana. This initiative aims to support 379 Atal Tinkering Labs across the state, providing mentorship and resources to school students. The program, inaugurated by Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla, emphasizes nurturing early-stage innovation, with the goal of empowering students to solve real-world problems creatively.



Election Commission Launches ECINet KYC for Voter Awareness :-

Ahead of 2026 elections, the Election Commission of India introduced the ECINet KYC feature, enabling voters to check candidates' backgrounds. With over 1,900 candidates contesting, the platform provides transparency in criminal records, assets, and social media accounts, empowering informed voter decisions.



UP Government Launches 'Safe Mobility Program' for Women :-

The Uttar Pradesh government has launched the 'Safe Mobility Program,' a scheme aimed at empowering women through employment generation. The initiative focuses on training female e-rickshaw drivers to provide safe, accessible transportation for women and girls. Initially launched in five districts, the program will expand to additional regions. This initiative, implemented under the Uttar Pradesh State Rural Livelihoods Mission, has already empowered over 119 women as entrepreneurs.



India's Mudra Yojana Completes 11 Years, Boosting Youth Self-Employment :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has praised the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) on its 11th anniversary for promoting self-employment among youth. Launched in 2015, the scheme provides collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises, fostering entrepreneurship and job creation. The PM emphasized the scheme's success in empowering individuals to become self-reliant and contribute to national progress. Over the years, Mudra Yojana has become a key government initiative supporting small businesses, particularly benefiting young entrepreneurs and women.



Jammu and Kashmir Establishes Kisan Khidmat Ghar Centres to Support Farmers :-

Jammu and Kashmir launched 140 Kisan Khidmat Ghar Centres across Rajouri to enhance agricultural support and employment for farmers. These centers provide a one-stop solution for agricultural inputs and services, helping farmers access seeds, fertilizers, and digital platforms like the Daksh Kisan Portal. Additionally, they offer financial services and expert advice on crop management. This initiative aims to boost rural livelihoods and support over 8.9 crore beneficiaries, including farmers and women, through improved access to government schemes and resources, fostering sustainable agricultural practices and economic growth.



Sagarmala Program Boosts India's Maritime Sector :-

The Sagarmala program has significantly expanded India's maritime sector, with 315 projects worth Rs 1.57 lakh crore completed. The initiative aims to modernize ports, enhance cargo handling, and improve connectivity. The program's success is evident in the record cargo handled by major ports and improved vessel turnaround times. Sagarmala underscores India's

commitment to strengthening its maritime infrastructure.



e-NAM Expands, Facilitates Rs 4.84 Lakh Crore Trade :-

The National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) has integrated 1,656 mandis, facilitating Rs 4.84 lakh crore trade over a decade. The platform enhances farmers' market access and price realization, supporting digital payment adoption. Government assistance aims to strengthen mandi infrastructure and integration with the digital ecosystem. e-NAM's growth reflects India's commitment to agricultural digitization, promoting efficiency and transparency in agricultural marketing, benefiting millions of stakeholders across the country.



NITI Aayog Launches Roadmap for India's Digital Public Infrastructure :-

NITI Aayog has unveiled a strategic roadmap titled 'DPI@2047 for Viksit Bharat' to transform India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). This initiative aims to drive inclusive, productivity-led growth, marking a shift from digital inclusion to broad-based prosperity. The roadmap outlines two phases: DPI 2.0 (2025–2035) and DPI 3.0 (2035–2047) focusing on sectors like MSMEs, agriculture, education, and health. With an emphasis on AI and technology entrepreneurship, this plan is set to enhance systemic enablers and drive growth across India.

15: Science & Technology



Tripura Achieves Milestone with Consecutive Kidney Transplants :-

Tripura's Govind Ballabh Pant Medical College and Hospital achieved a significant milestone by conducting two consecutive kidney transplants for the first time. This achievement reflects the state's commitment to strengthening healthcare infrastructure. The transplants

were performed under the supervision of specialist doctors, with both donors and recipients reported to be stable. The success marks a new benchmark for Tripura's medical capabilities, highlighting the state's progress in providing advanced healthcare services to its residents.



NASA Launches First Crewed Lunar Mission in 50 Years

NASA's Artemis II mission launched four astronauts on a historic journey around the moon, marking the first crewed lunar mission in half a century. The mission, part of NASA's Artemis program, aims to pave the way for sustained human presence on the lunar surface by the late 2020s. This milestone underscores the renewed international interest in lunar exploration, with the U.S. competing to establish a presence on the moon's South Pole before China.



Puri Police Launches WhatsApp Chatbot for Citizen Services :-

Puri Police introduced a 24x7 WhatsApp chatbot service to enhance citizen engagement and streamline services. The chatbot offers functionalities like e-complaints, lost item reports, and tourist assistance. Supported by technological collaborations, this initiative aims to improve service delivery and public safety, reflecting a broader trend towards digitalization in law enforcement across India.



Income Tax Department Launches 'Kar Saathi' AI Website :-

India's Income Tax Department launched 'Kar Saathi', a new AI-powered website to simplify tax filing. The platform provides comprehensive tax-related information and 24/7 assistance, reflecting the

government's push towards modernizing tax administration. The initiative aims to enhance user experience and streamline tax processes.



NASA's Artemis Mission Sets New Distance Record in Space :-

NASA's Artemis II mission achieved a milestone, setting astronauts on a trajectory to surpass previous space travel records. The mission's successful maneuver positions the crew to explore further than any previous human expedition, marking a significant advance in space exploration.



PM Modi Meets Music Composer Ramesh Vinayakam in Chennai :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met renowned music composer Ramesh Vinayakam in Chennai, where he was briefed on the Gamaka Box Notation System developed by Vinayakam. This system aims to modernize the preservation of Indian classical music using technology such as AI and machine learning. PM Modi's visit, ahead of the Tamil Nadu assembly elections, highlights the government's engagement with cultural icons to promote Indian heritage on global platforms.



Mission Karmayogi: Capacity Building for Scientists Launched :-

Union Minister Jitendra Singh launched a program under Mission Karmayogi to enhance administrative capacity among scientists and academicians. The initiative addresses the need for governance and decision-making skills in leadership roles. The program, part of the 'SADHANA Saptah' initiative, aims to reduce reliance on self-learning, incorporating emerging technologies while balancing human judgment. Future plans include structured modules for administrative functions and integrating private-sector practices.



Meta Unveils First AI Model from Superintelligence Team :-

Meta has launched Muse Spark, its first AI model from the newly formed superintelligence team. This development represents Meta's significant investment in AI technology, aiming to compete with market leaders like Google and OpenAI. The model showcases advancements in language processing and visual understanding, positioning Meta as a key player in the AI landscape.



Gujarat Police Launches AI Tool for Narcotics Case Analysis :-

The Gujarat Police introduced 'NARIT AI', an AI-based tool to enhance narcotics case investigation under the NDPS Act. Launched in Gandhinagar, this tool is the first of its kind in India, offering real-time legal analysis and procedural guidance. Built on Retrieval Augmented Generation technology, it evaluates FIRs and suggests legal remedies and evidence collection methods. This initiative aims to improve conviction rates and streamline investigations. Developed by the Western Railway Police with an AI startup, NARIT AI signifies a technological leap in law enforcement, aiding officers in building stronger legal cases.



Artemis II Astronauts Return from Historic Moon Voyage :-

Artemis II astronauts recently completed their historic moon mission, marking the first crewed lunar voyage in over 50 years. The four astronauts, including the first Black astronaut, woman, and non-US citizen on a lunar mission, are set to splash down in the Pacific Ocean near California. The mission tested the Orion spacecraft's systems, critical for future lunar landings. This milestone is part of the Artemis program's goal to establish a

sustainable human presence on the moon, paving the way for Mars exploration and demonstrating international collaboration in space exploration.



Genetic Variations Linked to Weight Loss from GLP-1 Drugs :-

A study by DNA-testing service 23AndMe has found genetic variations linked to weight-loss responses and side effects from GLP-1 obesity drugs. The research showed that mutations in the GLP1R gene are associated with increased efficacy of these medications. The study, involving nearly 28,000 users, reported that those with one copy of the variant lost an average of 1.7 pounds more, while those with two copies lost about 3.3 pounds more.



India's Quantum Revolution: CM to Launch Quantum Test Beds :-

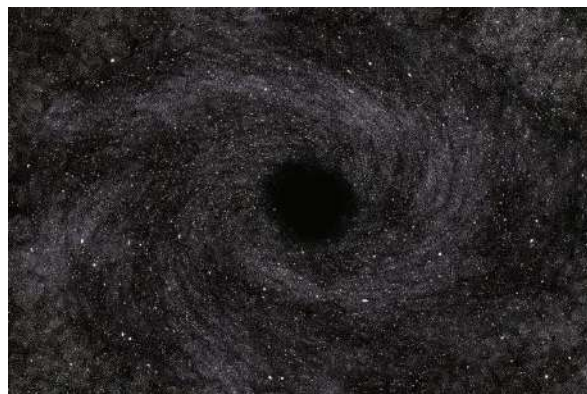
Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu will inaugurate two quantum computer test beds in Amaravati, marking a significant step in India's quantum technology advancement. Scheduled for launch on World Quantum Day, these facilities at SRM University and Medha Towers will support quantum computing research and innovation. The initiative positions Andhra

Pradesh as a leader in quantum technology and aligns with the national push for self-reliance in advanced tech sectors, fostering collaboration among researchers and industry.



OpenAI Invests \$20 Billion in Cerebras Chips for AI Advancements :-

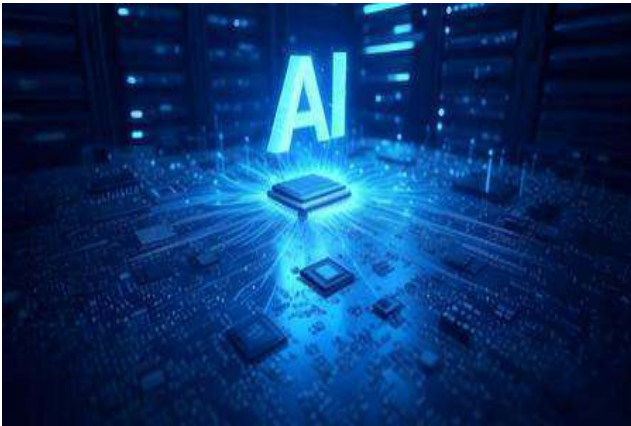
OpenAI has committed to spending over \$20 billion on Cerebras chips in the next three years, highlighting its ambition to lead in the AI domain. This strategic move includes acquiring computing capacity from Cerebras, doubling its previous agreement, and potentially gaining an equity stake in the chipmaker. The investment aims to boost OpenAI's computational power to meet the rising demand for AI applications. Furthermore, OpenAI plans to fund data center developments with \$1 billion, underscoring its commitment to AI infrastructure expansion.



Scientists Investigate Black Holes in Dwarf Galaxies :-

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics are exploring the presence of black holes in dwarf spheroidal galaxies. This study aims to deepen the understanding of black hole formation and galaxy evolution. By analyzing stellar motion, scientists are establishing upper limits on

black hole masses in these galaxies. The research, published in The Astrophysical Journal, provides a significant benchmark for future simulations and observations in astrophysics, contributing to the broader understanding of the universe.



India Tops Global AI Health Adoption at 85 Per Cent :-

India leads the world in adopting artificial intelligence for personal health, with 85% of consumers using AI-powered tools, significantly ahead of countries like the US and UK. A study by Boston Consulting Group highlights India's rapid embrace of AI in healthcare, driven by younger generations. While current use focuses on chatbots and wearables, there is growing demand for more advanced AI systems capable of managing appointments and drug interactions. This trend reflects a shift towards integrating AI with traditional healthcare models to enhance patient care.



Defence Secretary Inaugurates Robotic Orthopaedic System at Delhi Cantt :-

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh inaugurated the Robotic Orthopaedic System at Cantonment General Hospital, highlighting the government's commitment to quality healthcare. The advanced system represents a significant technological upgrade, enabling precise surgeries and improved outcomes. The inauguration signals a broader push towards enhancing healthcare infrastructure within cantonment areas, with plans for further upgrades to facilities like ICUs and cancer screening units, demonstrating a commitment to community welfare and medical advancement.



India's Space Sector Attracts \$600 Million in Private Investment :-

Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced the expansion of India's space ecosystem, with private investment surpassing \$600 million. Plans for space labs in universities aim to provide training in satellite systems and rocketry. The initiative supports India's growing space sector, which now includes over 400 startups. The government is operationalizing a ₹1,000 crore venture capital fund and a ₹500 crore Technology Adoption Fund to boost early-stage innovations. These efforts align with India's aim to enhance its space infrastructure and engage globally, with partnerships in over 45 countries.

16: Sports



India Shines at Spanish Para Badminton International 2026 :-

India excelled at the Spanish Para Badminton International 2026, with Pramod Bhagat leading the charge by winning one gold and two silver medals. Bhagat clinched gold in the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 category with partner Manisha Ramdass. The tournament saw multiple podium finishes for India, highlighting the country's strength in para badminton. This performance underscores India's growing prominence in international para sports, with athletes showcasing resilience and competitive spirit on the global stage.



Jannik Sinner Wins Miami Open, Completes Sunshine Double :-

Italian tennis player Jannik Sinner won the Miami Open, completing the 'Sunshine Double' by also winning Indian Wells earlier. Sinner's victory marks him as the first man since Roger Federer to achieve this feat without

dropping a set. His impressive performance extends his run to 34 consecutive sets won at the ATP Masters 1000 level. This achievement cements Sinner's status among the elite in tennis, as he continues to climb the ATP rankings and make strides in the sport.



Gujarat Prepares for 2030 Commonwealth Games with First Delegation Visit :-

Gujarat is actively preparing for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking India's second time hosting the event. A Commonwealth Sport delegation, led by President Donald Rukare, visited Gujarat to assess preparations, including inspections of venues like Narendra Modi Stadium and EKA Arena. The visit initiated detailed planning for the Games, which will commemorate the event's centenary. The delegation praised Gujarat's hospitality and infrastructure readiness.



BWF Approves Synthetic Shuttlecocks for Lower-Tier Tournaments :-

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) has approved the use of synthetic shuttlecocks in select lower-tier tournaments. This initiative aims to evaluate their performance and potential replacement of traditional feather shuttlecocks. The move addresses concerns from animal rights groups while maintaining the integrity of competitive badminton, highlighting the sport's commitment to innovation and sustainability.



Bayern Munich Breaks Bundesliga Goals Record :-

FC Bayern Munich achieved a record-breaking feat by scoring 105 goals in a single Bundesliga season, following a 5-0 victory over St. Pauli. Key players like Jamal Musiala and Leon Goretzka contributed to this historic achievement. Bayern's dominance in the league is evident, leading by 12 points. The team's consistent performance underlines their strategic prowess and highlights the competitive nature of European club football.



India Prepares to Host Formula One Race Before 2027 :-

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has announced preparations to bring Formula One back to India, aiming to host the race by 2027. The Indian Grand Prix, previously held from 2011 to 2013 at the Buddh

International Circuit, was discontinued due to taxation hurdles. The government is resolving track issues and promoting motorsport, with ambitions to also host events like MotoGP. This move is part of broader efforts to boost sports infrastructure and encourage youth participation in sports across India.



World Aquatics Lifts Ban on Russian and Belarusian Athletes :-

World Aquatics has lifted sanctions on Russian and Belarusian athletes, allowing them to compete under their national flags. Athletes must pass anti-doping tests to qualify. This decision restores their full membership rights and reflects a commitment to maintaining sporting venues as spaces for peaceful competition. The move has been welcomed by Russian sports officials and athletes. This development marks a significant shift in international sports diplomacy, emphasizing inclusivity and fair competition.



Sinner stuns Alcaraz to win Monte Carlo Masters 2026, reclaims World No. 1 spot :-

Italian tennis star Jannik Sinner defeated Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a thrilling final to win the Monte Carlo Masters 2026. This victory marked a major milestone in Sinner's

career, as he reclaimed the World No. 1 ranking. The Monte Carlo Masters is one of the most prestigious clay-court tournaments, and Sinner's win highlights his dominance and consistency on the ATP tour. His performance showcased exceptional skill and determination, reinforcing his position among the top players in world tennis.



India U17 Team to Play Friendlies Against UAE in Thailand :-

The India U17 men's football team is set to play two friendly matches against the United Arab Emirates in Thailand as part of preparations for the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2026. The matches are scheduled for April 17 and 21 at the Windmill Football Club in Samut Prakan. These friendlies are crucial for the team as they prepare to face Australia, Uzbekistan, and DPR Korea in Group D of the Asian Cup. Head coach Bibiano Fernandes and his squad have been training in Kolkata before heading to Thailand. These games are pivotal for evaluating team dynamics and strategies ahead of the tournament.



R Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament

India's R Vaishali clinched victory in the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026, earning the opportunity

to challenge Ju Wenjun for the World Championship title. Vaishali's triumph was marked by a dramatic final round win against Kateryna Lagno, securing her place in the championship match. This victory underscores her remarkable journey from being one of the lowest-rated players to the top contender. Vaishali's success mirrors the achievements of fellow Indian chess players, highlighting India's growing prominence in the global chess arena.



Jamie Murray Retires from Professional Tennis :-

Former doubles World No. 1 Jamie Murray has announced his retirement from professional tennis after a distinguished career spanning two decades. Murray, who claimed 34 tour-level doubles titles, including several major honors, expressed gratitude for the experiences and support he received throughout his journey. He highlighted memorable moments, such as Britain's Davis Cup triumph, and acknowledged the contributions of his family and team. As he steps into a new chapter, Murray leaves a lasting legacy in the tennis world.



Lionel Messi Acquires Spanish Club UE Cornellà :-

Football legend Lionel Messi has acquired UE Cornellà, a Catalan club playing in Spain's fourth tier. Messi's investment underscores his commitment to nurturing

local talent and strengthening ties with Catalonia. The acquisition aims to enhance the club's youth academy and support its progression in Spanish football. Messi's move into football ownership follows his involvement in youth development projects, positioning him among a growing number of athletes investing in sports clubs.



Over 1000 Athletes to Compete in National U20 Athletics in Karnataka :-

The National Junior (U20) Athletics Competition in Karnataka will see 1059 athletes competing, serving as a qualifier for the Asian U20 Championships in Hong Kong. The event highlights India's focus on nurturing young athletic talent, with numerous promising athletes participating. The competition underscores the importance of sports in youth development and national representation at international events, reflecting India's commitment to building a strong sports infrastructure and fostering athletic excellence.



ICC Fines Bangladesh Cricketers for Code of Conduct Breaches :-

Bangladesh cricketers Nahida Akter and Sarmin Sultana were fined 10% of their match fees for breaching the ICC Code of Conduct during a Women's ODI against Sri Lanka. Nahida was penalized for using provocative gestures,

while Sarmin showed dissent at an umpire's decision. Both received one demerit point each. The sanctions emphasize the importance of maintaining discipline on the field. The incidents occurred during a series in Rajshahi, with Sri Lanka leveling the series 1-1.



Real Madrid's La Liga Title Hopes Diminish After Draw :-

Real Madrid's chances of winning La Liga this season were dealt a blow after a 1-1 draw with Real Betis. Despite an early lead by Vinicius Jr, Betis equalized late in injury time through Hector Bellerin. The draw leaves Real Madrid trailing FC Barcelona, who can extend their lead with an upcoming match. The result underscores the competitive nature of La Liga and Real Madrid's challenges in closing the gap at the top of the table.



PM Modi Joins Football Session in Sikkim, Lauded by FIFA Chief :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagement in a football session with children in Sikkim has been praised by FIFA President Gianni Infantino. The event, held in Gangtok, highlights PM Modi's commitment to promoting sports across India. Football holds significant popularity in the northeastern region, often rivaling cricket. The FIFA chief shared PM Modi's photos on Instagram, emphasizing football's unifying power. This

event marks another instance of PM Modi's influence in sports, following previous interactions with the FIFA president at international forums.



FIFA Rule Change Allows Afghan Women to Play International Matches :-

FIFA has approved a rule change permitting Afghan women footballers to compete in official international matches. This decision provides a pathway for players exiled since the Taliban's return to power to reenter global competitions. The rule change is part of FIFA's Strategy for Action for Afghan Women's Football, supporting Afghan Women United, a team for exiled players. Selection camps are underway, aiming to integrate Afghan women footballers into the international arena and promote gender equality in sports.

17: State



Maharashtra Launches Drive for Piped Natural Gas in Industries :-

Maharashtra government has initiated a special drive to provide immediate Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections to industries, as announced by Industries Minister Uday Samant. This drive aims to maintain industrial production amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, promoting PNG as a cost-effective, safe, and eco-friendly energy source. The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation, gas distribution companies, and district administrations will coordinate to ensure seamless PNG connections across the state.



MP CM Yadav Announces Enhanced Budget for Udyog Kranti Yojana :-

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced a significant increase in the budget for the Udyog Kranti Yojana, scaling it to Rs 28,000 crore. This announcement was made during an MSME incentive distribution ceremony, where over Rs 169 crore was disbursed to industries and startups. The increased budget reflects the state's commitment to rapid industrialization and supporting entrepreneurship. The state has made strides in digitizing land allotment processes and has seen a rise in startups, aiming to further boost industrial growth in the coming years.



PM Modi Launched Rs 20,000 Crore Development Projects in Gujarat :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Gujarat to inaugurate and lay the foundation for development projects worth over Rs 20,000 crore. Key projects include the Samrat Samprati Museum and the Kaynes Semicon Plant, which marks a significant step in India's semiconductor journey. The visit also included infrastructure projects like the Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway, power sector enhancements, and urban development initiatives. These projects aim to boost industrial growth, connectivity, and quality of life in Gujarat, reflecting the state's commitment to economic and cultural advancement.



Jitendra Singh Lays Foundation for Hostel at CFTRI Mysuru :-

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh laid the foundation for a hostel at the Central Food Technology Research Institute in Mysuru. The facility, developed under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, will support training programs for farmers and self-help groups. The initiative aligns with efforts to boost agricultural innovation and

entrepreneurship, emphasizing the development of millet-based food products.



MP Government Announces Bypass Road for Simhastha Mahakumbh 2028 :-

Madhya Pradesh announced a Rs 700 crore bypass road in Ujjain for the Simhastha Mahakumbh 2028. The project aims to improve infrastructure and accommodate the expected influx of pilgrims during the event. Chief Minister Mohan Yadav emphasized the significance of Simhastha as a global spiritual gathering and the state's commitment to ensuring seamless event management.



Strong Turnout for Universal Parsi Registration Drive in Mumbai :-

The Universal Parsi Registration Drive in Mumbai saw around 300 new registrations. Organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs and the Bombay Parsi Panchayat, the initiative aims to expand outreach and participation in government schemes addressing demographic concerns of the Parsi community.



Rajasthan Judges Educate Students on Cybersecurity Risks :-

Judges in Rajasthan have embarked on a unique initiative, educating students on cybersecurity threats as part of the 'Empowering Rajasthan Youth' campaign. This program involves judicial officers visiting schools to raise awareness about online fraud, cyberbullying, and safe internet practices, aiming to reach over four lakh students. The campaign underscores the importance of legal literacy and responsible digital behavior among the youth.



Amaravati Declared Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh :-

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026, has officially designated Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh. The amendment follows the bifurcation that previously designated Hyderabad as a shared capital. This decision marks a significant step in Andhra Pradesh's administrative reorganization, with implications for regional governance and development.



Andhra Pradesh Accelerates Polavaram Project for Year-End Completion :-

The Polavaram project in Andhra Pradesh, one of India's largest multipurpose irrigation initiatives, is progressing swiftly with a completion target by year-end. This significant project aims to utilize the Godavari River's water for irrigation, hydropower, and flood control. Upon completion, it will be one of India's largest dams, featuring the world's biggest flood discharge spillway. The project will also generate 960 MW of hydroelectric power, enhancing regional development. Innovative design aspects include a right-side spillway and left-side power project, showcasing a specialized approach to infrastructure development.



Sri Lankan Delegates Participate in Assam's Assembly Elections :-

Sri Lankan delegates are visiting Assam's polling stations as part of the International Election Visitors' Programme. Their participation underscores the importance of transparent electoral processes and international collaboration in observing democratic practices. This initiative highlights India's commitment to fair elections.

and strengthens diplomatic ties with neighboring countries.



MP to Celebrate 'Nari Shakti Vandan' Fortnight :-

Madhya Pradesh will observe the 'Nari Shakti Vandan' fortnight from April 10 to 25, celebrating women's leadership and empowerment. The campaign includes conferences, padyatras, and youth engagement activities across the state to raise awareness of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam. Key events include Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations and special Gram Sabhas. The initiative aims to emphasize women's economic and social participation, with involvement from self-help groups, educational institutions, and local bodies, promoting gender equality and recognizing the contributions of women across various sectors.



Tripura Attracts Rs 2,000 Cr Investment at Bengaluru Conclave :-

Tripura is emerging as a fast-growing economy in the Northeast, attracting investment commitments worth over Rs 2,000 crore at a business conclave in Bengaluru. The state is focusing on policy reforms and improving the ease of doing business. Investment opportunities across various sectors, including IT and manufacturing, are

being explored. Tripura's strategic location and improving connectivity are enhancing its trade engagement with Bangladesh, offering new opportunities for economic development.



Madhya Pradesh Procures Over 22,521 MT Wheat at MSP :-

Madhya Pradesh's wheat procurement drive at the Minimum Support Price saw strong farmer participation, with over 22,521 metric tonnes procured in two days. The government aims to ensure smooth procurement and timely payments. With a target of 78 lakh metric tonnes, the initiative highlights the state's commitment to supporting agriculture and ensuring fair compensation for farmers.



Samrat Choudhary takes oath as Bihar CM after Nitish Kumar's resignation :-

Samrat Choudhary became the new Chief Minister of Bihar following the resignation of Nitish Kumar. This political development marks a significant shift in Bihar's leadership and could influence the state's governance and policy direction. Choudhary, a prominent political figure, is expected to focus on development, infrastructure, and administrative reforms. The transition reflects changing political dynamics in the state ahead of future electoral scenarios.



Uttar Pradesh Implements AI Surveillance for Exam Security :-

The Uttar Pradesh Education Selection Commission has introduced AI-based surveillance measures to ensure fair and transparent competitive examinations. This initiative follows Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's directive to uphold the integrity of the recruitment process. The state-of-the-art control room will provide real-time monitoring of exam centers, aiming to prevent malpractice and maintain accountability. The Commission emphasizes a zero-tolerance policy towards cheating and urges candidates to adhere to examination rules.



Noida Launches Call Centre for Worker Grievance Redressal :-

The Gautam Buddha Nagar administration in Noida has initiated a dedicated call centre to address and resolve worker grievances swiftly. This facility, set up by the Additional Labour Commissioner's office in Sector-3, aims to help thousands of workers in the district. Workers can report issues via a helpline or email, ensuring transparency and accountability. This initiative is expected to streamline complaint processes, benefiting industrial sector workers by reducing the need for repeated government office visits.



President Murmu Inaugurates Key Infrastructure Projects in Rourkela :-

President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated several infrastructure projects in Rourkela, including a Planetarium, Science Centre, and a Tribal Museum. These initiatives aim to enhance scientific awareness, preserve tribal heritage, and strengthen urban governance. Highlighting Rourkela's role in promoting Odisha's cultural and sporting traditions, Murmu emphasized the importance of inclusive development for tribal communities. She urged citizens to actively participate in nation-building, aligning with the vision of a developed India by 2047. These projects are expected to contribute significantly to regional development.



GIFT City: India's Emerging Hub for Financial and Technological Growth :-

Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) is establishing itself as a leading financial and technology hub in India. With advanced infrastructure, including an integrated utility framework and smart operations model, GIFT City is attracting global corporations and educational institutions. This development is part of India's broader strategy to enhance its urban landscape and position itself as a key investment destination. The presence of major firms and the establishment of an international campus by Deakin University highlight GIFT City's strategic importance in India's economic growth story.



India's PM Modi Unveils ₹4,000 Crore Development Projects in Sikkim :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated multiple development projects worth over ₹4,000 crore in Sikkim, spanning infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, and education. Key initiatives include a 100-bedded Ayurveda hospital, the permanent campus of Sikkim University, and improved road connectivity. These projects aim to enhance Sikkim's growth trajectory, reflecting the government's commitment to regional development and integration. The announcements come amid the state's 50th statehood celebrations, symbolizing a significant push towards holistic progress and improved quality of life for Sikkim's residents.



Khambatki Ghat Twin Tunnel Nears Completion for Pune-Satara Highway :-

The Khambatki Ghat stretch on the Pune-Satara highway is set for transformation with the nearing completion of a new six-lane twin-tube tunnel. Developed by the National Highways Authority of India, this project aims to replace a congested and accident-prone route with modern infrastructure. Trial operations are underway, showcasing significant improvements in safety and travel time. The tunnel will enhance regional connectivity, reduce fuel consumption, and improve traffic flow,

benefiting local residents and boosting tourism in the area.



Gujarat Establishes Tourist Police Stations to Boost Visitor Safety :-

In an effort to enhance the safety and experience of tourists, Gujarat is setting up dedicated tourist police stations in Gir Somnath, Devbhumi Dwarka, and Dang districts. Spearheaded by the State Police Chief Dr. K.L.N. Rao, the initiative will upgrade existing facilities and introduce specially designed uniforms and logos for easy identification. Container-based help desks will provide immediate support to tourists, while a central interactive application will offer essential information and security services.



PM Modi Inaugurates Ganga Expressway, Boosts Infrastructure in UP :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Ganga Expressway, a 594-km high-speed corridor connecting 12 districts in Uttar Pradesh. Built at a cost of Rs 36,230 crore, the project aims to reduce travel time between Meerut and Prayagraj and enhance connectivity. It includes a 3.5 km-long emergency landing facility, adding strategic value. The expressway is expected to boost economic growth, improve logistics efficiency, and enhance access to urban and export markets. This initiative marks a significant milestone in developing world-class infrastructure in the state.

18: Summits & Conferences



Van Dhan Conclave Focuses on Sustainable Tribal Livelihoods :-

The Van Dhan Conclave, themed 'Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal India,' was inaugurated as part of the Bharat Tribes Fest 2026. Organized by TRIFED, the event brought together policymakers and tribal entrepreneurs to discuss strategies for strengthening tribal livelihoods. The conclave highlighted the government's commitment to empowering tribal communities through sustainable entrepreneurship and value addition of Minor Forest Produce. The discussions focused on enhancing market access and preserving traditional knowledge systems.



WTO Talks Deadlock After Brazil Blocks E-commerce Duties Deal :-

WTO talks ended in deadlock as Brazil blocked a bid to extend a moratorium on e-commerce duties, a setback

for the trade body. The U.S. and other countries had sought an extension, but Brazil's objections highlighted the ongoing challenges within the WTO. The talks were seen as a test of the WTO's relevance amid global trade turmoil. Discussions will continue in Geneva, focusing on broader reforms and addressing longstanding issues in the multilateral trading system.



India and Russia Review Strategic Partnership Amid Global Developments :-

India and Russia held Foreign Office Consultations in New Delhi to review their Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership. Co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, the meeting assessed ongoing cooperation and developments of mutual interest. The discussions follow recent diplomatic engagements, including the 7th UN Consultations and talks between External Affairs Ministers. The consultations highlight the long-standing partnership between India and Russia, with priorities in energy, trade, and technology, underscoring their commitment to strengthening bilateral ties amid global challenges.



Arab League Convenes Emergency Meeting Over Israeli Actions :-

The Arab League held an emergency session to address Israeli measures in Jerusalem, including actions against Al-Aqsa Mosque and a new law permitting execution of Palestinian prisoners. The meeting, chaired by Bahrain, called for international intervention to address these escalations, highlighting ongoing regional tensions.



Mega Agriculture Festival to be held in Madhya Pradesh :-

Madhya Pradesh will host a three-day Advanced Agriculture Festival in Raisen from April 11-13. The event aims to transform farming practices through technology, training, and market linkages, benefiting farmers and stakeholders. Key initiatives include showcasing advanced techniques like precision farming and promoting crop diversification to boost farmers' income and enhance agricultural productivity.



Bangladesh Foreign Minister Visits India for Bilateral Talks :-

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman is visiting India to discuss bilateral relations with counterparts, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The visit aims to strengthen ties, with key discussions expected on visa services, energy cooperation, and economic integration. This visit marks a significant step in revitalizing diplomatic relations between the two countries.



India, UAE Discuss Trade Stability Amid Regional Tensions :-

India and the UAE held virtual talks to address trade continuity amid regional tensions. Both sides emphasized the importance of maintaining stable supply chains and highlighted the role of coordinated efforts in minimizing disruptions. The discussions reaffirmed the strong economic partnership between the two nations and their commitment to ensuring uninterrupted trade.

flows. The UAE's proactive measures to develop alternative logistics routes were appreciated, reinforcing the strategic ties between the countries.



President Murmu's Official Visit to Gujarat and Maharashtra :-

President Droupadi Murmu is on a four-day visit to Gujarat and Maharashtra, attending key academic and official events. Her itinerary includes presiding over convocation ceremonies and participating in events celebrating social harmony and national development. This visit underscores the government's commitment to education and development in these states, highlighting the importance of such engagements in fostering growth and unity.



PM Modi and Austrian Chancellor Discuss Bilateral Cooperation :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker in New Delhi, focusing on

enhancing trade, investment, and green technology collaboration. This meeting marks Stocker's first official visit to India and highlights the growing economic engagement between the two nations. The leaders discussed avenues for deeper partnerships, building on the momentum from PM Modi's 2024 visit to Austria. Stocker emphasized Austria's interest in the Indian market and its potential as the EU's key trading partner in South Asia.



India Chairs BRICS Health Meet, Focuses on Lifestyle and Mental Health :-

India hosted the first Health Working Group meeting under the BRICS framework, emphasizing public health priorities such as tuberculosis research and digital health. Chaired by Health Secretary Punya Salila Srivastava, the meeting proposed new initiatives focusing on healthy lifestyles and mental wellness. These priorities align with India's BRICS presidency theme of resilience and cooperation. Member nations expressed support for integrating traditional medicine and enhancing health system resilience, reflecting a comprehensive approach to global health challenges.



Ayush Sector to Play Key Role in India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' :-

Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav emphasized the Ayush sector's pivotal role in realizing India's 'Viksit Bharat 2047' vision during the 'Chintan Shivir 2026'. The event highlighted the importance of traditional medicine systems and policy alignment to achieve sustainable healthcare. With a focus on innovation and global outreach, the Ayush sector aims to address lifestyle-related health challenges and contribute to India's holistic development goals. The government's commitment to enhancing research and infrastructure is central to this mission.

**Jitin Prasada Concludes Czech Republic Visit, Strengthens Economic Ties :-**

Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, concluded his visit to the Czech Republic, focusing on strengthening trade and investment relations. Meetings with Czech leaders emphasized economic cooperation in priority sectors. Prasada co-chaired the India-Czech Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation, promoting business linkages and industrial collaboration. The visit reflects India's commitment to deepening partnerships with European nations, enhancing strategic and economic engagement.

**Vice-President Radhakrishnan Attends Events in Jaipur, Emphasizes Education and Health :-**

Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan visited Jaipur, participating in the University of Rajasthan's convocation and the 23rd Cancer Survivors' Day program. His visit highlighted the importance of education and healthcare in nation-building. Radhakrishnan emphasized the role of graduating students in upholding ethical standards in their professions. The Vice-President's engagements reflect the government's focus on academic excellence and cancer awareness initiatives.

**India and US Reaffirm Commitment to Indo-Pacific Security :-**

India and the US are deepening their strategic alignment in regional security, as discussed by CDS General Anil Chauhan and US Indo-Pacific Command's General Kevin B. Schneider. The talks emphasized shared priorities in

maintaining peace and stability across the Indo-Pacific. Both nations aim to expand bilateral and TriService engagements, recognizing technology's role in modern power dynamics. This partnership underscores a commitment to addressing security challenges and fostering cooperation in the evolving geopolitical landscape.



US-Iran Peace Talks Stalled Amid Continued Tensions :-

Diplomatic efforts to resolve the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran have stalled, with both sides showing little willingness to compromise. Despite a ceasefire, Tehran and Washington remain at odds over maritime blockades and oil shipments. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian insists the U.S. must lift its blockade before talks can resume. Meanwhile, U.S. President Donald Trump cited excessive travel expenses as a reason for canceling planned diplomatic visits. The ongoing conflict has significantly impacted global oil prices and economic stability, with no resolution in sight.



India and UAE Discuss Strategic Ties and Regional Security :-

National Security Adviser Ajit Doval met with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The meeting covered key areas such as energy security and regional developments. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to enhancing bilateral ties. Discussions also included recent developments in West Asia and their implications for regional security. This engagement marks the second high-level meeting between India and the UAE in a month, emphasizing the resilience of their partnership.



King Charles' US Visit Highlights UK's 250-Year Relations Amid Tensions :-

King Charles and Queen Camilla's state visit to the US marks 250 years since American independence. This high-profile visit includes meetings with President Trump and addresses to Congress, symbolizing enduring UK-US relations. However, tensions over the Iran war and differences between Trump and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer cast a shadow. The visit aims to reinforce the 'special relationship' between the nations despite geopolitical challenges. King Charles' emphasis on shared democratic values and the historic partnership underscores the importance of diplomatic engagement in turbulent times.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1) Who recently chaired the first Informal Group of Ministers (IGoM) meeting to assess the West Asia situation and its impact on India?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Narendra Modi
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) S. Jaishankar

2) Which city hosted the 15th Annual Convocation of IIM where Vice President Radhakrishnan emphasized ethical leadership?

- A) Delhi
- B) Bangalore
- C) Ranchi
- D) Ahmedabad

3) Who did Prime Minister Modi speak to regarding the West Asia crisis and secure shipping routes in March 2026?

- A) Joe Biden
- B) Sheikh Hasina
- C) Mohammed bin Salman
- D) Benjamin Netanyahu

4) Which scheme did PM Modi praise for making air travel affordable and expanding connectivity in India?

- A) Make in India
- B) UDAN
- C) BharatNet
- D) Atal Mission

5) What is the primary advantage of PNG (Piped Natural Gas) over LPG discussed in the March 2026 roundtable?

- A) Higher calorific value
- B) Better taste
- C) Safety and environmental sustainability
- D) Easier storage

6) Which city hosted the 2026 Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Maritime Exercise (IMEX TTX 2026)?

- A) Mumbai

- B) Chennai
- C) Kochi
- D) Visakhapatnam

7) Which village in Nagaland is renowned for conserving over 150 varieties of traditional seeds, as highlighted by PM Modi?

- A) Chizami
- B) Wangmun
- C) Madhavpur
- D) Mudhigunta

8) What major achievement did Varanasi accomplish regarding environmental conservation in March 2026?

- A) Cleanest city award
- B) 2.51 lakh saplings planted in an hour
- C) World's largest water body cleanup
- D) Plastic-free city declaration

9) Which Indian state is implementing a unified digital platform to transform digital governance?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) West Bengal
- C) Bihar
- D) Jharkhand

10) Which Indian athlete became the first to complete a half marathon in under one hour at the New York City Half Marathon in 2026?

- A) Neeraj Chopra
- B) Gulveer Singh
- C) Amit Panghal
- D) Anahat Singh

11) What is the key feature of India's 2027 Census, making it the first of its kind in the country?

- A) It will be paper-based
- B) It will use only SMS for data collection
- C) It will be fully digital with self-enumeration
- D) It will be conducted only in urban areas

12) Which new rule regarding household waste segregation becomes mandatory in India from April 1, 2026?

- A) Three-way segregation
- B) No segregation required
- C) Four-way segregation at source
- D) Segregation only for plastic waste

13) Which Indian portal processed over ₹1 lakh crore in loan applications since its 2022 launch, integrating credit-linked government schemes?

- A) eNAM
- B) Jan Samarth
- C) PMJDY
- D) BharatNet

14) What significant amendment did the Lok Sabha pass to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) in 2025?

- A) Abolishing insolvency process
- B) Introducing a creditor-initiated fast-track framework for small companies
- C) Allowing unlimited time for insolvency resolution
- D) Mandating only court-led settlements

15) According to the 'Energy Statistics India 2026', what is the dominant source of energy supply in India as of FY 2024-25?

- A) Natural gas
- B) Solar power
- C) Coal
- D) Nuclear power

16) Which event marks the opening of India's 2026 surfing season?

- A) Mumbai Surf Fest
- B) Little Andaman Pro 2026
- C) Pondicherry Surf Classic
- D) Goa Open Surfing

17) What major deal did the Ministry of Defence sign with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in March 2026?

- A) Procurement of fighter jets
- B) Acquisition of submarines
- C) Purchase of mountain radars
- D) Supply of missiles

18) Which Indian city recently saw the inauguration of the Kaynes semiconductor plant by PM Modi?

- A) Bangalore
- B) Dholera
- C) Sanand
- D) Noida

19) What is the main objective of the eGramSwaraj platform launched by the Indian government?

- A) Boost rural insurance schemes
- B) Facilitate rural digital payments and governance
- C) Promote agricultural exports
- D) Manage rural health data

20) Which country saw a 66% surge in forest loss in 2025 due to its self-sufficiency drive?

- A) Malaysia
- B) Vietnam
- C) Indonesia
- D) Brazil

21) Which Act replaced the six-decade-old Income-tax Act, 1961 in India?

- A) Income-tax Act, 2023
- B) Direct Tax Code, 2026
- C) Income-tax Act, 2025
- D) Taxation Laws (Amendment) Act, 2025

22) Which city has been formally established as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh by the 2026 amendment?

- A) Vijayawada
- B) Visakhapatnam
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Amaravati

23) Which Indian research institute recently decoded the genetic basis of seedlessness in grapes?

- A) Indian Agricultural Research Institute
- B) Agharkar Research Institute
- C) ICAR-Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture
- D) National Botanical Research Institute

24) Which Indian government initiative handled over 2,900 cases to combat misinformation by April 2026?

- A) Digital India Mission
- B) PIB Fact Check Unit
- C) Cyber Swachhta Kendra
- D) MyGov Portal

25) Which state launched the 'School Chalen Hum' campaign to boost government school enrollment in April 2026?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Gujarat

26) Which new website was launched by the Income Tax Department in April 2026 to simplify tax filing and provide 24x7 AI assistance?

- A) Tax Sahayak
- B) Kar Mitra
- C) Kar Saathi
- D) Tax Guru

27) Which bilateral trade agreement between India and Australia completed four years in April 2026?

- A) Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)
- B) India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA)
- C) Asia-Pacific Free Trade Agreement
- D) South Asia Free Trade Agreement

28) What was the focus of the new scientific study by Bose Institute, Kolkata, regarding tuberculosis (TB) bacteria?

- A) Discovery of a new antibiotic
- B) Overturning the universal σ -cycle model of bacterial gene regulation
- C) Developing a TB vaccine
- D) Identifying a new TB strain

29) Which measure did the Election Commission of India (ECI) reiterate ahead of Assembly elections in April 2026?

- A) Extension of polling hours
- B) Ban on exit polls and 48-hour silence period
- C) Mandatory VVPAT verification at all booths
- D) Postal voting for all citizens

30) Which environmental risk to children was highlighted by a recent study of the Betwa–Yamuna river confluence?

- A) Plastic pollution
- B) Toxic metal contamination
- C) Pesticide residue
- D) Microbial contamination

31) Which Indian city will see the construction of a new Rs 700 crore bypass road ahead of Simhastha Mahakumbh 2028?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Ujjain
- C) Prayagraj
- D) Haridwar

32) India ranks as the world's second-largest producer in which sector, as of 2026?

- A) Textiles
- B) Aquaculture
- C) Steel
- D) Pharmaceuticals

33) Which Indian government initiative aims to turn tribal talent into a global sporting power as emphasized in 2026?

- A) Fit India Movement
- B) Start-up India
- C) Khelo India Tribal Games
- D) Mission Olympic Gold

34) Which Indian state is planning to raise an all-women Mahila unit of the India Reserve Battalion to strengthen security?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Meghalaya

D) Nagaland

35) What recent study finding about obstructive sleep apnea (OSA) is significant for public health?

- A) OSA reduces cancer risk
- B) OSA linked to 71% higher risk of CV events
- C) OSA increases muscle strength
- D) OSA cures diabetes

36) Which major reform bill was passed by the Indian Parliament in April 2026 to decriminalise minor offences and promote ease of doing business?

- A) National Compliance Act, 2026
- B) Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026
- C) Ease of Business Bill, 2026
- D) Business Facilitation Act, 2026

37) Which new digital feature did the Election Commission of India launch to help voters check candidates' backgrounds ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections?

- A) VoterTrack
- B) ECINet KYC
- C) ElectCheck
- D) VoteVerify

38) Which Indian state is set to host a three-day Advanced Agriculture Festival in April 2026 aimed at transforming farming practices?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Punjab
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Odisha

39) Which Indian minister inaugurated the BioNEST Incubation Centre at CFTRI Mysuru to support food startups in April 2026?

- A) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- B) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- C) Nitin Gadkari
- D) Piyush Goyal

40) Which significant innovation did Ramesh Vinayakam demonstrate to PM Modi during his visit to Chennai in April 2026?

- A) Rhythm Box
- B) Digital Veena
- C) Gamaka Box Notation System
- D) Indian Harmony Synth

41) Which Indian public sector enterprise supplied indigenous steel for the construction of the newly inducted warship INS Taragiri?

- A) Tata Steel
- B) Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)
- C) JSW Steel
- D) Essar Steel

42) Which newly launched initiative aims to foster school-level innovation and mentorship in Telangana as part of NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission?

- A) Atal Incubation Centre
- B) ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy
- C) Startup India Yatra
- D) Digital India Labs

43) What major achievement did India's major ports record in FY 2025–26?

- A) Handled 500 million tonnes of cargo
- B) Achieved zero emissions
- C) Handled 915 million tonnes of cargo, surpassing targets
- D) Launched 10 new ports

44) Which Indian city recently inaugurated Shri Krishna Devaraya Sainik School to promote defence-oriented education?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Mysuru
- C) Sindhanur, Raichur district
- D) Dharwad

45) Which indigenous automatic train protection system has Indian Railways expanded to over 3,100 route kilometres as of FY 2025-26?

- A) Train Protection and Warning System (TPWS)
- B) Kavach
- C) Astra
- D) Raksha

46) Which state in India houses the country's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) that recently attained criticality?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Karnataka
- D) Maharashtra

47) What percentage of women's reservation is being proposed for the Lok Sabha under the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, as discussed in the April 2026 special Parliament session?

- A) 25%
- B) 27%
- C) 33%
- D) 50%

48) India recorded its highest-ever annual wind energy capacity addition in FY 2025-26. What was the new capacity added?

- A) 4.2 GW
- B) 5.1 GW
- C) 6.05 GW
- D) 8.5 GW

49) Which recent government survey revealed that India's domestic textile market reached Rs 14.95 lakh crore in 2024?

- A) Annual Survey of Industries
- B) Market for Textiles Clothing: National Household Survey 2024
- C) ASISSE
- D) Economic Census 2026

50) Who recently laid the foundation for advanced military medical facilities at Army hospitals in Delhi, emphasizing innovation and self-reliance?

- A) Narendra Modi
- B) Amit Shah
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Upendra Dwivedi

51) Which event set an Asia record during the Yoga Mahotsav 2026 in Maharashtra's Lonar?

- A) Longest Surya Namaskar session

- B) Mass Trikonasana performance
- C) Most countries participating
- D) Fastest yoga relay

52) What major amendment did the National Medical Commission (NMC) propose for Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) doctors in April 2026?

- A) Mandatory multiple state registrations
- B) Single state registration during service
- C) No registration required
- D) Registration only after retirement

53) Which initiative by Indian Railways has improved real-time passenger information at over 1,400 stations?

- A) Rail Mitra App
- B) National Train Enquiry System integration
- C) Dedicated Freight Corridor
- D) Railway Wi-Fi expansion

54) Which two Indian cooperative institutions crossed the ₹1 lakh crore turnover milestone in FY 2025-26?

- A) NABARD and Mother Dairy
- B) Amul and Saraswat Bank
- C) IFFCO and SBI
- D) Kribhco and HDFC Bank

55) What does the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provide for in Indian legislatures?

- A) Reservation for OBC candidates
- B) One-third reservation for women
- C) Minimum age for MPs
- D) Direct election of Governors

56) Which Indian state recently held a by-election in the Dharmanagar Assembly constituency following the demise of its sitting MLA and Speaker in December 2025?

- A) Assam
- B) Tripura
- C) Mizoram
- D) Nagaland

57) Which initiative has the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched to promote biodiversity and medicinal plant conservation along highways?

- A) Green Belt Initiative
- B) Eco Highway Scheme
- C) Arogya Van
- D) Swasthya Marg

58) What milestone did India achieve under its National Quantum Mission, as announced in April 2026?

- A) First quantum satellite launch
- B) 1000-km quantum communication network
- C) Development of a quantum supercomputer
- D) Quantum cryptography export agreement

59) Which Indian city recently hosted the SMOPS-2026 international conference on next-generation space mission operations?

- A) Chennai
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru
- D) New Delhi

60) Which project received a Union Cabinet investment approval of over ₹14,105 crore for hydroelectric development in Arunachal Pradesh?

- A) Subansiri Hydro Project
- B) Siang Dam
- C) Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project
- D) Teesta VI Project

61) Which two regions recorded their highest-ever voter turnout in the 2026 Assembly elections, according to the Election Commission of India?

- A) Assam and Kerala
- B) Kerala and Karnataka
- C) Assam and Puducherry
- D) Puducherry and Tripura

62) What innovative material is Indian Railways introducing to enhance passenger safety and comfort on tracks?

- A) Steel sleepers

- B) Concrete sleepers
- C) Composite sleepers
- D) Bamboo sleepers

63) What is the main feature of the frog-inspired sensor developed by Indian scientists at JNCASR?

- A) Humidity-resistant coating
- B) Brain-like neuromorphic response
- C) Water purification ability
- D) Solar energy harvesting

64) Which government programme enabled youth from Jammu and Kashmir to meet the Vice President in Delhi, promoting national integration?

- A) Yuva Shakti Abhiyan
- B) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- C) Watan Ko Jano
- D) Mission Youth India

65) Which two agencies signed an MoU to strengthen India's fight against cyber fraud and financial crimes in April 2026?

- A) CBI and RBI
- B) FIU-India and I4C
- C) NIA and CERT-In
- D) SEBI and NPCI

66) Which country did India recently discuss supply chain stability and stronger trade ties with, amid regional tensions in West Asia?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Japan
- D) Saudi Arabia

67) What milestone did India achieve in solar energy during the financial year 2025–26, as highlighted by PM Modi?

- A) 30 GW addition
- B) 25 GW addition
- C) 45 GW addition
- D) 60 GW addition

68) The Vande Bharat Express network saw a surge in ridership in FY 2025–26. Approximately how many crore passengers traveled during this period?

- A) 2 crore
- B) 3 crore
- C) 4 crore
- D) 5 crore

69) Who took oath as a newly elected Rajya Sabha member from Bihar in April 2026?

- A) Harivansh Narayan Singh
- B) Nitish Kumar
- C) Jagat Prakash Nadda
- D) Samrat Choudhary

70) Which significant Indian defense hero, awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for the Kargil War, was recently remembered following his passing?

- A) Col Sonam Wangchuk
- B) Capt Vikram Batra
- C) Lt Manoj Pandey
- D) Maj Sandeep Unnikrishnan

71) Which recent initiative by the Defence Ministry aims to benefit both Indian soldiers and local farmers?

- A) Procurement of organic produce from nearby farmers
- B) Importing food grains from abroad
- C) Centralized rationing through FCI
- D) Subsidizing fertilizers for cantonments

72) The draft Delhi Electric Vehicle Policy 2.0 (2026–2030) proposes which restriction from April 1, 2028?

- A) Ban on diesel car registration
- B) Ban on new petrol-powered two-wheelers
- C) Ban on electric three-wheelers
- D) Ban on hybrid vehicle sales

73) What is the main objective of the newly approved Barabanki–Bahraich highway project?

- A) Connecting Mumbai with Delhi
- B) Boosting India-Nepal trade
- C) Developing coastal tourism

D) Bypassing Lucknow city

74) Which state emerged as the fastest-growing economy in Northeast India, attracting over Rs 2,000 crore investment interest in Bengaluru?

- A) Assam
- B) Nagaland
- C) Tripura
- D) Meghalaya

75) What significant milestone did the Sagarmala Programme achieve by March 2026?

- A) Completion of 315 maritime projects
- B) Setting up 100 new ports
- C) Achieving 100% coastal electrification
- D) Launching first Indian cruise ship

76) India recently rejected China's attempt to rename places in which Indian state, reaffirming its status as an 'integral and inalienable part' of the country?

- A) Sikkim
- B) Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Arunachal Pradesh
- D) Manipur

77) Which legendary Indian playback singer, recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, passed away in April 2026?

- A) Lata Mangeskar
- B) Kishore Kumar
- C) Asha Bhosle
- D) Manna Dey

78) Which conference, inaugurated by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan in April 2026, focused on transforming tribal lives through science and technology?

- A) Adivasi Vikas Sammelan
- B) Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions
- C) Janjatiya Samriddhi Yatra
- D) Bharat Tribal Innovation Meet

79) Which city hosted the inauguration of a laser, light, and sound show at a war memorial, highlighting Indian Army history in April 2026?

- A) Delhi
- B) Lucknow
- C) Pune
- D) Chandigarh

80) Which bilateral relationship did External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar aim to strengthen during his April 2026 visit amid West Asia tensions?

- A) India–Saudi Arabia
- B) India–UAE
- C) India–Qatar
- D) India–Oman

81) What was the main focus of the 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise ‘DUSTLIK’ held in April 2026?

- A) Maritime security operations
- B) Air defense drills
- C) Joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain
- D) Urban combat simulation

82) Which Indian city saw a massive turnout of devotees for the Baisakhi Snan in April 2026?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Haridwar
- C) Amritsar
- D) Prayagraj

83) What was the main outcome of the recent IMF and World Bank economic outlook following the Middle East war?

- A) Raised global growth forecasts
- B) Predicted lower inflation
- C) Downgraded growth forecasts and warned of higher inflation
- D) Announced new trade agreements

84) Which Indian shooter finished fifth in the women’s 10m air rifle final at the 2026 ISSF World Cup in Granada?

- A) Mehuli Ghosh
- B) Shruti

- C) Sonam Uttam Maskar
- D) Palak

85) Which Indian festival, observed on April 14, also marks the anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

- A) Lohri
- B) Holi
- C) Baisakhi
- D) Diwali

86) What is a key wildlife-friendly feature of the newly inaugurated Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor?

- A) Solar-powered streetlights
- B) 12 km wildlife elevated corridor
- C) Plastic-free zones
- D) Electric vehicle charging stations

87) Which state received Rs 3,708 crore aid from JICA to upgrade its medical education and healthcare services in 2026?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Gujarat

88) Which new initiative was launched to train NCC cadets in cyber security skills across India?

- A) Cyber Shakti Mission
- B) NCC Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme
- C) Digital India Cadet Scheme
- D) Cyber Warriors Yojana

89) Who was cremated with full state honours at Mumbai’s Shivaji Park in April 2026?

- A) Lata Mangeskar
- B) Asha Bhosle
- C) Pt. Bhimsen Joshi
- D) Kishore Kumar

90) Which Indian state will host the country's first HPCL Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Odisha

- C) Rajasthan
- D) Maharashtra

91) Who was sworn in as the first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Chief Minister of Bihar in April 2026?

- A) Nitish Kumar
- B) Chirag Paswan
- C) Samrat Choudhary
- D) Shakuni Choudhary

92) Which global body recently cut its 2026 economic growth outlook due to Middle East conflict-driven oil price spikes?

- A) World Bank
- B) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- C) Asian Development Bank
- D) United Nations

93) What major proposal did India support in April 2026 regarding United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform?

- A) Immediate veto for new members
- B) Two-tier permanent membership
- C) G4 proposal to defer veto for 15 years
- D) Abolishing veto power

94) Which country's Chancellor visited India in April 2026, marking his first official trip to Asia?

- A) Germany
- B) Austria
- C) Sweden
- D) Denmark

95) India recently sent 13 tonnes of BCG vaccines to which country to support child immunization?

- A) Nepal
- B) Bangladesh
- C) Afghanistan
- D) Sri Lanka

96) Which country hosted the first BRICS Health Working Group (HWG) meeting for 2026, emphasizing healthy lifestyles and mental health?

- A) Brazil
- B) India
- C) South Africa
- D) China

97) What was the main goal of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's Hydrogen Startup Exhibition held on April 15, 2026?

- A) To launch a new hydrogen fuel policy
- B) To promote the hydrogen startup ecosystem
- C) To sign an international hydrogen agreement
- D) To inaugurate a hydrogen research center

98) Which significant spiritual site did Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurate in Karnataka in April 2026?

- A) Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira
- B) Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple
- C) Mahabodhi Temple
- D) Sri Siddaganga Math

99) Which Indian state was hailed as an emerging manufacturing hub after Tata Motors rolled out its 10th lakh vehicle from the Lucknow plant?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu

100) What new digital initiative did Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) introduce to improve passenger experience?

- A) Mobile ticketing app
- B) GPS bus tracking system
- C) QR code-based feedback system
- D) Online seat reservation for AC buses

101) Which Indian state government recently implemented AI-based surveillance and a zero-tolerance policy to ensure fair recruitment examinations?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Karnataka
- D) Tamil Nadu

102) Which state signed MoUs worth Rs 1.75 lakh crore in clean energy, AI, and steel sectors in April 2026?

- A) Gujarat

- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Karnataka

103) India and which European country signed key agreements on defence, trade, and technology during a high-level visit in April 2026?

- A) Germany
- B) Austria
- C) France
- D) Italy

104) Which newly discovered species was hailed as a boost to Northeast India's biodiversity by Assam's Chief Minister?

- A) Assam forest cat
- B) Cyrtodactylus jayadityai (gecko)
- C) Naga flying squirrel
- D) Manipur hornbill

105) Which international event saw its prize money increase by 9.5% in 2026, maintaining equal pay for men and women?

- A) Wimbledon
- B) Australian Open
- C) French Open
- D) US Open

106) Which Indian IT company reported a 28% quarter-on-quarter net profit growth in Q4 FY25-26, but also saw a decline in its employee headcount?

- A) TCS
- B) Infosys
- C) Wipro
- D) HCL Tech

107) Which Indian state recently recorded an increase in agricultural growth rate from 8% to 18%, as highlighted by its Chief Minister?

- A) Punjab
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Bihar

108) The United Arab Emirates announced plans to shift what proportion of its government services to AI within two years?

- A) 25%
- B) 50%
- C) 75%
- D) 100%

109) Which Indian Army Chief was recently inducted into the International Hall of Fame at the US Army War College?

- A) Gen V. K. Singh
- B) Gen Bikram Singh
- C) Gen Upendra Dwivedi
- D) Gen Bipin Rawat

110) India recently approved a currency swap withdrawal of Rs 30 billion for which neighboring country under the SAARC framework?

- A) Nepal
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Maldives
- D) Bangladesh

111) Which Indian Minister recently reviewed the operation of over 18,000 summer special train trips to manage peak travel rush?

- A) Piyush Goyal
- B) Ashwini Vaishnaw
- C) Hardeep Singh Puri
- D) Nitin Gadkari

112) Which company demonstrated a switch capable of connecting quantum computers of different kinds, as reported in April 2026?

- A) Google
- B) IBM
- C) Cisco
- D) Microsoft

113) Which day is observed as National Panchayati Raj Day in India?

- A) January 26
- B) April 24
- C) October 2

D) August 15

114) Which Indian city's airport is being developed as a global hub under the new 'hub-and-spoke' aviation model?

- A) Mumbai
- B) Kolkata
- C) Delhi
- D) Hyderabad

115) Recently, which country announced plans to ban children under 16 from using social media, making tech companies responsible for age verification?

- A) Germany
- B) Australia
- C) Norway
- D) France

116) Which Indian state recently extended its wheat procurement deadline and aims to become the 'Milk Capital of India'?

- A) Punjab
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Haryana

117) What major action did the Election Commission of India announce after scrutiny of polling documents in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu?

- A) Ordered statewide repolling
- B) Cancelled election results
- C) Ruled out the need for repolls
- D) Deferred vote counting

118) Which two countries are set to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on April 27, 2026?

- A) India and Australia
- B) India and New Zealand
- C) India and the UK
- D) India and Japan

119) Which country held a summit with India in April 2026, focusing on economic cooperation in energy, AI, and shipbuilding?

- A) Japan
- B) South Korea
- C) Vietnam
- D) Australia

120) Why did the Union Government increase its wheat procurement target in 2026?

- A) To boost exports
- B) Due to unseasonal rain damage
- C) To control inflation
- D) To promote organic farming

121) Which Indian military exercise with Uzbekistan concluded in April 2026 to enhance counter-terrorism cooperation?

- A) Yudh Abhyas
- B) Indra
- C) Dustlik
- D) Garuda Shakti

122) Which Indian ministry reported distributing over Rs 7,900 crore in educational aid to 75 lakh marginalized students in 2025-26?

- A) Ministry of Education
- B) Ministry of Rural Development
- C) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- D) Ministry of Women and Child Development

123) What is the significance of the MoU signed between Delhi University and the Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) in April 2026?

- A) Boosting postal services
- B) Enhancing maritime education and research
- C) Developing AI curriculum
- D) Expanding agricultural studies

124) Which Indian official recently visited Tuvalu to discuss climate-resilient infrastructure and health cooperation?

- A) S. Jaishankar
- B) Pabitra Margherita
- C) V. Muraleedharan
- D) Anurag Thakur

125) What did the United Nations highlight on the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster?

- A) Ban on all nuclear power
- B) Peaceful use of nuclear technology
- C) Expansion of nuclear weapons
- D) Immediate nuclear disarmament

126) Who was recently appointed as a member of NITI Aayog, as congratulated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- A) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- B) Prof. Gobardhan Das
- C) C. P. Radhakrishnan
- D) Anupriya Patel

127) The India-US strategic defense discussions in April 2026 primarily focused on which regional security area?

- A) Arctic
- B) South China Sea
- C) Indo-Pacific
- D) Middle East

128) What is the projected value of India's bio-economy by 2047, according to the Union Minister in April 2026?

- A) \$300 billion
- B) \$500 billion
- C) \$1 trillion
- D) \$2 trillion

129) Which two countries did President Lee Jae Myung visit to focus on economic and supply chain cooperation?

- A) India and China
- B) India and Vietnam
- C) Japan and Vietnam
- D) China and Indonesia

130) Which upcoming event will mark India's first-ever fully digital population enumeration?

- A) Census 2021
- B) Census 2023
- C) Census 2027
- D) Census 2031

131) Which two countries recently signed agreements on security and energy cooperation in Baku?

- A) Russia and Azerbaijan
- B) Ukraine and Azerbaijan
- C) Turkey and Ukraine
- D) Georgia and Russia

132) Which Himalayan pilgrimage is closely linked with Adi Shankaracharya and involves four sacred sites in Uttarakhand?

- A) Amarnath Yatra
- B) Char Dham Yatra
- C) Vaishno Devi Yatra
- D) Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

133) Which Indian sector is projected to contribute about 20% of the global workforce by 2030, as per recent MoU initiatives?

- A) Textiles
- B) Maritime
- C) Healthcare
- D) IT

134) Which state in India issued a severe heat alert for 32 districts, including cities like Varanasi and Gorakhpur, in April 2026?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Rajasthan

135) Which Indian state received relaxed wheat procurement norms due to crop damage from unseasonal rains in April 2026?

- A) Kerala
- B) Assam
- C) Punjab
- D) Goa

136) India's private space sector attracted over how much private investment in the last five years, according to Union Minister Jitendra Singh?

- A) \$100 million
- B) \$250 million

- C) \$600 million
- D) \$1 billion

137) Which country did India's National Security Adviser Ajit Doval visit recently to discuss energy security and strategic ties?

- A) Saudi Arabia
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) Qatar
- D) Iran

138) India achieved its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition in which fiscal year?

- A) 2016–17
- B) 2023–24
- C) 2024–25
- D) 2025–26

139) What is the name of the digital archive portal highlighted by PM Modi that offers access to over 200 million digitised historical documents?

- A) Digital Bharat
- B) Abhilekh Patal
- C) India Manuscript Vault
- D) Heritage Online

140) Which two species did PM Modi highlight as conservation successes in his April 2026 'Mann Ki Baat' address?

- A) Asiatic Lion and Snow Leopard
- B) Blackbuck and Great Indian Bustard
- C) Olive Ridley Turtle and Sarus Crane
- D) Indian Rhinoceros and Bengal Tiger

141) Which international event brought global recognition to Indian cheese makers, as mentioned by PM Modi?

- A) World Cheese Awards, London
- B) Mundial do Queijo do Brasil, São Paulo
- C) Global Dairy Expo, Paris
- D) Cheese Festival, Rome

142) Which Indian city was recently issued a heavy rainfall alert by the IMD with warnings of possible landslides and waterlogging?

- A) Kolkata

- B) Guwahati
- C) Mumbai
- D) Bengaluru

143) Which Indian state held large-scale local body elections in April 2026, with leaders urging 100% voter turnout?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Gujarat
- C) Kerala
- D) Punjab

144) Which Indian official recently discussed expanding Indo-Pacific security cooperation with the US Indo-Pacific Command?

- A) NSA Ajit Doval
- B) CDS General Anil Chauhan
- C) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh
- D) Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra

145) Which Indian initiative was praised for expanding space education and startup support, including plans for university space labs?

- A) ISRO's Student Satellite Program
- B) IN-SPACe
- C) Make in India
- D) Digital India

146) Which Indian city is recognized for producing about 75% of the country's leather footwear and holds a GI tag, mentioned during India-New Zealand FTA talks?

- A) Kanpur
- B) Agra
- C) Chennai
- D) Kolkata

147) In April 2026, which Indian city's legislative assembly announced a special session focusing on women's participation in Indian democracy?

- A) Delhi
- B) Bhopal
- C) Kolkata
- D) Bhubaneswar

148) Which Indian Minister recently reviewed plans to establish space laboratories in universities, citing over \$600 million in private investment in the sector?

- A) Nirmala Sitharaman
- B) Jitendra Singh
- C) Rajnath Singh
- D) Ashwini Vaishnaw

149) Which weather event is forecasted to bring heavy rainfall and gusty winds to western Tamil Nadu between April 30 and May 2, 2026?

- A) Cyclone Yaas
- B) Low-pressure system
- C) Western Disturbance
- D) Heatwave

150) As per recent announcements, which Indian city is President Droupadi Murmu visiting for her summer sojourn in 2026?

- A) Chandigarh
- B) Shimla
- C) Darjeeling
- D) Mussoorie

ANSWERS

1) Correct Answer: C

Rajnath Singh chaired the first IGoM meeting. The meeting aimed to review risks from the West Asia conflict to India's energy supplies and supply chains. This proactive approach is vital for India's economic and strategic security amid external crises.

2) Correct Answer: C

The event took place at IIM Ranchi. Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan addressed students on values and social responsibility. The emphasis on ethical leadership aligns with India's vision for inclusive growth. Such guidance shapes future leaders for national development.

3) Correct Answer: C

PM Modi had a telephonic conversation with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. They discussed securing shipping lines amid West Asia tensions. Ensuring safe maritime routes is crucial for India's energy imports and trade.

4) Correct Answer: B

PM Modi highlighted the UDAN scheme during the Noida Airport inauguration. UDAN has made air travel accessible beyond metros, benefiting over 1.6 crore passengers. It is a key government initiative to boost regional connectivity.

5) Correct Answer: C

The roundtable highlighted PNG's safety, reliability, affordability, and environmental sustainability over LPG. The government aims to expand PNG access in urban areas. Cleaner fuel adoption reduces pollution and import dependence. This is crucial for urban energy security and climate goals.

6) Correct Answer: C

The IMEX TTX 2026 was hosted by the Indian Navy in Kochi. This exercise brought together representatives from multiple Indian Ocean Region navies to enhance maritime security cooperation. It was conducted as India prepares to take over the IONS Chairmanship for 2026–2028.

7) Correct Answer: A

Chizami village in Nagaland has preserved 150+ varieties of traditional seeds. Women have taken the lead in this community-managed initiative. This effort safeguards cultural knowledge and strengthens food security. It exemplifies grassroots conservation vital for India's sustainable development.

8) Correct Answer: B

Varanasi set a Guinness World Record by planting over 2.51 lakh saplings in a single hour. The achievement was driven by widespread public participation. This event reflects the power of collective action for environmental protection.

9) Correct Answer: C

The BiharOne Project is a unified digital platform launched by the Bihar government. It aims to streamline public service delivery and foster citizen-centric governance. With a contract worth ₹87 crore awarded, the project is expected to boost digital infrastructure and inclusion.

10) Correct Answer: B

Gulveer Singh finished third at the New York City Half Marathon, clocking under one hour. This is a first for an Indian athlete in the event's history. It marks a milestone in Indian long-distance running. Such international achievements elevate India's profile in athletics.

11) Correct Answer: C

India's Census 2027 will be fully digital, starting April 1, 2026, with a self-enumeration option. Citizens can submit their information online for the first time. This digital approach aims to improve accuracy and efficiency. It marks a significant step in modernizing India's data collection process.

12) Correct Answer: C

The Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, notified by the Ministry of Environment, mandate four-way segregation: wet, dry, sanitary, and special care waste. This rule, effective April 1, 2026, aims to improve recycling and reduce landfill burden. It strengthens environmental protection and waste management in India.

13) Correct Answer: B

The Jan Samarth portal, launched in June 2022, processed over ₹1,06,306 crore in loan applications by March 2026. It serves as a digital single-window for multiple government credit schemes. This platform eases access to institutional credit, supporting inclusive growth and financial inclusion.

14) Correct Answer: B

The Lok Sabha passed the IBC (Amendment) Bill 2025, introducing a creditor-initiated fast-track insolvency process for small companies. This aims to improve efficiency and value realization. The amendment aligns Indian insolvency law with global best practices, boosting investor confidence.

15) Correct Answer: C

The 2026 report by the National Statistics Office states that coal remains India's dominant energy source, with supply increasing to 5,52,315 KToE in FY 2024-25. Despite a surge in renewables, coal's share is pivotal for meeting growing energy demand.

16) Correct Answer: B

Little Andaman Pro 2026 is the official opener of India's surfing season, scheduled for April 9-12, 2026. The event is significant as it precedes India's debut in surfing at the Asian Games 2026. It will be held at Butler Bay Beach, Andaman Islands.

17) Correct Answer: C

On March 31, 2026, the Ministry of Defence signed a Rs 1,950 crore contract with BEL for two mountain radars. These indigenously developed radars will enhance the Indian Air Force's air defence in mountainous terrain. The deal supports the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, boosting indigenous defence manufacturing.

18) Correct Answer: C

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Kaynes semiconductor plant in Sanand, Gujarat. This marks another milestone in India's efforts to build a domestic chip ecosystem. The plant will manufacture intelligent power modules, supporting India's ambitions as a global semiconductor player.

19) Correct Answer: B

The eGramSwaraj platform enables digital payments and transparent governance at the Gram Panchayat level. As of March 2026, it facilitated over Rs 3 lakh crore in payments, replacing cash-based systems with real-time, accountable digital processes. This strengthens grassroots governance and financial transparency in rural India.

20) Correct Answer: C

Indonesia experienced a 66% increase in forest loss in 2025, the highest in eight years. The main drivers were weak environmental protections and President Prabowo's food and energy self-sufficiency programs. This has global significance due to Indonesia's rich biodiversity and its role in climate regulation.

21) Correct Answer: C

The Income-tax Act, 2025 came into force on April 1, 2026, replacing the Income-tax Act, 1961. This marks a major reform aimed at simplifying India's direct tax framework. The Act introduces clearer language and streamlined processes. Its significance lies in modernizing tax administration and enhancing ease of compliance in line with India's development goals.

22) Correct Answer: D

The Lok Sabha passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 designating Amaravati as the sole capital. This restores administrative clarity and honors the contributions of local communities, positioning Amaravati as a growth engine for the state.

23) Correct Answer: B

Scientists at Agharkar Research Institute, Pune, identified genetic mechanisms behind seedlessness in grapes. Published in April 2026, this research aids in breeding improved seedless grape varieties. The study supports India's horticultural innovation and global competitiveness.

24) Correct Answer: B

The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit had issued over 2,900 fact-checks by April 2026. It plays a key role in verifying government-related content and countering fake news, thus supporting informed public discourse and digital governance.

25) Correct Answer: C

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav launched the 'School Chalen Hum' campaign on April 1, 2026. It aims for universal school enrollment and has led to a 32.4% increase in government school admissions, reflecting educational transformation in the state.

26) Correct Answer: C

'Kar Saathi' was launched by the Income Tax Department on April 2, 2026. The portal offers user-friendly tax information and features an AI chatbot for round-the-clock support. The initiative is part of India's modernization of tax administration.

27) Correct Answer: B

The India–Australia ECTA, signed on April 2, 2022, marked four years in 2026. It has doubled Indian exports

to Australia and expanded bilateral trade to USD 24.1 billion. The agreement enhances market access and trade diversification, strengthening India's economic links.

28) Correct Answer: B

Bose Institute scientists published findings challenging the universal σ -cycle in bacterial gene regulation. They showed sigma factors behave differently in TB bacteria. This insight could lead to new drug targets, crucial for combating drug-resistant TB.

29) Correct Answer: B

The ECI, on April 2, 2026, reiterated a ban on exit polls and enforced a 48-hour silence period before polls. These measures are based on the Representation of the People Act, 1951. They ensure free, fair, and unbiased elections in India.

30) Correct Answer: B

A new study published in April 2026 found children are at higher risk from toxic metals in the Betwa–Yamuna river confluence. Metals like arsenic and lead pose significant health hazards. This highlights the need for better water quality monitoring and policy interventions.

31) Correct Answer: B

Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh will get a new Rs 700 crore bypass road for Simhastha Mahakumbh 2028. The road aims to manage traffic for the anticipated 35-40 crore devotees. This reflects the state's focus on infrastructure ahead of the world's largest religious gathering.

32) Correct Answer: B

India is the second-largest aquaculture producer globally, as reported in April 2026. The sector supports nearly 30 million fishers and has seen seafood exports double in a decade. Government initiatives like PMMSY have driven growth.

33) Correct Answer: C

The Khelo India Tribal Games initiative, promoted in April 2026, aims to nurture tribal sporting talent. Sports Minister Mandaviya and President Murmu highlighted its role in making India a global sports superpower. It provides infrastructure and opportunities for tribal athletes.

34) Correct Answer: B

Manipur is set to raise a Mahila unit of the India Reserve Battalion, as discussed by CM Singh and Home Minister Amit Shah in April 2026. This move addresses security and policing needs amid ongoing ethnic tensions. It also promotes women's participation in state security forces.

35) Correct Answer: B

A new study, presented in April 2026, found that people with OSA have a 71% higher risk of cardiovascular events or all-cause mortality. The research used data from 2.9 million people. Early diagnosis and obesity management are crucial.

36) Correct Answer: B

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 was passed in April 2026. It aims to reduce compliance burdens and replace criminal penalties with civil penalties for minor offences. Over 1,000 offences were rationalised across 79 Central Acts.

37) Correct Answer: B

The ECINet KYC feature was launched in April 2026. It enables voters to access candidate details like criminal antecedents and assets. This tool advances electoral transparency and informed voting. It is a vital step for strengthening India's democracy before the upcoming elections.

38) Correct Answer: C

Madhya Pradesh will host the Advanced Agriculture Festival from April 11-13, 2026, in Raisen. The event aims to promote technology, training, and market linkages for farmers. It brings together scientists, startups, and policymakers for agricultural innovation.

39) Correct Answer: B

Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the BioNEST Incubation Centre at CFTRI Mysuru in April 2026. The facility aims to foster food startups and bioprocessing research. It supports innovation, patents, and industry linkages. This boosts India's food technology ecosystem and startup culture.

40) Correct Answer: C

Ramesh Vinayakam demonstrated the Gamaka Box Notation System to PM Modi in April 2026. The system digitally preserves and documents Indian music. It bridges traditional music with modern technology and

AI. This innovation promotes India's musical heritage globally.

41) Correct Answer: B

SAIL supplied around 4,000 tonnes of special grade steel for INS Taragiri, commissioned on April 3, 2026. This highlights SAIL's advanced metallurgical capabilities and its role in India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

42) Correct Answer: B

ATL Sarthi and Mentor India Academy were launched in Telangana in April 2026 to support 379 Atal Tinkering Labs. The initiative provides mentorship, teacher training, and incubation support, aiming to nurture young innovators. This strengthens India's grassroots innovation ecosystem, vital for a future-ready workforce.

43) Correct Answer: C

In FY 2025-26, India's major ports handled 915.17 million tonnes of cargo, exceeding the 904 MT target. This reflects a 7% year-on-year growth and underscores successful infrastructure reforms. The achievement is significant for India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and its ambition to be a global maritime leader.

44) Correct Answer: C

Sindhanur in Raichur district, Karnataka, saw the inauguration of Shri Krishna Devaraya Sainik School in April 2026. This school, named after the Vijayanagara ruler, aims to instill discipline and national service, boosting the region's contribution to India's defence ecosystem and value-based education.

45) Correct Answer: B

Kavach, Indian Railways' indigenous train collision avoidance system, is operational over 3,100 route km as reported in April 2026. Its expansion improves operational safety and prevents accidents, reflecting India's focus on technological self-reliance and passenger safety in railway modernization.

46) Correct Answer: B

India's first indigenous PFBR is located in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu. The reactor reached criticality on April 6, 2026, marking a major milestone in India's nuclear programme. Developed by BHAVINI, it advances India's three-stage nuclear vision.

47) Correct Answer: C

The proposed amendment seeks to implement 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha starting from the 2029 elections. This move aims to ensure greater representation of women in Indian legislatures. The bill requires broad consensus and a two-thirds majority for passage.

48) Correct Answer: C

India added 6.05 GW of wind energy in FY 2025-26, the highest annual addition so far. This represents a 46% increase over the previous year. The cumulative wind capacity crossed 56 GW, reinforcing India's global leadership in wind power.

49) Correct Answer: B

The 'Market for Textiles Clothing: National Household Survey 2024' reported the market's growth to Rs 14.95 lakh crore. It highlighted shifting consumer trends, increased man-made fibre demand, and the sector's triple growth over 15 years.

50) Correct Answer: C

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stones for new medical centers at Army Hospital (R&R) and Base Hospital Delhi Cantt. He stressed the need for innovation and self-reliance in military medicine.

51) Correct Answer: B

Nearly 5,000 participants performed Trikonasana together at Lonar, Maharashtra, setting an Asia record. This event launched the 75-day countdown to International Day of Yoga 2026. It reflects India's leadership in global wellness movements and promotes holistic health.

52) Correct Answer: B

The NMC proposed that AFMS doctors may remain registered with one State Medical Council during service. This addresses frequent transfers and operational demands unique to armed forces doctors. It reduces administrative burdens and supports national security needs.

53) Correct Answer: B

Indian Railways integrated automatic train announcements with the National Train Enquiry System at 1,405 stations in 2025–26. This provides timely

information via electronic boards and public address systems. It enhances passenger experience and operational efficiency.

54) Correct Answer: B

Amul and Saraswat Cooperative Bank both surpassed ₹1 lakh crore in annual turnover in 2025–26. This achievement was hailed by Union Minister Amit Shah as a testament to the cooperative sector's strength. It highlights the growing economic contribution of cooperatives.

55) Correct Answer: B

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam mandates one-third reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies. This reform is seen as transformative for women's participation in governance. It goes beyond symbolic representation to empower women in legislative roles.

56) Correct Answer: B

The Dharmanagar bypoll took place in Tripura after MLA and Assembly Speaker Biswa Bandhu Sen passed away in December 2025. The election was marked by tight security and inclusive polling arrangements. This event highlights the dynamic political climate in Tripura and the importance of by-elections in maintaining legislative continuity.

57) Correct Answer: C

NHAI has launched the 'Arogya Van' initiative to create plantations of medicinal trees along highways. Announced in April 2026, the project aims to enhance biodiversity and public awareness about India's medicinal plant heritage. This aligns with the government's focus on ecological sustainability and traditional medicine.

58) Correct Answer: B

India demonstrated a 1,000-km quantum communication network, marking a significant step in secure communications. Achieved in less than two years since the mission's launch, this positions India among global leaders in quantum key distribution technology, enhancing national security infrastructure.

59) Correct Answer: C

The SMOPS-2026 conference was held in Bengaluru, bringing together global experts to discuss innovative space mission management. Organized by ISRO and international partners, the event emphasized collaboration and advanced technologies, reinforcing India's growing role in the global space sector.

60) Correct Answer: C

The Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project on the Lohit river received Cabinet approval for ₹14,105.83 crore. This project, announced in April 2026, will boost power supply and infrastructure in Arunachal Pradesh, reflecting the government's focus on clean energy and regional development.

61) Correct Answer: C

Assam recorded 85.38% and Puducherry 89.83% voter turnout, both their highest ever. This was during the 2026 Assembly elections as per provisional ECI data. Such participation strengthens democracy and reflects effective election management in India.

62) Correct Answer: C

Indian Railways is introducing composite sleepers, made from mixed materials. These are lighter, more durable, and offer better cushioning than traditional options. The move aims to improve track safety and passenger comfort.

63) Correct Answer: B

The JNCASR team developed a sensor with brain-like, neuromorphic response. Inspired by frogs, it integrates sensing, memory, and processing in one platform. The breakthrough supports India's position in advanced computing and AI technologies.

64) Correct Answer: C

The 'Watan Ko Jano' programme brought 250 youth from J&K to meet Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan. Organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs, it fosters cultural exchange and national identity. Such initiatives help integrate youth from diverse regions.

65) Correct Answer: B

FIU-India and the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) signed a landmark MoU in April 2026. This agreement enhances intelligence sharing and

coordination. It will improve national capabilities to detect and prevent financial and cyber crimes.

66) Correct Answer: B

India and the United Arab Emirates held a virtual meeting focusing on restoring stability and continuity in supply chains. The discussion is significant due to ongoing regional uncertainties affecting trade. This cooperation is vital for India's energy security and exports.

67) Correct Answer: C

India added around 45 GW of solar capacity in 2025–26, the highest ever in a single year. This record was shared by Prime Minister Modi and Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. Major contributors included Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.

68) Correct Answer: C

Nearly 3.98 crore passengers traveled on Vande Bharat trains in FY 2025–26, marking a 34% increase from the previous year. This data, released by the Ministry of Railways in April 2026, reflects growing public trust in modern, high-speed, indigenous rail services.

69) Correct Answer: B

Nitish Kumar, a senior leader from Bihar, took oath as a Rajya Sabha MP. His induction marks a shift from state to national politics. Nitish Kumar is renowned for administrative experience and leadership in Bihar, now adding value to the Upper House.

70) Correct Answer: A

Col Sonam Wangchuk, a decorated Kargil War hero and recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra, passed away in April 2026. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and the Army paid tributes, highlighting his bravery, leadership during Operation Vijay, and his legacy of courage.

71) Correct Answer: A

On April 11, 2026, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh highlighted Army procurement of food grains and produce from farmers near cantonments. This measure ensures soldiers get fresh food and boosts farmer income. The initiative connects local economies, encourages organic farming, and strengthens sustainable agricultural practices, reflecting a win-win for defense and rural sectors.

72) Correct Answer: B

According to the policy draft, Delhi plans to ban the registration of new petrol-powered two-wheelers from April 1, 2028. This step targets 67% of the city's vehicle population and aims to curb air pollution. The move will accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles and promote cleaner air in the national capital.

73) Correct Answer: B

The Cabinet approved the 4-lane Barabanki–Bahraich highway to enhance connectivity to Nepal via the Rupaiddiha Land Port. The project is crucial for boosting cross-border trade, reducing transport time, and supporting agriculture and commerce between India and Nepal, strengthening bilateral economic ties.

74) Correct Answer: C

Tripura was highlighted as the fastest-growing economy in the Northeast, with over Rs 2,000 crore investment interest during a Bengaluru conclave. The state's proactive reforms, improved business environment, and strategic location near Bangladesh contribute to its rising economic prominence.

75) Correct Answer: A

By March 24, 2026, the Sagarmala Programme had completed 315 projects worth Rs 1.57 lakh crore. This milestone modernized ports, boosted capacity, and improved logistics, supporting India's ambition to become a major maritime and trade hub, while generating significant employment opportunities.

76) Correct Answer: C

India categorically rejected China's move to assign fictitious names to locations in Arunachal Pradesh in April 2026. The Ministry of External Affairs reaffirmed Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India. This stance is crucial for maintaining India's territorial integrity and stability in bilateral relations with China.

77) Correct Answer: C

Asha Bhosle, an iconic playback singer, passed away at age 92 in April 2026. Her career spanned over eight decades with nearly 12,000 songs across multiple languages. She received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000. Her demise marks the end of an era in Indian music history.

78) Correct Answer: B

The conference titled 'Transformation of Tribal Lives through Science and Technological Interventions' was inaugurated by Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan in April 2026. It highlighted the synergy between modern science and traditional knowledge for the empowerment of India's tribal communities, supporting inclusive growth.

79) Correct Answer: B

Lucknow hosted the inauguration of a state-of-the-art laser, light, and sound show at the Smritika War Memorial in April 2026. The show narrates Indian Army history and valor, serving as an educational and patriotic experience for visitors.

80) Correct Answer: B

Dr. S. Jaishankar visited the United Arab Emirates in April 2026, focusing on strengthening the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership amid West Asia tensions. The visit reinforced cooperation in community welfare and energy security for India.

81) Correct Answer: C

The 2026 DUSTLIK exercise emphasized joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain. It aimed to strengthen military cooperation, focusing on tactical drills and operational coordination. The event involved both armies and air forces, enhancing interoperability.

82) Correct Answer: B

Haridwar hosted huge crowds for the Baisakhi Snan in April 2026. The event is marked by ritual bathing in the Ganga at ghats like Har Ki Pauri. Baisakhi is a significant harvest festival with religious connotations, especially for Sikhs. Such gatherings highlight India's vibrant cultural traditions.

83) Correct Answer: C

After the Middle East war, the IMF and World Bank downgraded global growth forecasts and warned of rising inflation. Their April 2026 meetings highlighted risks to emerging markets due to higher energy prices. These shifts affect global economic stability and are vital for India's economic planning.

84) Correct Answer: C

Sonam Uttam Maskar secured fifth place in the women's 10m air rifle at the 2026 ISSF World Cup. The event

concluded with India winning one gold medal overall. Such performances showcase India's growing presence in global shooting sports, key for international recognition.

85) Correct Answer: C

Baisakhi 2026, celebrated on April 14, coincides with the anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. It is both a harvest festival and a day of remembrance, especially significant in Punjab. The dual importance highlights the festival's role in cultural and historical consciousness.

86) Correct Answer: B

The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor features a 12 km long wildlife elevated corridor. This is one of the longest such corridors in Asia and was designed to minimize man-animal conflict. It includes dedicated animal passes and elephant underpasses.

87) Correct Answer: C

Maharashtra received Rs 3,708 crore in aid from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in April 2026. The funds will enhance medical and nursing colleges and healthcare services across the state. The aid will help improve infrastructure and human resource capacity in the sector.

88) Correct Answer: B

The NCC Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme was launched nationwide in April 2026. It is a collaborative effort between NCC and NIELIT. This two-stage programme aims to equip cadets with digital literacy and advanced cyber defence skills.

89) Correct Answer: B

Asha Bhosle, the legendary playback singer, was cremated with full state honours at Shivaji Park, Mumbai, on April 13, 2026. She passed away at the age of 92, leaving behind a legacy of over 12,000 songs.

90) Correct Answer: C

Rajasthan will host India's first HPCL Integrated Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex at Pachpadra in Balotra district, to be inaugurated by PM Modi on April 21, 2026. This project aims to boost state and national self-reliance in the energy sector.

91) Correct Answer: C

Samrat Choudhary was sworn in as Bihar's first BJP Chief Minister. He succeeded Nitish Kumar, who moved to the Rajya Sabha. Choudhary's appointment marks a significant political shift in Bihar. This development is key for those tracking state politics and party dynamics in India.

92) Correct Answer: B

The IMF cut its growth outlook, citing Middle East war-driven energy price spikes. The revised scenario factors in ongoing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. The IMF's analysis impacts global and Indian economic forecasts. Such updates are crucial for understanding global financial stability.

93) Correct Answer: C

India backed the G4 proposal to defer veto for new UNSC permanent members for 15 years. This position was articulated at the Intergovernmental Negotiations in April 2026. The G4 includes India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan.

94) Correct Answer: B

Austrian Federal Chancellor Dr. Christian Stocker visited India. This was his first official trip to India and Asia. The visit aimed at boosting the Enhanced India-Austria partnership. Such diplomatic engagements strengthen India's global ties and cooperation.

95) Correct Answer: C

India supplied 13 tonnes of BCG vaccines to Afghanistan in April 2026. This aid supports Afghanistan's child immunization drive against tuberculosis. The gesture reflects India's ongoing humanitarian outreach. Such support enhances India's regional goodwill and health diplomacy.

96) Correct Answer: B

India chaired the first BRICS HWG meeting for 2026. The meeting focused on new priority areas: a mission for healthy lifestyles and the promotion of mental health. India's leadership highlighted a people-centric approach to global health cooperation, significant for advancing inclusive healthcare in BRICS and worldwide.

97) Correct Answer: B

The exhibition aimed to promote the hydrogen startup ecosystem by showcasing innovations from 18 startups.

This initiative supports India's green hydrogen mission and fosters innovation, critical for India's clean energy transition and self-reliance in new technologies.

98) Correct Answer: A

PM Modi inaugurated the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, Mandya. This event highlights India's commitment to preserving cultural and spiritual heritage, strengthening Karnataka's significance as a spiritual and social service center.

99) Correct Answer: C

Uttar Pradesh was recognized as an emerging manufacturing hub as Tata Motors launched its 10th lakh vehicle from Lucknow. This milestone underscores the state's industrial growth, job creation, and India's broader push to become a global manufacturing leader.

100) Correct Answer: C

GSRTC introduced a QR code-based passenger feedback system in March 2026. This allows real-time service ratings and complaint submissions, enhancing public transport quality in Gujarat and setting a model for digital citizen engagement in India.

101) Correct Answer: B

The Uttar Pradesh Education Selection Commission has announced AI-based surveillance and a zero-tolerance policy for upcoming exams. This move follows CM Yogi Adityanath's directives to ensure fair and transparent recruitment. Real-time monitoring will curb cheating and malpractice.

102) Correct Answer: C

Maharashtra signed MoUs totaling Rs 1.75 lakh crore with JW Global Group and Shyam Steel. The agreements focus on solar, AI, green hydrogen, nuclear, and steel manufacturing. The state aims to be a global hub for sustainable and high-tech industries.

103) Correct Answer: B

India and Austria signed multiple agreements during Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker's visit. The accords span defence, trade, technology, education, and culture. The collaboration strengthens bilateral relations and creates new opportunities for both countries.

104) Correct Answer: B

Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma celebrated the discovery of *Cyrtodactylus jayadityai*, a new gecko species. This underscores Northeast India's rich biodiversity and scientific research capacity. Such discoveries highlight the need for ecological preservation.

105) Correct Answer: C

The French Open increased its total prize money by 9.5% in 2026, reaching 61.7 million euros. The tournament maintains equal prize money for men and women. This reflects ongoing efforts for fairer revenue distribution in tennis.

106) Correct Answer: B

Infosys reported a net profit of ₹8,501 crore for Q4 FY25-26, a 28% QoQ rise. The context is Infosys' Q4 earnings, released in April 2026, highlighting both profit growth and a drop in staff numbers. Employee headcount fell by 8,440 to 3,28,594.

107) Correct Answer: C

Uttar Pradesh's agricultural growth rate rose from 8% to 18%. CM Yogi Adityanath emphasized this at a regional agriculture conference in April 2026. The growth is attributed to technology and field-level reforms.

108) Correct Answer: B

UAE aims to move 50% of its government services to artificial intelligence in the next two years. The announcement was made in April 2026 as part of digital reforms. This includes AI-driven autonomous systems and mandatory training for employees.

109) Correct Answer: C

General Upendra Dwivedi, current Chief of Army Staff, was inducted into the International Hall of Fame at the US Army War College in April 2026. He is the third Indian Army Chief to receive this honor. The recognition strengthens India-US defense ties—important for defense-related questions.

110) Correct Answer: C

India approved a Rs 30 billion currency swap for Maldives in April 2026 under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. The move supports Maldives' financial stability amidst regional uncertainties. This

demonstrates India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy and regional economic leadership.

111) Correct Answer: B

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw reviewed the running of 18,262 summer special trains between April 15 and July 15, 2026. The review focused on easing congestion during peak travel. This highlights Indian Railways' efforts to improve passenger convenience—relevant for infrastructure and governance topics.

112) Correct Answer: C

Cisco unveiled a quantum switch chip that can connect various types of quantum computers in April 2026. The switch is notable for enabling interoperability via standard fiber-optic cables. This innovation is key for future quantum internet and cybersecurity.

113) Correct Answer: B

National Panchayati Raj Day is celebrated on April 24 in India. The date marks the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions. This annual observance highlights grassroots democracy and rural development.

114) Correct Answer: C

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport is central to India's hub-and-spoke aviation strategy, reviewed in April 2026. The model aims to connect Tier-II/III cities globally and make India an international transit hub. This enhances connectivity and economic growth.

115) Correct Answer: C

Norway announced in April 2026 that it will propose a bill banning social media use for children under 16. The law will require tech firms to verify users' ages. This follows similar moves by Australia and reflects global concern over children's digital safety.

116) Correct Answer: B

Madhya Pradesh extended wheat procurement till May 9, 2026. This move followed the Chief Minister's commitment to farmer welfare and enhanced MSP procurement. The state also announced rapid growth in milk production with new cooperatives.

117) Correct Answer: C

The ECI ruled out any need for repolls after scrutinizing polling documents in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu on April 24, 2026. Detailed checks were conducted in the presence of observers and candidates. No irregularities were found requiring repolling.

118) Correct Answer: B

India and New Zealand will sign a Free Trade Agreement on April 27, 2026. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal welcomed New Zealand's minister ahead of the signing. The FTA aims to boost bilateral trade and market access.

119) Correct Answer: B

South Korea's President Lee Jae Myung held a summit with PM Narendra Modi in April 2026. The talks emphasized cooperation in critical minerals, energy, AI, finance, and shipbuilding. Fifteen MOUs were signed to enhance ties.

120) Correct Answer: B

The government raised its wheat procurement target to 34.5 million tonnes in 2026 to support farmers affected by unseasonal rain. Quality norms were relaxed for major producing states. This step aims to stabilize farmer incomes and food security.

121) Correct Answer: C

Exercise Dustlik, the India-Uzbekistan joint military drill, concluded in April 2026. The exercise focused on counter-terrorism operations and interoperability. Personnel from both armies and air forces participated in joint drills.

122) Correct Answer: C

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment disbursed more than Rs 7,900 crore to 75 lakh SC beneficiaries in 2025-26. This included increases in scholarship schemes. The move supports inclusive education and social justice.

123) Correct Answer: B

The MoU aims to strengthen maritime education, research, and capacity building. Signed in April 2026, it aligns with India's long-term maritime vision. The initiative will build a skilled workforce and foster interdisciplinary research.

124) Correct Answer: B

MoS for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita visited Tuvalu for the first time. He discussed bilateral cooperation in health, climate resilience, and sustainable development. The visit signifies India's growing engagement with Pacific Island nations.

125) Correct Answer: B

On Chernobyl's 40th anniversary, the UN urged the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The disaster occurred on April 26, 1986, causing widespread radioactive contamination. Over 8 million people were exposed, many requiring long-term care.

126) Correct Answer: B

Prof. Gobardhan Das was appointed as a member of NITI Aayog on April 25, 2026. He is recognized for his contributions to public health, science, and innovation. PM Modi praised his journey from a farmer's son in West Bengal to a national policymaker.

127) Correct Answer: C

The April 2026 India-US talks between CDS General Anil Chauhan and US Indo-Pacific Command highlighted Indo-Pacific security. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to regional peace and expanded defense cooperation. This is crucial for maintaining stability in an area vital for global trade and security.

128) Correct Answer: C

India's bio-economy is projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2047, as stated by Dr. Jitendra Singh. The sector is growing rapidly, backed by innovation and policy reforms. It expanded from \$10 billion in 2014 to over \$165 billion in 2026.

129) Correct Answer: B

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung visited India and Vietnam in April 2026. He aimed to deepen ties in energy, supply chains, and trade. The visits included agreements to upgrade economic partnerships. This reflects Asia's growing economic integration amid global uncertainties.

130) Correct Answer: C

Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital enumeration. Announced in April 2026, it will use mobile-based data collection and real-time monitoring. It also includes caste enumeration and enhanced data security. This digital

census is expected to boost data-driven policymaking for inclusive development.

131) Correct Answer: B

Ukraine and Azerbaijan signed security and energy cooperation deals in Baku on April 25, 2026. President Zelenskiy highlighted military-industrial collaboration and the potential for renewed peace talks. This strengthens Ukraine's defense partnerships amid ongoing regional conflicts.

132) Correct Answer: B

The Char Dham Yatra, involving Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath, is rooted in the legacy of Adi Shankaracharya. He formalized this pilgrimage to promote religious unity. It remains a vital part of India's spiritual and cultural heritage.

133) Correct Answer: B

India's maritime sector aims to contribute 20% of the global maritime workforce by 2030, as highlighted during an MoU signing between Delhi University and CMEC in April 2026. This focus on maritime education and research aligns with India's vision for economic growth and leadership in shipping.

134) Correct Answer: B

Uttar Pradesh faced a severe heatwave alert for 32 districts in April 2026. Cities like Varanasi and Gorakhpur were affected, with temperatures soaring above normal. Authorities advised precautions, reflecting the increasing frequency of extreme weather events in India.

135) Correct Answer: C

Punjab, along with other major wheat-producing states, benefited from eased procurement norms at MSP due to crop damage from unseasonal rains. The centre raised its procurement target to support affected farmers. Such measures are crucial for rural incomes and food security.

136) Correct Answer: C

Over the past five years, India's private space sector received more than \$600 million in private investment. This growth follows reforms that opened the sector to non-government players. The rise has spurred over 400 space startups by early 2026.

137) Correct Answer: B

Ajit Doval visited the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in April 2026 to review the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and discuss energy security. His meeting with UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reflected strengthening bilateral ties.

138) Correct Answer: D

India recorded its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW in FY 2025–26. This surpassed the previous record of 5.5 GW in FY 2016–17. The growth marks a 46% increase over FY 2024–25. It is significant for India's push toward sustainable, non-fossil fuel-based energy.

139) Correct Answer: B

Abhilekh Patal is the digital archive portal spotlighted by Prime Minister Modi. It hosts more than 200 million digitised documents, including rare manuscripts and letters. The portal is an initiative of the National Archives of India.

140) Correct Answer: B

PM Modi highlighted the return of blackbucks in Chhattisgarh and renewed efforts to conserve the endangered Great Indian Bustard. These species' recoveries are attributed to sustained conservation campaigns and scientific interventions. The initiatives reflect India's commitment to biodiversity.

141) Correct Answer: B

At the Mundial do Queijo do Brasil (World Cheese Championship) in São Paulo, Indian cheeses won Super Gold, Gold, and Silver medals. This event featured over 30 participating countries. The recognition highlights India's growing artisanal dairy sector.

142) Correct Answer: B

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a heavy rainfall alert for Guwahati in April 2026. The warning included risks of thunderstorms, waterlogging, and landslides. City authorities and Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) advised residents to stay cautious.

143) Correct Answer: B

Gujarat conducted extensive local body elections in April 2026, covering municipal corporations, municipalities, district, and taluka panchayats. Leaders like Home

Minister Amit Shah and CM Bhupendra Patel called for maximum voter participation.

144) Correct Answer: B

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan engaged with US Indo-Pacific Command officials in April 2026. The talks focused on expanding bilateral and tri-service engagements for regional security. This strengthens India's strategic posture in the Indo-Pacific, a region of growing global importance.

145) Correct Answer: B

IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center) was commended for its role in expanding India's space ecosystem. It has initiated space laboratories in universities and offers grants to startups. This fosters practical education and innovation, supporting India's rise in global space technology.

146) Correct Answer: B

Agra produces about 75% of India's leather footwear and holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for this product. The city was featured in discussions during the India-New Zealand FTA talks in April 2026. Agra's recognition boosts its profile in global markets.

147) Correct Answer: A

The Delhi Legislative Assembly scheduled a one-day special session on April 28, 2026, to discuss women's participation in democracy. This aligns with national efforts to increase gender equality in political representation. Such sessions reflect broader debates on reservation and the role of women in governance.

148) Correct Answer: B

Union Minister Jitendra Singh reviewed the establishment of space labs in Indian universities in April 2026, noting over \$600 million in private investment since reforms. These labs aim to train youth in satellite technology, supporting India's expanding space ecosystem.

149) Correct Answer: B

A low-pressure system is expected to bring heavy rainfall and strong winds to western Tamil Nadu between April 30 and May 2, 2026. The Regional Meteorological Centre issued specific alerts for this period. Such weather events

can cause local disruptions but also provide relief from heat.

150) Correct Answer: B

President Droupadi Murmu is visiting Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, from April 27 to May 1, 2026, for her summer

sojourn. She will attend official events and visit the Atal Tunnel and Army Training Command. Such visits reaffirm the President's constitutional role across Indian states.

SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

Why Did India's IIP Growth Rise to 5.2 Percent in February 2026?



Why in News?

India's **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** grew by **5.2% in February 2026**, slightly higher than the revised **5.1% growth in January 2026**, indicating a steady recovery in industrial activity driven mainly by manufacturing and capital goods production. This trend reflects improving investment activity and strengthening domestic demand.

What is the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** is a key macroeconomic indicator that measures the short-term changes in the volume of industrial production in India.

Key Features

- Released monthly by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- Base year: **2011–12 (revision to 2022-23 expected)**
- Measures physical output rather than value
- Acts as an indicator of economic momentum
- Used by policymakers, RBI, and investors to assess industrial health

Three Core Sectors in IIP

Sector	Weight (approx.)	Importance
Manufacturing	~77%	Largest contributor to industrial growth

Sector	Weight (approx.)	Importance
Mining	~14%	Raw material supply for industries
Electricity	~8%	Indicator of industrial demand

Manufacturing dominates the index due to its large share in industrial output.

Latest IIP Growth Numbers

Recent Industrial Growth Trend

Month	IIP Growth
February 2026	5.2%
January 2026 (revised)	5.1%
January 2026 (earlier estimate)	4.8%
December 2025	7.8%

The data shows stable industrial expansion despite global uncertainties.

Sector Wise Growth Performance

1. Manufacturing Sector (Main Growth Driver)

- Growth increased to about **6% in February 2026**
- January growth: about **5.3%**
- February 2025 growth: about **2.8%**

Major Contributors

Key industries supporting manufacturing growth include:

- Basic metals
- Motor vehicles and automobiles
- Machinery and equipment
- Non-metallic mineral products

Manufacturing growth indicates improving industrial demand and production activity.

Why Manufacturing Matters

Manufacturing growth suggests:

- Rising consumption demand
- Export recovery

- Capacity utilisation improvement
- Industrial expansion cycle beginning

2. Capital Goods Sector (Investment Indicator)

- Growth surged to **12.5%**
- Highest growth in about nine months
- Previous month growth: **4.1%**

What Capital Goods Growth Shows

Capital goods include:

- Machinery
- Equipment
- Industrial tools
- Infrastructure equipment

High capital goods growth indicates:

- Rising private investment
- Government infrastructure spending
- Capacity expansion by firms
- Long-term growth optimism

This is considered a **leading indicator of the investment cycle**.

3. Mining Sector

Mining growth remained moderate, reflecting stable extraction of:

- Coal
- Iron ore
- Crude oil
- Natural gas

Mining supports manufacturing by ensuring raw material supply.

4. Electricity Sector

Electricity growth reflects:

- Industrial consumption
- Commercial activity
- Infrastructure expansion

Higher electricity generation generally signals increased factory activity.

Use-Based Classification of IIP

IIP is also classified based on use of goods:

Category	Significance
Primary goods	Raw materials
Capital goods	Investment demand
Intermediate goods	Supply chain strength

Category	Significance
Infrastructure goods	Construction growth
Consumer durables	Demand strength
Consumer non-durables	Consumption stability

Strong growth in capital goods and infrastructure goods usually signals economic expansion.

Economic Significance of the Latest IIP Data

Positive Signals

1. Investment Cycle Revival

Rising capital goods output indicates revival of:

- Private capex
- Infrastructure investment
- Manufacturing expansion

2. Manufacturing Recovery

Manufacturing growth suggests:

- Strong domestic demand
- Supply chain normalization
- Industrial resilience

3. Economic Growth Support

Industrial growth supports:

- GDP growth
- Employment generation
- Export competitiveness

4. Policy Effectiveness

Growth reflects impact of:

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes
- Infrastructure push
- Make in India initiative

Challenges Despite Growth

Despite improvement, some risks remain:

- Global demand uncertainty
- Geopolitical tensions
- Energy price volatility
- Weak export markets
- Uneven sectoral growth

Infrastructure sector growth moderation in early 2026 also shows mixed industrial momentum.

Government Measures Supporting Industrial Growth

Key policy drivers include:

Industrial Policies

- Make in India
- Production Linked Incentive Scheme
- National Infrastructure Pipeline

Financial Measures

- Credit support for MSMEs
- Public capital expenditure push
- Logistics improvement initiatives

Structural Reforms

- GST simplification
- Labour reforms
- Ease of Doing Business improvements

Way Forward

To sustain industrial growth India needs:

- Continued infrastructure investment
- Export diversification
- Technology adoption
- MSME competitiveness improvement
- Stable policy environment

Long-term growth will depend on maintaining investment momentum and strengthening manufacturing competitiveness.

RBI Tightens Forex Rules, Bans Non Deliverable Rupee Contracts



Why in the News?

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently tightened foreign exchange derivative regulations, including restricting **non-deliverable forward (NDF) rupee contracts**, to curb excessive speculation and stabilise the rupee amid volatility caused by geopolitical tensions in West Asia and rising oil prices.

The rupee had witnessed significant pressure in recent months, prompting the RBI to intervene through regulatory and market measures to reduce arbitrage and speculative trading.

What is a Non-Deliverable Derivative (NDF)?

A **Non-Deliverable Derivative (NDF)** is a type of foreign exchange derivative contract where:

- There is **no physical delivery of currency**
- Settlement happens in **cash (usually in US dollars)**
- Profit or loss is calculated based on exchange rate differences

Key features:

- Mostly traded in offshore markets like Singapore, London, and Dubai
- Used by foreign investors who cannot directly access domestic currency markets
- Can be used for **hedging** or **speculation**

Example:

If a company expects rupee depreciation:

- It can enter an NDF contract
- If rupee weakens → company gains cash settlement
- If rupee strengthens → company pays difference

Deliverable vs Non-Deliverable Derivatives

Feature	Non-Deliverable Derivative	Deliverable Derivative
Currency exchange	No	Yes
Settlement	Cash settlement	Physical currency exchange
Purpose	Often speculation + hedging	Mainly hedging
Market	Mostly offshore	Mostly domestic
RBI preference	Restricted	Allowed with safeguards

Key RBI Decisions

1. Ban on Non-Deliverable Rupee Contracts

RBI directed **Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks** to:

- Stop offering rupee NDF contracts
- Apply restrictions to residents and non-residents

Objective:

- Reduce speculative trading
- Limit arbitrage between offshore and domestic markets
- Stabilise rupee volatility

2. Deliverable Contracts Allowed (With Conditions)

Banks can still offer **deliverable forex derivatives**, but only if:

- Used for **genuine hedging**
- Linked to underlying exposure (trade, loans etc.)
- Clients do not hold opposite speculative positions

Purpose:

- Encourage risk management
- Discourage speculative trading cycles

3. Documentation Requirement

Authorised Dealers can:

- Demand supporting documents
- Verify purpose of forex transactions
- Ensure contracts are linked to real exposures

Goal:

Increase transparency and prevent misuse of derivative instruments.

4. Ban on Rebooking of Forex Contracts

RBI prohibited rebooking of cancelled forex contracts (both deliverable and non-deliverable).

Earlier loophole:

Companies could:

1. Book forward contract
2. Cancel when profitable
3. Rebook new contract
4. Repeat cycle for speculative gains

New rule objective:

- Prevent arbitrage cycles
- Ensure derivatives are used only for hedging

5. Restrictions on Related Party Transactions

Banks are prohibited from entering forex derivative transactions with **related parties**.

Definition based on:

- **Ind AS 24**
- **IAS 24**

Purpose:

- Prevent conflict of interest
- Improve governance
- Avoid manipulation through group entities

What is Ind AS 24?

Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 24 deals with **Related Party Disclosures**.

Issued by: Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)

Objective:

Ensure companies disclose:

- Transactions with related entities
- Promoter group dealings
- Subsidiary transactions

Importance:

Improves:

- Transparency
- Corporate governance
- Financial reporting quality

What is IAS 24?

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 24 is the global equivalent of Ind AS 24.

Issued by:

International Accounting Standards Board (IASB)

Objective:

Require disclosure of:

- Related party relationships
- Transactions
- Outstanding balances

IAS 24 forms the basis for Ind AS 24.

Why RBI Took These Measures

Major reasons include:

1. Rupee volatility

- Rupee saw sharp depreciation due to global uncertainty and oil price shocks.

2. Offshore speculation

- NDF markets influence domestic currency expectations.

3. Arbitrage opportunities

- Difference between onshore and offshore rates encouraged speculative trades.

4. Corporate trading strategies

- Some firms used derivatives repeatedly for profit instead of hedging.

5. Financial stability concerns

- RBI aims to maintain orderly forex markets.

Expected Impact of RBI Measures

Positive effects:

- Reduced speculative pressure
- Better currency stability
- Improved market discipline
- Greater transparency

Possible concerns:

- Higher hedging costs for companies
- Reduced flexibility for treasury operations
- Short-term liquidity adjustments

Experts note that such measures usually help reduce volatility but may not fully reverse currency trends driven by macroeconomic factors.

CERC Delays Stricter Grid Rules for Wind and Solar Generators



Why in the News?

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has **postponed the implementation of stricter grid stability (deviation) rules for renewable energy generators by one year**, shifting the deadline from **April 2026 to April 2027**. This decision provides relief to wind and solar companies facing operational challenges due to variability in power generation.

About CERC

The **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)** is a **statutory body** established under **Section 76 of the Electricity Act, 2003**.

- Functions with **quasi-judicial powers**
- Regulates **tariffs, grid operations, and interstate electricity transmission**
- Ensures **efficiency, transparency, and stability** in India's power sector

Key Decision: Delay in Stricter Norms

Aspect	Earlier Timeline	Revised Timeline
Implementation of stricter deviation norms	April 2026	April 2027

This delay gives renewable energy developers **additional time to upgrade forecasting tools, storage systems, and grid integration mechanisms**.

What Are Deviation Norms?

Deviation norms are rules that ensure **grid discipline** by requiring power producers to stick to their committed generation schedules.

How it works:

- Generators must **declare electricity supply in advance**
- If actual output deviates:
 - Grid frequency may fluctuate
 - System stability can be affected
 - **Deviation charges (penalties)** are imposed

Thus, these norms are critical for maintaining **real-time balance between electricity demand and supply**.

Why Renewable Energy Needs Relaxation

Unlike thermal or hydro power, **renewable energy sources are inherently variable**:

Key Challenges:

- **Solar power** depends on sunlight (cloud cover, time of day)
- **Wind power** depends on wind speed and direction
- Forecasting errors are common despite technological improvements

Result:

- Higher likelihood of **deviations from scheduled output**
- Greater risk of penalties under strict norms

Hence, CERC has allowed **more time for adaptation**, recognizing the **technical limitations of renewable energy forecasting**.

Revised Deviation Limits**1. Solar & Hybrid Projects**

Parameter	Earlier	Revised
Deviation band	±10%	±5%

Example:

- Scheduled: 100 MW
- Earlier allowed: 90–110 MW
- Now allowed: **95–105 MW**

👉 This means **tighter compliance requirements** and higher accuracy in forecasting.

2. Wind Projects

Parameter	Earlier	Revised
Deviation band	±15%	±10%

Example:

- Scheduled: 100 MW
- Earlier: 85–115 MW
- Now: **90–110 MW**

👉 Wind projects still get slightly wider flexibility due to **greater unpredictability** compared to solar.

Concept: Deviation Band

- It is the **permissible range of variation** between scheduled and actual power generation
- Staying within the band → **No penalty**
- Crossing the band → **Deviation charges apply**

Implications of the Decision**Positive Impacts:**

- **Relief to renewable energy companies** facing forecasting challenges
- Encourages **gradual transition** to stricter compliance
- Supports India's **renewable energy expansion goals (500 GW target)**

Long-Term Impact:

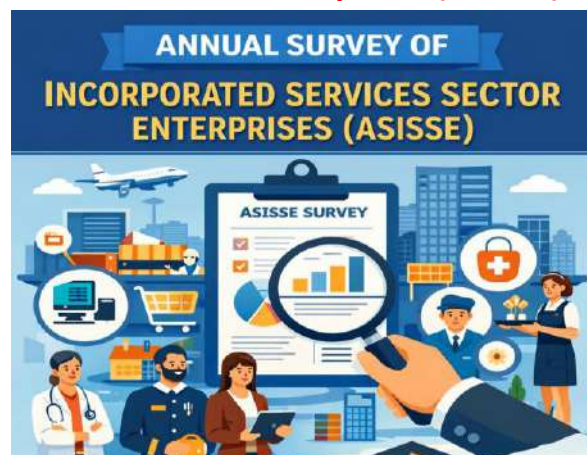
- Push for:

- Advanced **weather forecasting systems**
- **Battery storage solutions**
- **Smart grid technologies**

Conclusion

The CERC's decision reflects a **balanced regulatory approach**—tightening grid discipline while acknowledging the **unique challenges of renewable energy**. The one-year extension ensures that the sector can **adapt technologically without compromising grid stability**, which is essential as India transitions toward a clean energy future.

First Ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)

**Why in the News?**

The **National Statistical Office (NSO)** has launched the **first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)** for **2024–25**, marking a major step in strengthening India's statistical framework for the services economy.

What is ASISSE?

ASISSE is a **new annual survey** designed to collect comprehensive data on the **formal (incorporated) services sector** in India.

Coverage

It includes:

- Companies registered under the **Companies Act, 1956/2013**
- **Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs)**

This distinguishes it from earlier surveys that largely focused on manufacturing or unincorporated enterprises.

Conducting Authority

- Conducted by: **National Statistical Office (NSO)**
- Under: **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**

Objectives of ASISSE

The survey aims to:

- Build a **comprehensive database** of the formal services sector
- **Fill critical data gaps** in India's services economy
- Provide **reliable and timely data** for evidence-based policymaking
- Improve measurement of:
 - Economic output
 - Employment trends
 - Investment patterns

Sectoral Coverage

ASISSE covers a wide range of services, including:

- Trade
- Transport and logistics
- Hospitality and tourism
- Information Technology (IT) services
- Education
- Health services
- Professional and business services

Key Features

- **Large Sample Size:** Approximately **21 lakh enterprises**, making it one of the largest enterprise surveys in India
- **Data Source:** Primarily based on **GST Network (GSTN)** database
- **Geographical Coverage:** All States and Union Territories
- **Digital Data Collection:** Enhances efficiency, accuracy, and real-time validation
- **Legal Framework:**
 - **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008**

- **Jan Vishwas Act, 2023** (ensures ease of compliance and reduced penal provisions)

Why is ASISSE Important?

1. Captures the Backbone of the Economy

- The **services sector contributes over 50% of India's GDP**, making it the largest component of the economy.

2. First Dedicated Annual Survey

- Unlike earlier fragmented data sources, ASISSE provides **systematic annual data** on the **formal services sector**.

3. Better Policy Formulation

- Enables government to design targeted policies for:
 - Job creation
 - Urban economic growth
 - Digital and knowledge economy

4. Improved Economic Measurement

Helps accurately estimate:

- **Gross Value Added (GVA)**
- **Employment generation**
- **Capital formation and investments**

5. Supports Global Comparability

- Aligns India's data systems with international statistical standards, improving **credibility and global benchmarking**.

Relation with Other Surveys

Survey	Sector Covered
ASI (Annual Survey of Industries)	Manufacturing sector
ASUSE (Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises)	Informal/unorganised sector
ASISSE	Formal services sector

Together, these surveys provide a **comprehensive picture of India's entire economy**.

Overall Significance

ASISSE represents a **major reform in India's statistical ecosystem**, addressing long-standing gaps in services sector data. By integrating digital databases like GSTN

with large-scale survey methods, it enhances both **data quality and policy relevance**.

In the coming years, ASISSE is expected to become a **critical tool for tracking India's transition towards a service-driven, knowledge-based economy**.

World Bank Cuts India Growth Forecast to 6.6% for FY 2026-27



Why in the News?

The World Bank has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY 2026–27 to **6.6%**, down from its earlier estimate of **7.2%**, primarily due to the spillover effects of the ongoing **West Asia conflict** on global energy markets and economic activity.

Key Highlights

- **Revised Growth Projection:** 6.6% (FY 2026–27)
- **Earlier Estimate:** 7.2%
- **Main Trigger:** Prolonged geopolitical tensions in West Asia
- **Counterfactual Insight:** Growth could have remained near 7.2% in the absence of the conflict

This reflects how external shocks—especially energy-related—continue to influence India's otherwise resilient growth trajectory.

Reasons for Growth Slowdown

1. Higher Energy Prices

India imports over **80% of its crude oil needs**, making it highly vulnerable to global price fluctuations. The West Asia conflict has tightened supply expectations, pushing prices upward.

Impact:

- **Higher inflation** (fuel → transport → food prices)

- Increased **input costs** for industries
- Rising **fiscal burden** due to subsidies and import bills

2. Weak Industrial Growth

Industrial expansion is expected to moderate from **8.8% to 7.5%**.

Affected sectors:

- Electronics manufacturing
- Automobiles
- Export-oriented industries

Higher energy and logistics costs reduce profitability and slow production cycles.

3. Lower Export Demand

West Asia (Gulf region) is a major trade and services partner for India.

Impact channels:

- Reduced demand for Indian goods
- Slower services exports (IT, construction, logistics)
- Disruptions in supply chains

Additional Risks Identified

The World Bank also flagged several macroeconomic risks:

- **Decline in remittances:**
Around **38% of India's remittances come from Gulf economies**, which may weaken if those economies slow down
- **Pressure on Indian Rupee:**
Higher oil imports increase dollar demand
- **Widening Current Account Deficit (CAD):**
Rising import bills vs slower export growth
- **Higher Inflation:**
Imported inflation via fuel and commodities
- **Fiscal Consolidation Challenges:**
Government may face difficulty reducing deficit due to higher spending needs

Broader Economic Implications

- India remains one of the fastest-growing major economies, but **global interdependence limits insulation from shocks**
- Energy security is emerging as a critical factor in sustaining growth

- The situation reinforces the need for:
 - Diversification of energy sources (renewables, strategic reserves)
 - Strengthening domestic manufacturing
 - Expanding export markets beyond traditional regions

Analytical Perspective

The revision is not a sign of structural weakness but reflects **cyclical and external pressures**. India's medium-term growth fundamentals—demographics, digital economy, infrastructure push—remain intact. However, **geopolitical risks are becoming a key variable in economic forecasting**, especially for energy-importing nations like India.

Wheat Procurement Slowdown



Why in the News?

Wheat procurement during the **Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) 2026–27** has recorded a **~16% decline** compared to last year. The slowdown is primarily attributed to weak procurement performance in key states, especially Madhya Pradesh.

Key Data Snapshot

- **Total procurement (till April 20, 2026):** 114.29 lakh metric tonnes (LMT)
- **Target for RMS 2026–27:** 303 LMT
- **Decline:** Around **16% lower** than the same period last year

This gap raises concerns about buffer stock levels and food security management under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

State-wise Performance

Major Contributors (Previous Years)

Traditionally, wheat procurement has been dominated by:

- Punjab
- Madhya Pradesh
- Haryana

Current Trend

- **Punjab & Haryana:** Procurement remains largely **on track**, supported by efficient mandi systems and procurement infrastructure.
- **Madhya Pradesh:** Experiencing a **sharp slowdown**
 - Only **7.25 LMT** procured so far
 - Compared to **47 LMT** during the same period last year

Additional Concern

- Uttar Pradesh, despite being India's **largest wheat producer**, continues to show **low procurement levels**, reflecting structural inefficiencies in procurement systems.

Reasons for the Slowdown

1. Administrative Bottlenecks

- Delays in **slot booking for procurement**
- Issues in **farmer registration systems**
- Slow **verification and approval processes**

These procedural hurdles have discouraged farmers from selling wheat to government agencies.

2. Weather-Related Factors

- **Unseasonal rainfall**, especially in Uttar Pradesh
- Resulted in:
 - Crop damage
 - Lower quality grain
 - Delayed arrivals in mandis

3. Logistics and Infrastructure Issues

- Inefficient procurement logistics in some states
- Delays in transportation and storage arrangements
- Limited procurement centres in certain regions

Implications

Food Security Concerns

Lower procurement could affect buffer stocks maintained under the Food Corporation of India (FCI), impacting PDS operations.

Farmer Impact

Farmers may be forced to sell in open markets at prices below the **Minimum Support Price (MSP)** due to procurement delays.

Regional Imbalance

Overdependence on Punjab and Haryana continues, while states like Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh underperform despite high production potential.

Conclusion

The decline in wheat procurement during RMS 2026–27 highlights systemic inefficiencies in procurement operations, especially in emerging procurement states. Addressing administrative delays, improving digital systems, and strengthening logistics will be essential to ensure stable procurement, protect farmers' incomes, and maintain national food security.

India's Rice Exports Decline**Why in the News?**

India's rice exports declined by **7.5% to \$11.53 billion in 2025–26**, primarily due to disruptions caused by the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia. The crisis has affected key trade routes and major importing nations, leading to reduced demand and logistical challenges.

Key Data and Trends**Export Performance**

- **2025–26:** \$11.53 billion
- **2024–25:** Approximately \$12.5 billion
- **March 2026:** Sharp decline of **15.36%**, with exports falling to about \$997 million

This decline marks a significant shift after several years of steady growth in India's rice exports, especially in premium varieties like Basmati.

Impact of the West Asia Crisis

The crisis in West Asia has directly impacted India's rice trade, particularly with major importing countries such as:

- Iran
- United Arab Emirates
- Saudi Arabia
- Oman

Key Challenges Faced

- **Payment Delays:** Financial transactions disrupted due to sanctions and banking restrictions
- **Order Cancellations:** Importers delaying or canceling bulk purchases amid uncertainty
- **Shipping Disruptions:** Increased freight costs and rerouting due to conflict zones

Among these, **Iran remains one of the largest importers of Indian Basmati rice**, making it particularly vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions.

India's Rice Sector: Current Status

India continues to be a global leader in rice production and exports despite recent setbacks.

Production and Cultivation

- **Output (2024–25):** ~150 million tonnes
- **Cultivation Area:** ~47 million hectares
- **Global Share:** ~28% of total rice production
- **Export Reach:** 170+ countries

Yield Improvement

- **2014–15:** 2.72 tonnes/hectare
- **2024–25:** ~3.2 tonnes/hectare

The improvement in yield reflects better irrigation, adoption of high-yielding varieties, and government support through schemes promoting agricultural efficiency.

Global Rice Production Landscape

India remains a key player, but global competition is strong:

- **China:** Largest producer (~208–214 million tonnes), driven by hybrid rice technology
- **India:** Second-largest (~195–196 million tonnes), but the **world's top exporter**
- **Bangladesh:** ~57 million tonnes, with high domestic consumption

- **Indonesia:** ~54–55 million tonnes
- **Vietnam:** ~42–43 million tonnes
- **Thailand:** ~34 million tonnes

Other contributors include Myanmar and the Philippines.

Analysis: Why This Decline Matters

1. Dependence on West Asia:

A significant portion of India's premium rice exports, especially Basmati, is concentrated in West Asian markets. Any geopolitical instability directly impacts export earnings.

2. Trade Vulnerability:

The crisis highlights the risks of over-reliance on specific regions for agricultural exports.

3. Supply Chain Sensitivity:

Even minor disruptions in shipping routes or payment systems can lead to sharp monthly declines, as seen in March 2026.

4. Domestic vs Export Balance:

While India produces large quantities, domestic

consumption remains high, limiting flexibility during export disruptions.

Way Forward

- **Market Diversification:** Expand exports to Africa, Europe, and Southeast Asia to reduce dependence on West Asia
- **Trade Agreements:** Strengthen bilateral trade mechanisms to ensure stable payment channels
- **Logistics Improvement:** Develop alternative shipping routes and resilient supply chains
- **Value Addition:** Promote branded and processed rice exports to enhance profitability

Conclusion

The decline in India's rice exports in 2025–26 underscores the deep connection between global geopolitics and agricultural trade. While India remains a dominant player in global rice markets, the West Asia crisis serves as a reminder of the need for diversification, resilience, and strategic planning to safeguard export growth in the future.

Environment & Diversity

New Butterfly Species Named After Zubeen Garg



Why in the News?

A new butterfly species named **Zubeen Garg** (*Euthalia zubeengargi*) has been discovered in Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district. The species was named in honour of the celebrated Assamese singer and cultural icon following his death on **19 September 2025**, which

triggered widespread public mourning across Northeast India.

The discovery highlights the rich but still under-explored biodiversity of the **Eastern Himalayas**, a global biodiversity hotspot.

What is the Newly Discovered Butterfly Species?

The newly identified butterfly belongs to the genus *Euthalia*, commonly known as **Dukes**, a group of forest-dwelling butterflies found mainly in South and Southeast Asia.

Key details:

Feature	Details
Scientific name	<i>Euthalia zubeengargi</i>
Proposed common name	Basar Duke
Family	Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies)

Feature	Details
Genus	<i>Euthalia</i>
Habitat	Semi-evergreen forests
Elevation	600–750 metres
Location	Leparada district, Arunachal Pradesh
Region	Eastern Himalayas biodiversity hotspot

About the Genus *Euthalia*

Butterflies of the *Euthalia* genus are:

- Medium to large sized butterflies
- Mostly found in **dense forest ecosystems**
- Known for their **strong flight and territorial behaviour**
- Important indicators of **forest ecosystem health**

India hosts several species of *Euthalia*, especially in:

- Northeast India
- Western Ghats
- Himalayan foothills

The discovery of a new species suggests that many forest insect species remain undocumented.

Why Is the Discovery Important?

1. Extremely Rare Observation

Researchers have so far documented only:

- **Two male individuals**
- **One collected specimen**
- **One photographed in the wild**

This suggests the species may be:

- Rare
- Endemic (restricted to a small region)
- Poorly studied due to difficult terrain

2. Indicator of Localised Biodiversity

The limited sightings indicate the butterfly may be a **highly localised species**, possibly dependent on very specific ecological conditions.

Such species are particularly vulnerable to:

- Habitat loss
- Climate change
- Deforestation

3. Importance of Eastern Himalayas

The discovery reinforces the importance of the Eastern Himalayas as:

- A **mega biodiversity zone**
- A region with high **endemism**
- A priority conservation landscape

The region is known for:

- High butterfly diversity
- New insect discoveries every year
- Unique forest ecosystems

4. Conservation Significance

New species discoveries help:

- Strengthen biodiversity databases
- Guide conservation planning
- Highlight unexplored ecological zones
- Support ecosystem protection policies

Scientific and Ecological Significance

Biodiversity Documentation

Discovering new species helps scientists:

- Understand species evolution
- Study ecological relationships
- Track biodiversity changes

Climate Change Research

Butterflies are considered **bio-indicators** because they respond quickly to:

- Temperature changes
- Habitat disturbance
- Rainfall variation

Conservation Awareness

Naming species after cultural figures helps:

- Increase public awareness
- Build local conservation pride
- Connect science with society

About Zubeen Garg

Zubeen Garg was one of Assam's most influential cultural figures, known for:

- Music
- Cinema
- Social activism
- Promotion of Assamese identity

Naming the butterfly after him recognises his contribution to the cultural heritage of Northeast India.

Conclusion

The discovery of *Euthalia zubeengargi* highlights the ecological richness of Arunachal Pradesh and the urgent need to conserve fragile Himalayan ecosystems. With only two recorded sightings, further research is needed to understand the species' distribution, population status, and conservation needs.

World Bank report suggests “New Water-Food Nexus Framework” for smarter hydrological use to feed 10 billion people



Why in the News?

In March 2026, the World Bank released a major report titled “**Nourish and Flourish: Water Solutions to Feed 10 Billion People**” ahead of World Water Day (22 March). The report introduced a **New Water-Food Nexus Framework** and warned that present water management systems may only sustainably support food production for about **3.4 billion people**, far below the nearly **10 billion population expected by 2050**.

The report stresses that inefficient and unsustainable use of water in agriculture threatens global food security and economic stability.

Key Economic Findings

Impact of Agricultural Productivity

The report highlights the strong link between agriculture, water, and poverty reduction:

- A **10% increase in agricultural productivity** could reduce poverty by about **2.5–3%**
- Expanding irrigation in rain-fed regions could generate about **245 million jobs globally**
- Efficient water management can improve farm incomes and rural employment

- Water investments can produce “triple dividends” for people, prosperity, and the planet

This shows that water management is not just an environmental issue but also a major economic development issue.

Global Water Bankruptcy

What does “Water Bankruptcy” mean?

The World Bank and UN reports warn that the world is entering a phase of “**global water bankruptcy**,” meaning water use is exceeding sustainable supply similar to financial bankruptcy.

Key concerns:

- Water crises are becoming structural rather than temporary
- Groundwater depletion, pollution, and climate change are major drivers
- Agriculture consumes about **70% of global freshwater resources**

- Many aquifers and river systems are being used beyond recovery levels

- Around **4 billion people face severe water scarcity at least one month annually**

Regional trends

The report highlights regional imbalances:

- **South Asia (including India):** Over-exploitation of groundwater and rivers
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Underutilisation of available water resources
- **Middle East:** Extreme water scarcity with dependence on imports
- **Latin America:** Water-rich but uneven distribution

This shows the need for region-specific policy approaches rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

The New Water-Food Nexus Framework

The World Bank proposes a classification of countries based on water availability and food trade patterns to guide policymaking.

Four Categories:

1. Water-secure food exporters

- Countries with abundant water exporting agricultural products
- Example: Brazil

- Policy focus: Sustainable intensification and conservation

2. Water-secure food importers

- Countries with adequate water but relying on imports
- Policy focus: Improving domestic agricultural efficiency

3. Water-stressed food exporters

- Countries with high water stress but still exporting food
- Example: India
- Policy concern: Exporting “virtual water” through crops like rice and sugar

4. Water-stressed food importers

- Countries with limited water relying on imports
- Example: Gulf countries
- Policy focus: Food security through trade and technology

This framework helps countries design strategies based on their resource realities rather than following uniform agricultural models.

Why India is a Concern

India falls into the **water-stressed food exporter** category due to:

- Excessive groundwater extraction (largest groundwater user globally)
- Water-intensive crops like rice and sugarcane
- Free or subsidised electricity encouraging over-pumping
- Inefficient irrigation methods
- Climate change impacts on the monsoon

This creates a paradox where India exports food produced using scarce water resources.

Suggested Solutions by the Report

The report recommends structural reforms such as:

Water management reforms

- Scientific water accounting
- Pricing reforms for water use
- Groundwater regulation

Agricultural reforms

- Crop diversification toward less water-intensive crops
- Micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler systems)
- Climate-resilient agriculture

Policy reforms

- Linking food policy with water sustainability
- Promoting water-efficient trade policies
- Investing in irrigation infrastructure

Related Indian Initiatives

India has already taken some steps aligned with these recommendations:

- **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)** – Irrigation expansion
- **Per Drop More Crop** – Micro-irrigation promotion
- **Atal Bhujal Yojana** – Groundwater management
- **National Water Policy** – Sustainable water use
- **Millet promotion (International Year of Millets 2023 legacy)** – Less water-intensive crops

Conclusion

The World Bank’s warning highlights that future food security depends on sustainable water management. Without reforms in irrigation, crop choices, and water governance, water scarcity could become the biggest constraint on global food production. The **water-food nexus approach** therefore represents a shift from sector-wise planning to integrated resource management.

518 of 697 Lakes in Jammu and Kashmir Shrinking or Vanished: CAG



Why in the News?

A recent report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has revealed a **severe decline in lakes across Jammu and Kashmir**, highlighting ecological degradation and rising climate risks.

Key Findings

Category	Number	Percentage
Total lakes assessed	697	100%

Category	Number	Percentage
Disappeared lakes	315	45%
Shrunk lakes	203	29%
Total affected lakes	518	74%

Alarmingly, **63 lakes have lost more than 50% of their water spread area**, indicating deep ecological stress.

Other Observations

- **150 lakes (22%)** have increased in size
- **29 lakes (4%)** remain unchanged

This uneven pattern suggests **localized factors** such as conservation efforts or hydrological variations.

Major Causes of Lake Degradation

1. Encroachment and Construction

- Illegal settlements and infrastructure projects
- Conversion of lakebeds into residential or agricultural land

2. Land Use Change

- Urban expansion
- Agricultural intensification around wetlands

3. Aquatic Vegetation Growth

- Excessive weed growth (eutrophication)
- Reduces water holding capacity

4. Lack of Conservation Planning

- No structured restoration or protection strategy

5. Anthropogenic Pressure

- Pollution, tourism, and overuse of resources

Flood Risk and Climate Impact

- Lakes function as **natural sponges**, absorbing excess water
- Their shrinkage reduces **flood-buffering capacity**

The report links lake degradation to the devastating 2014 Kashmir floods, where reduced wetland capacity worsened flooding.

Governance and Institutional Gaps

- **No conservation plans for 255 lakes**
- **No detailed survey** conducted for all 697 lakes
- Weak **inter-departmental coordination**
- Lack of **scientific monitoring and data systems**

Indicates systemic governance failure rather than isolated environmental issues.

Lakes with Conservation Programmes

Only **6 lakes** currently have formal management plans:

- Dal Lake
- Wular Lake
- Hokersar Wetland
- Manasbal Lake
- Surinsar Lake
- Mansar Lake

This is extremely low compared to the total number of lakes (697).

Environmental and Policy Implications

Ecological Impact

- Loss of biodiversity and wetland ecosystems
- Decline in groundwater recharge
- Increased pollution and habitat destruction

Climate Impact

- Reduced resilience to floods and droughts
- Altered local climate patterns

Policy Concerns

- Need for **integrated wetland management**
- Urgent requirement for **mapping, monitoring, and restoration**
- Strengthening of **legal protection against encroachment**

Conclusion

The CAG findings expose a **serious environmental crisis in Jammu and Kashmir**, where the majority of lakes are under threat. Without **urgent conservation measures, scientific planning, and institutional coordination**, the region risks losing critical ecosystems that are essential for **water security, biodiversity, and disaster resilience**.

Kashmir Scientists Cultivate Rare Morel Mushrooms



Why in the News?

Scientists at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology have successfully cultivated **Morel mushrooms (Morchella)** under controlled conditions for the first time. This marks a **major scientific breakthrough**, as morels are among the most difficult mushrooms to grow artificially due to their highly specific ecological requirements.

About Morel Mushrooms (Morchella)

- **Scientific Name:** *Morchella*
- **Local Name (Kashmir):** Kangaech
- **Type:** Rare, edible wild mushroom
- **Habitat:**
 - Found in **high-altitude forests**, especially in the Himalayas
 - Typically appears during a **short spring or early rainy season**
- **Market Value:** ₹15,000 to ₹40,000 per kg

Morels are globally prized for their **unique honeycomb structure, rich earthy flavour, and high nutritional value**, making them a luxury ingredient in gourmet cuisine across Europe, North America, and Asia.

Why Morel Mushrooms Are So Expensive

The high cost of morels is driven by a combination of ecological and economic factors:

1. Extremely Specific Growing Conditions

Morels require a delicate balance of:

- Soil composition
- Temperature fluctuations
- Moisture levels
- Symbiotic relationships with trees and microorganisms

Even slight deviations can prevent growth.

2. Short Harvesting Window

- Available only for a few weeks annually
- Seasonal unpredictability adds supply uncertainty

3. Difficult to Locate

- Grow in **dense forests and mountainous terrain**
- Often hidden under leaf litter, making collection challenging

4. Labour-Intensive Collection

- Entirely dependent on manual foraging
- Involves significant time, effort, and local knowledge

5. High Global Demand

- Widely used in **fine dining and international cuisine**
- Export demand further inflates prices

Scientific Breakthrough: Cultivation Achieved

Researchers at SKUAST have developed **two innovative cultivation approaches**, overcoming decades-long challenges:

1. Polyhouse Cultivation (Controlled Environment)

- Uses **regulated temperature, humidity, and soil conditions**
- Allows replication of natural habitat in a **scientific setting**
- Ensures higher predictability and yield

2. Open-Field Cultivation (Simulated Natural Conditions)

- Attempts to mimic **forest-like ecological conditions**
- Uses organic substrates and environmental manipulation
- More scalable for rural and mountainous regions

Significance of the Breakthrough

1. Economic Benefits

- Can generate **high-income opportunities** for farmers in Himalayan regions
- Reduces dependence on unpredictable wild harvesting
- Boosts rural livelihoods and exports

2. Agricultural Innovation

- Demonstrates advancement in **fungal biotechnology and agro-science**
- Opens pathways for cultivation of other **wild, high-value species**

3. Conservation Impact

- Reduces pressure on wild morel populations
- Promotes **sustainable harvesting practices**

4. Boost to Kashmir Economy

- Kashmir, already known for natural morels, can become a **global cultivation hub**
- Supports branding of **premium Himalayan produce**

Challenges Ahead

Despite success, large-scale commercialization still faces hurdles:

- Need for **standardized cultivation protocols**
- High initial investment in controlled environments
- Requirement of skilled knowledge and monitoring
- Risk of yield variability in open-field methods

Way Forward

- Scaling up research into **commercial farming models**
- Government support through **agri-startups and subsidies**
- Training farmers in **scientific mushroom cultivation**
- Integration with **export supply chains and branding initiatives**

Conclusion

The successful cultivation of morel mushrooms by SKUAST marks a **milestone in agricultural science**, transforming a traditionally wild, elusive resource into a potentially **cultivable high-value crop**. If scaled effectively, this innovation could redefine **mountain agriculture, rural incomes, and India's position in the global gourmet food market**.

Indus River Dolphin



Why in the News?

Recent conservation efforts—combining **protected areas (conservation reserves), citizen science participation, and habitat protection measures**—have led to a **notable recovery of the Indus River Dolphin population in India**, especially in the **Beas River (Punjab)**. This marks a significant step in reviving one of the world's rarest freshwater mammals.

About the Indus River Dolphin

- **Scientific Name:** *Platanista minor*
- **Common Name:** Indus River Dolphin
- **Type:** Freshwater river dolphin
- **IUCN Status:** International Union for Conservation of Nature – Endangered
- Among the **rarest mammals globally**, often referred to as a “blind dolphin” due to its limited vision

Distribution

Global Range

- Primarily found in the **Indus River system in Pakistan**, which hosts the majority of the population

India

- Restricted to a **small but growing population in the Beas River (Punjab)**
- This is the **only river stretch in India where the species survives today**

Historical Range

- Previously widespread across Indus tributaries:
 - Ravi
 - Sutlej
 - Chenab
 - Jhelum
- Population declined due to **habitat fragmentation and water diversion projects**

Physical Characteristics

- **Long, narrow snout** adapted for catching fish
- **Teeth visible** even when the mouth is closed
- **Highly flexible neck**, unlike most dolphins
- **Small dorsal fin** (reduced size for river navigation)

- Poor eyesight; relies on **echolocation** to hunt and navigate

Why the Population is Recovering

1. Conservation Reserves

- Declaration of protected stretches in the **Beas River**
- Restrictions on fishing and harmful human activities

2. Citizen Science Initiatives

- Local communities and volunteers:
 - Monitor dolphin sightings
 - Report threats
 - Assist in awareness campaigns

3. Habitat Protection

- Improved **water quality and flow regulation**
- Efforts to reduce:
 - Pollution
 - Illegal fishing practices
 - River disturbances

4. Government & NGO Efforts

- Collaboration between:
 - Wildlife departments
 - Research institutions
 - Conservation groups

Threats to the Species

Despite recovery, several risks remain:

- **River fragmentation** due to dams and barrages
- **Water pollution** from agriculture and industry
- **Accidental entanglement** in fishing nets
- Reduced river flow affecting habitat quality

Significance of Conservation

Ecological Importance

- Acts as an **indicator species** for river health
- Healthy dolphin populations reflect **clean and flowing rivers**

Biodiversity Value

- Protecting dolphins helps conserve **entire river ecosystems**

Cultural and Scientific Importance

- One of the few surviving freshwater dolphin species globally

- Valuable for research on **riverine biodiversity and adaptation**

Way Forward

- Strengthen **protected river stretches**
- Promote **community-based conservation models**
- Ensure **environmental flow (e-flow)** in rivers
- Expand **scientific monitoring and population surveys**

Conclusion

The recovery of the Indus River Dolphin in India's Beas River demonstrates how **targeted conservation, community involvement, and scientific management** can revive even critically threatened species. Sustained efforts will be essential to ensure that this rare freshwater dolphin continues its comeback and regains a stable presence in India's river systems.

Extreme Heat & Global Food Systems



Why in the News?

A recent joint report by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Meteorological Organization has highlighted that rising extreme heat is emerging as one of the most serious threats to global agrifood systems. The report warns that more than **one billion people** are already being affected, with risks expected to intensify due to climate change.

Key Findings

Intensifying Heatwaves

The report underscores that heatwaves are becoming:

- **More frequent**
- **More intense**
- **Longer-lasting**

This trend is directly linked to global warming and changing atmospheric patterns. Prolonged heat stress is now affecting both tropical and temperate agricultural regions.

Impact on Crop Yields

Agricultural productivity is highly sensitive to temperature thresholds.

- Crop yields begin to **decline sharply beyond ~30°C**
- Example: **Morocco recorded a 40% decline in cereal production** due to extreme heat

Further, scientific estimates show that:

- Every **1°C rise in temperature** leads to about a **6% reduction in yields** of major crops such as:
 - Maize
 - Rice
 - Wheat
 - Soybean

This is critical because these crops form the backbone of global food security.

Marine and Oceanic Impact

Extreme heat is not limited to land—it is also affecting oceans.

- **Marine heatwaves** are increasing rapidly
- They **reduce oxygen levels** in water, disrupting marine ecosystems
- Fish stocks are threatened, affecting global fisheries and livelihoods
-

In **2024**, an alarming **91% of the world's oceans experienced marine heatwaves**, indicating a near-global phenomenon.

Escalating Climate Risks

The report provides projections showing how risks intensify with warming levels:

- **2°C global warming** → Heat intensity **doubles**
- **3°C global warming** → Heat intensity **quadruples**

This exponential rise suggests that even small increases in global temperature can have disproportionately large impacts on agriculture and food systems.

Impact on Livestock

Livestock systems are also highly vulnerable to heat stress:

- **Milk production declines by 15–25%**
- Reduced reproductive efficiency and fertility
- Increased mortality in poultry due to heat stress

These effects directly reduce farmer incomes and can disrupt dairy and meat supply chains.

Broader Implications

Food Security

Declining crop yields and livestock productivity threaten global food availability, particularly in developing countries.

Economic Impact

Farmers face rising losses due to reduced productivity, crop failures, and livestock stress.

Nutritional Concerns

Lower yields of staple crops may lead to higher food prices and reduced access to nutritious food.

Vulnerable Populations

Smallholder farmers, coastal communities, and low-income populations are disproportionately affected.

Conclusion

The FAO–WMO report highlights that extreme heat is no longer a future risk but a **present and accelerating crisis**. Without urgent climate mitigation and adaptation measures—such as heat-resilient crops, improved irrigation, and sustainable farming practices—global agrifood systems could face severe disruption, threatening livelihoods and food security worldwide.

Governance

Digital Push in Rural India: eGramSwaraj & SabhaSaar Milestones



Why in the News?

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** recently highlighted major achievements in strengthening digital governance at the grassroots level:

- ₹3 lakh crore cumulative digital payments processed through the **eGramSwaraj platform**
- Expansion of the **SabhaSaar AI tool** to **23 Indian languages**

These milestones reflect India's growing push toward **transparent, accountable, and technology-driven rural governance** under the broader vision of Digital India and e-governance reforms.

What is eGramSwaraj?

eGramSwaraj is a digital governance platform designed to improve planning, accounting, and financial management of Gram Panchayats.

Key Features

- Launched under the **e-Panchayat Mission Mode Project**
- Integrates with the **Public Financial Management System (PFMS)**
- Enables **real-time digital payments** to vendors and beneficiaries
- Provides a **single interface for planning, budgeting, accounting and monitoring**
- Promotes **paperless governance**

Recent Achievements (2026 data)

- Over **₹3 lakh crore** cumulative payments processed
- Around **2.59 lakh Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** onboarded
- More than **1.6 crore vendors** registered
- About **₹53,342 crore** transferred through the platform in FY 2025-26 alone
- Over **2.55 lakh Gram Panchayats** uploaded development plans on the portal

Significance

The platform helps:

- Reduce corruption through digital traceability
- Ensure timely payments
- Improve financial discipline
- Enhance transparency in rural development expenditure
- Strengthen grassroots democracy through digital monitoring

What is SabhaSaar?

SabhaSaar is an **AI-powered voice-to-text meeting documentation tool** developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Key Features

- Launched on **14 August 2025**
- Automatically converts **Gram Sabha discussions into structured records**
- Generates:
 - Meeting minutes
 - Attendance records
 - Resolutions
 - Action points
- Supports **multilingual governance**

Latest Developments

- Expanded from **13 to 23 Indian languages**
- Over **1.11 lakh Gram Panchayats** have already used the platform
- Newly added languages include:
 - Assamese

- Bodo
- Dogri
- Kashmiri
- Konkani
- Maithili
- Manipuri
- Nepali
- Santhali
- Sindhi

Importance

SabhaSaar improves:

- Record keeping of Gram Sabha meetings
- Citizen participation
- Transparency in decision making
- Accessibility through local languages
- Efficiency in local governance processes

Importance for Rural Governance

Together, eGramSwaraj and SabhaSaar strengthen:

1. Financial transparency

- Direct digital payments reduce leakages
- Real-time monitoring of expenditure

2. Participatory democracy

- Better documentation of Gram Sabha decisions
- Increased citizen engagement

3. Digital inclusion

- Use of regional languages
- Technology adoption at grassroots

4. Administrative efficiency

- Reduced paperwork
- Faster decision implementation

5. Good governance

These initiatives support the principles of:

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Participation
- Efficiency

Link with Government Initiatives

These platforms support major national programmes such as:

- **Digital India**
- **e-Governance initiatives**
- **SVAMITVA Scheme**

- **Panchayati Raj reforms**
- **Ease of living in rural areas**

Digital governance is a key pillar of India's effort to build a **digitally empowered society and knowledge economy**.

Conclusion

The success of **eGramSwaraj** and **SabhaSaar** shows how digital technology and AI are transforming rural governance in India. By improving financial transparency, documentation, and citizen participation, these platforms are helping build **smart, transparent, and participatory Panchayats**, which are essential for achieving inclusive rural development.

Amaravati Declared Capital of Andhra Pradesh After 12 Years



Why in the News?

Parliament has passed the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, officially declaring **Amaravati** as the **sole capital of Andhra Pradesh**, nearly 12 years after the state's bifurcation.

Key Provisions of the Bill

- Grants **statutory recognition** to Amaravati as the capital
- Amends the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**
- **Effective date:** June 2, 2024
- Passed by both Houses of Parliament:
 - Lok Sabha
 - Rajya Sabha

This marks the end of prolonged uncertainty over the capital issue.

Background: Andhra Pradesh Bifurcation (2014) Formation of Two States

- The state of Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated in **2014**
- Created:
 - Telangana
 - Residual Andhra Pradesh

Capital Arrangement

- Hyderabad became the capital of Telangana
- It served as a **joint capital temporarily** for both states (up to 10 years)
- Andhra Pradesh was left **without a permanent capital**

Emergence of Amaravati

- Amaravati was later proposed as a **greenfield capital city**
- Envisioned as a **modern administrative and legislative hub**
- Located on the banks of the **Krishna River**

Andhra Pradesh Assembly Resolution (2026)

- **Date:** March 28, 2026
- The State Assembly passed a resolution requesting:
 - Legal recognition of Amaravati as the capital
 - Amendment to the 2014 Act

This resolution formed the basis for the Union government's legislative action.

Significance of the Amendment

1. Administrative Clarity

- Ends ambiguity over the capital issue
- Provides **legal and institutional stability**

2. Boost to Infrastructure Development

- Accelerates development of **government buildings, roads, and institutions**
- Encourages **investment and urban planning**

3. Political Resolution

- Resolves long-standing debates over the **three-capital proposal vs single capital**

4. Federal Coordination

- Reflects cooperation between **state legislature and Union government**

Conclusion

The amendment marks a **major milestone in Andhra Pradesh's post-bifurcation journey**, providing long-awaited clarity on its capital. With Amaravati now officially recognised, the focus is expected to shift toward **rapid infrastructure development, governance consolidation, and economic growth** in the region.

Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)



Why in the News?

The Government of India has constituted the **Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)** under a new legal framework to regulate the rapidly expanding online gaming ecosystem. This marks a major policy shift aimed at ensuring transparency, user protection, and financial accountability in the sector.

What is OGAI?

The **Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)** is a **central regulatory body** established to oversee and govern online gaming activities across the country.

- **Established under:** Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025
- **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- **Operational from:** May 1, 2026

OGAI is designed to bring uniform regulation to a sector that has so far operated with fragmented state-level rules and limited central oversight.

Key Functions of OGAI

1. Central Regulatory Authority

OGAI acts as the apex body responsible for regulating all forms of online gaming in India, ensuring compliance with national laws and standards.

2. Coverage

It covers:

- **Online games** (including real-money gaming platforms)
- **Esports ecosystems**, recognising competitive gaming as a structured domain

3. Classification of Games

OGAI categorises games into:

- **Money games** (involving real-money stakes)
- **Non-money games** (casual or skill-based games without monetary involvement)

This classification is crucial for determining regulatory requirements, taxation, and compliance norms.

4. Official Game Registry

- Maintains a **centralised registry of approved online games**
- Ensures only verified and compliant platforms operate legally
- Helps users identify legitimate gaming services

5. Grievance Redressal

- Handles **user complaints and public grievances**
- Provides a formal mechanism for dispute resolution between users and gaming platforms

6. Enforcement Coordination

OGAI works in coordination with:

- **Financial institutions** (to monitor transactions and prevent fraud)
- **Law enforcement agencies** (to tackle illegal betting, money laundering, and cybercrime)

Significance of OGAI

1. Consumer Protection

The authority introduces safeguards against:

- Fraudulent gaming platforms
- Addiction-related risks
- Unfair practices in real-money gaming

2. Regulatory Clarity

Creates a **uniform national framework**, reducing ambiguity caused by differing state laws on gaming and betting.

3. Boost to Esports Industry

By formally recognising esports, OGAI is expected to:

- Encourage investments
- Promote professional gaming
- Support India's presence in global esports competitions

4. Financial Transparency

Improves monitoring of:

- Digital payments
- Tax compliance
- Anti-money laundering measures

Challenges Ahead

- **Defining skill vs chance:** A long-standing legal debate in India
- **State vs Centre jurisdiction:** Gaming is partly a state subject
- **Enforcement capacity:** Monitoring thousands of platforms in real time
- **Balancing regulation and innovation:** Avoiding overregulation that may stifle industry growth

Conclusion

The establishment of OGAI represents a **landmark step in regulating India's digital gaming landscape**. By combining consumer protection, regulatory oversight, and industry promotion, it aims to create a safer and more structured ecosystem. However, its success will depend on effective implementation, coordination with states, and adaptability to evolving technologies in online gaming.

History

Shyamji Krishna Varma



Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, paid tribute to Shyamji Krishna Varma on his death anniversary, remembering his immense contribution to promoting Indian nationalism internationally and supporting revolutionary movements against British colonial rule. His work remains significant in understanding the global dimension of India's freedom struggle.

About Shyamji Krishna Varma

Shyamji Krishna Varma was one of the earliest nationalist leaders who recognised the importance of international advocacy for India's independence. He was born on **4 October 1857** in Mandvi in the Kachchh region of present-day Gujarat, the same year as the Revolt of 1857, which marked the beginning of organised resistance against British rule.

He was a distinguished scholar, lawyer, journalist, and a strong nationalist thinker. Varma was deeply influenced by the teachings of Swami Dayanand Saraswati and became associated with the Arya Samaj movement. His intellectual grounding in Vedic philosophy and nationalism shaped his political ideas.

Early achievements

- Served as the **first President of Bombay Arya Samaj**
- Known for his scholarship in Sanskrit
- Worked as a barrister in London
- Advocated political freedom through intellectual and revolutionary methods

Unlike many leaders working within India, Varma understood that the freedom struggle also needed support from Indians living abroad and sympathetic foreign intellectuals.

Major Contributions

Indian Home Rule Society (1905)

In 1905, Shyamji Krishna Varma founded the **Indian Home Rule Society** in London to mobilise political support for India's independence.

Objectives

- Promote the idea of **self-rule (Swaraj)** for India
- Create political awareness among Indians living in Britain
- Support revolutionary activities intellectually and financially

The society received support from prominent nationalists such as:

- Bhikaji Cama
- Dadabhai Naoroji
- S. R. Rana (revolutionary nationalist)

The organisation helped internationalise India's freedom movement and provided a platform for political discussions against British rule.

India House (1905)

Shyamji Krishna Varma established **India House** in London in 1905. It functioned as a hostel for Indian students but soon became an important centre of revolutionary nationalism.

Role of India House

- Provided accommodation to Indian students
- Became a meeting place for nationalist thinkers
- Encouraged revolutionary ideology among youth
- Served as a coordination centre for anti-colonial activities

Several future revolutionaries were influenced by the environment of India House, making it an important milestone in the history of India's revolutionary movement abroad.

The Indian Sociologist (Journal)

Varma also started a monthly journal called **The Indian Sociologist** from London.

Purpose of the journal

- Spread nationalist ideology
- Criticise British imperial policies
- Promote political awareness among Indians
- Advocate complete independence

The publication became so influential that British authorities considered it seditious and banned its circulation in India. Despite restrictions, it played a major role in shaping nationalist thought.

Importance and Legacy

Shyamji Krishna Varma's contributions were unique because he expanded the freedom struggle beyond India's borders.

His historical importance includes:

- Internationalising India's independence movement
- Inspiring revolutionary nationalism
- Supporting Indian students and political activists abroad
- Creating intellectual resistance against colonial rule
- Strengthening early demands for Swaraj

Today, he is remembered as a pioneer of **diaspora-based nationalism**, showing how global advocacy can support national liberation movements.

Modern recognition

In recent years, the Government of India has taken steps to honour his legacy, including:

- Repatriation of his ashes from Switzerland to India in 2003
- Establishment of memorials in Gujarat
- Inclusion of his contributions in modern historical discourse

Conclusion

Shyamji Krishna Varma remains one of the important yet relatively lesser-known architects of India's freedom movement. Through institutions like the Indian Home Rule Society, India House, and his journalistic efforts, he helped build intellectual and revolutionary resistance

against British rule at the global level. His life highlights how ideas, organisation, and international networks played a crucial role in India's journey towards independence.

Samrat Samprati: Ashoka's Grandson Who Helped Spread Jainism



Why in the News?

The **Samrat Samprati Museum** was recently inaugurated at **Koba near Gandhinagar, Gujarat** on the occasion of **Mahavir Jayanti**, drawing attention to the relatively lesser-known Mauryan ruler **Samrat Samprati**, the grandson of Emperor Ashoka, who is remembered in Jain traditions for his significant role in the spread of Jainism across India.

The museum aims to preserve Jain heritage and highlight Samprati's contribution to religious patronage, temple construction, and missionary activities.

Mauryan Dynasty and Religion

The Mauryan Empire (c. 322–185 BCE) is known not only for its political unification of large parts of India but also for its deep association with religious transformation, particularly Buddhism and Jainism.

Ashoka and Buddhism

Emperor Ashoka (reigned 269–232 BCE) is regarded as one of the most influential rulers in Indian history.

Religious transformation:

- After the **Kalinga War (261 BCE)**, Ashoka was deeply affected by the massive loss of life.
- He adopted **Buddhism** and embraced the policy of **Dhamma (moral governance)**.

Spread of Buddhism:

Ashoka actively promoted Buddhism both within and outside India through:

- Missionaries sent to **Sri Lanka**
- Outreach to **Southeast Asia**
- Cultural contacts with **Central Asia and the Hellenistic world**

Key contributions:

- Construction of stupas and monasteries
- Rock and pillar edicts promoting ethical conduct
- Advocacy of non-violence, tolerance, and welfare policies
- Promotion of moral kingship rather than purely expansionist rule

Because of these efforts, Ashoka is often called the **greatest patron of Buddhism**.

Jain Connections in the Mauryan Dynasty

While Ashoka is closely linked with Buddhism, the Mauryan dynasty also had important connections with Jainism.

Chandragupta Maurya and Jainism

Chandragupta Maurya (reigned c. 322–297 BCE), the founder of the Mauryan Empire, is associated with Jainism according to Jain texts.

Jain tradition states that:

- He became a disciple of the Jain monk **Bhadrabahu**.
- He abdicated the throne in favour of his son Bindusara.
- He migrated to **Shravanabelagola (Karnataka)** during a famine.
- He followed the Jain practice of **Sallekhana** (ritual fast unto death), considered a path to spiritual purification.

This tradition highlights the early connection between political power and Jain religious influence.

Ashoka's Jain Connections

Some traditions also suggest that **Padmavati**, believed to be Ashoka's first wife, had links with Jainism, indicating that multiple religious traditions coexisted within the Mauryan royal household.

Who Was Samrat Samprati?

Samrat Samprati (ruled approximately 230–220 BCE)

was the grandson of Ashoka and the son of Kunala. Though not as widely discussed in mainstream history as Ashoka, Jain literature gives him a very prominent position.

Key facts about Samprati:

- Grandson of Ashoka
- Son of Kunala
- Ruled parts of the Mauryan Empire after Ashoka
- Strongly associated with the **Shvetambara Jain tradition**
- Often referred to as the **"Ashoka of Jainism"** because of his religious patronage

Samrat Samprati's Contribution to Jainism

According to Jain historical traditions:

Religious patronage:

- Built thousands of Jain temples (some texts mention 125,000 temples, though this is considered symbolic rather than literal).
- Supported Jain monks and religious institutions.
- Funded religious missions.

Spread of Jainism:

Samprati is believed to have sent Jain missionaries to:

- Western India
- Rajasthan
- Gujarat
- Malwa region
- Possibly areas beyond the core Mauryan territories

Administrative support:

- Encouraged non-violence policies.
- Promoted vegetarianism.
- Supported religious tolerance similar to Ashoka's Dhamma policy.

Temple construction and protection:

Jain texts also mention that he helped restore damaged temples and built new religious centres, helping institutionalise Jainism.

Why Samprati is Called the "Ashoka of Jainism"

Samprati is compared to Ashoka because of similar patterns of religious patronage:

Ashoka	Samprati
Patron of Buddhism	Patron of Jainism
Built stupas	Built Jain temples
Sent Buddhist missionaries	Sent Jain missionaries
Promoted Dhamma	Promoted Jain ethics
Encouraged non-violence	Encouraged Jain principles of Ahimsa

Thus, just as Ashoka is central to Buddhist expansion, Samprati is remembered in Jain tradition for strengthening Jain institutional presence.

Importance of the Samrat Samprati Museum

The newly inaugurated museum is significant because it:

Cultural importance:

- Preserves Jain historical narratives.
- Highlights Gujarat's role in Jain heritage.

Educational value:

- Promotes awareness of lesser-known Mauryan rulers.
- Connects political history with religious movements.

Religious significance:

- Inauguration on **Mahavir Jayanti** symbolically connects Samprati's work with the teachings of **Lord Mahavira**, the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

Tourism promotion:

- May strengthen heritage tourism around Gandhinagar and Jain pilgrimage circuits.

Conclusion

The inauguration of the Samrat Samprati Museum brings renewed attention to the religious diversity of the Mauryan Empire. While Ashoka's role in spreading Buddhism is widely recognised, Samrat Samprati's contribution shows that Jainism also received significant royal patronage during the same period. His efforts in temple construction, missionary activity, and promotion of Jain ethics earned him the title "**Ashoka of Jainism.**"

Babu Jagjivan Ram: 119th Birth Anniversary



Why in News

India paid tributes to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his **119th birth anniversary (5 April 2026)** at Samta Sthal, reaffirming his enduring legacy as a champion of social justice, labour rights, and inclusive governance.

About Babu Jagjivan Ram

- **Born:** 5 April 1908, Chandwa
- Popularly known as: **Babuji**
- A towering leader of India's freedom struggle and post-independence politics
- Among the **longest-serving Union Cabinet Ministers (≈35 years)**
- Served as **Deputy Prime Minister (1979)**

He is widely remembered for his efforts to uplift marginalized communities and integrate social justice into governance.

Contributions to the Freedom Movement

Babu Jagjivan Ram emerged as a prominent voice for the oppressed during British rule:

- Founded the **All India Depressed Classes League (1935)** to fight caste-based discrimination
- Actively participated in the Quit India Movement
- Imprisoned by British authorities for nationalist activities
- Became the **youngest minister in the 1946 Interim Government**, handling the Labour portfolio

His early activism laid the foundation for his lifelong commitment to equality and dignity.

Role in Post-Independence India

1. Green Revolution and Food Security

- Served as **Minister for Food & Agriculture (1967–1970)**
- Played a crucial role in strengthening India's agricultural system
- Contributed to **food self-sufficiency**, reducing dependence on imports

His policies supported the broader success of India's Green Revolution.

2. Leadership During the 1971 War

- Served as **Defence Minister** during the India Pakistan War 1971
- Played a key administrative and strategic role in India's victory
- Contributed to the **creation of Bangladesh**, a major geopolitical shift in South Asia

3. Labour and Social Welfare Reforms

As Labour Minister, he introduced several pro-worker measures:

- Promotion of **minimum wages**
- Strengthening **workers' welfare policies**
- Expansion of **social security frameworks**

He ensured that industrial growth was aligned with labour rights and dignity.

Political Career and Leadership

- Remained a key leader in the Indian National Congress for decades

- Left Congress in 1977 and formed **Congress for Democracy**
- Later joined the Janata Party
- Served as **Deputy Prime Minister (1979)**

His political journey reflected adaptability and commitment to democratic values during a turbulent phase in Indian politics.

Death and Legacy

- **Died:** 6 July 1986
- Memorial: Samta Sthal

Enduring Legacy

Babu Jagjivan Ram is remembered for:

- Championing **social justice and Dalit empowerment**
- Strengthening **India's agricultural and defence sectors**
- Bridging the gap between **policy and grassroots welfare**

Contemporary Relevance

In today's India, his ideas remain significant in discussions on:

- Inclusive development
- Social equity
- Labour reforms
- Representation of marginalized communities

His life continues to inspire policies aimed at building a more equitable and just society.

International Relations

US Imposes 100% Tariff on Patented Pharma Imports



Why in the News?

The United States has announced the imposition of a **100% tariff on patented pharmaceutical imports**, effective **July 31, 2026**. However, **generic medicines have been exempted for now**, significantly limiting the short-term impact on India's pharmaceutical exports.

Key Announcement

- **Tariff Rate:** 100%
- **Applies to:**
 - Patented pharmaceutical products

- Associated active ingredients and components
- **Exemption:**
 - Generic drugs are currently excluded
- **Future Review:**
 - The US government will review the status of generic drugs within **12 months**, leaving room for future policy changes

This selective targeting indicates a policy approach aimed at **high-value, innovation-driven segments** of the pharmaceutical market rather than bulk generics.

Understanding the Policy Context

The move reflects a broader US strategy to:

- Encourage **domestic pharmaceutical manufacturing**
- Reduce dependence on foreign patented drug imports
- Strengthen **intellectual property-linked industries**

Patented drugs typically have **higher margins and limited competition**, making them a strategic target for tariff barriers.

Impact on India

1. Limited Immediate Impact

- Around **90% of India's pharmaceutical exports to the US are generics**
- Since generics are exempt, **major export volumes remain unaffected**
- Ensures **short-term stability** for India's pharma sector

2. Export Dependence on the US

- India exported **\$9.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US in 2025**
- The US accounts for **38–40% of India's total pharma exports**

This highlights the **critical importance of the US market**, even though the current tariff structure spares most exports.

Segment-Wise Impact Analysis

Segment	Impact
Generic Drugs	No immediate impact (exempt)
Patented Drugs	High impact due to 100% tariff
APIs for patented drugs	Likely affected
Future generics	Uncertain (subject to review)

Companies Likely to Be Affected

Sun Pharma

- Significant exposure to **patented drug segment**
- **Global patented drug sales: ~\$1.2 billion**
- **US share: 85–90%**

Implication:

- Revenue pressure in the US market
- Potential need to **restructure pricing or supply chains**

Other Indian Pharma Firms

- Most Indian companies (e.g., generic-focused exporters) are **relatively insulated for now**
- Firms investing in **specialty or innovative drugs** may face **long-term risks**

Strategic Implications for India

1. Short-Term Stability

- The exemption of generics ensures that India's **core pharma export engine remains intact**

2. Long-Term Uncertainty

- The planned **review of generics within 12 months** creates policy uncertainty
- Any future inclusion of generics could:
 - Disrupt exports
 - Increase drug prices in the US
 - Trigger trade tensions

3. Need for Diversification

- India may accelerate efforts to:
 - Expand into **Europe, Africa, and Latin America**
 - Strengthen **domestic pharmaceutical innovation**

4. Push for Innovation

- The tariff highlights the vulnerability of **patented segments**
- Could encourage India to:
 - Invest in **R&D and new drug development**
 - Move up the value chain beyond generics

Global Implications

- The move could:
 - Increase **drug prices in the US**
 - Affect **global pharmaceutical supply chains**
 - Trigger **retaliatory trade measures** if expanded

It also reflects a growing trend of **pharma nationalism**, where countries aim to secure domestic production of critical medicines.

Conclusion

While the US decision to impose a **100% tariff on patented pharmaceuticals** signals a significant shift in trade policy, its **immediate impact on India remains limited** due to the exemption of generics. However, the **future review of generic drugs introduces uncertainty**, making it essential for India to **diversify markets, strengthen innovation, and reduce export dependency** on a single region.

India Withdraws Bid to Host COP 33 in 2028



Why in the News?

India has reportedly withdrawn its bid to host the **33rd Conference of Parties (COP 33)** scheduled for 2028. The country had earlier shown interest during **COP 28 held in Dubai (2023)**, but the decision has now been reconsidered after reviewing associated commitments. As of now, there is no official statement from the government, and **South Korea** remains the only country expressing interest in hosting COP 33.

What is COP?

The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the annual global climate summit conducted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Key Features:

- Brings together nearly all countries of the world
- Reviews progress on climate action
- Negotiates global agreements to combat climate change
- Addresses issues like mitigation, adaptation, climate finance, and technology transfer

COP meetings have produced landmark agreements such as the Paris Agreement (2015), which guides global climate policy today.

COP Hosting Rotation System

Hosting of COP rotates among five UN regional groups:

- African States
- Asia-Pacific States
- Eastern European States
- Latin America & Caribbean
- Western Europe & Others

India belongs to the **Asia-Pacific group**, which is why it was eligible to bid for COP 33.

Upcoming COP Hosts

- **COP 30 (2025):** Brazil
- **COP 31 (2026):** Turkey & Australia (joint interest)
- **COP 32 (2027):** Ethiopia
- **COP 33 (2028):** Yet to be finalized

With India stepping back, the competition for 2028 hosting has narrowed significantly.

Why Did India Withdraw?

While no official explanation has been released, likely reasons include:

- **High logistical and financial commitments** required to host a global summit of this scale
- **Diplomatic and administrative burden** involving coordination with multiple stakeholders
- Focus on **domestic climate implementation priorities** rather than hosting

Hosting COP involves managing tens of thousands of delegates, ensuring infrastructure, security, and global negotiations—making it a resource-intensive exercise.

India's COP Hosting History

- India hosted **COP 8 in 2002 (New Delhi)**
- This remains the **only COP hosted by India so far**

Despite being a major climate stakeholder, India has not hosted the summit again in over two decades.

India's Climate Commitments (Updated NDCs)

Under its updated **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**, India has set ambitious targets for 2035:

- **60% of electricity capacity** from non-fossil fuel sources
- **47% reduction in emissions intensity** of GDP
- Creation of an additional **carbon sink of 3.5–4 billion tonnes CO₂**

These commitments align with global climate goals while balancing developmental needs.

Significance of the Decision

- Reflects a **strategic prioritization of implementation over diplomacy**
- Indicates that hosting COP is not just symbolic but involves **substantial commitments**
- Opens space for other Asia-Pacific countries (like South Korea) to take leadership

Broader Context

India remains a key player in global climate negotiations due to:

- Its status as a **major developing economy**
- Leadership in initiatives like the **International Solar Alliance**

- Advocacy for **climate justice and equity**

Even without hosting COP 33, India will continue to shape global climate discourse through negotiations and policy actions.

"Yellow Line" Strategy (Israel)



Why in the News?

Israel has expanded its "Yellow Line" buffer zone strategy—originally implemented in the Gaza Strip—to parts of southern Lebanon amid evolving regional conflict dynamics. This marks a significant shift in Israel's ground-control and border-security approach beyond Gaza.

What is the "Yellow Line"?

The "Yellow Line" refers to a **military demarcation and deployment boundary** created and enforced by Israeli forces during active conflict situations.

Key Features

- **Territorial Division:**
 - Israeli-controlled security zone
 - Local civilian areas (Palestinian or Lebanese)
- **Physical Markers:**
 - Concrete bollards

- Tall poles placed at regular intervals
- Clearly visible separation line for both military and civilians
- **Operational Nature:**
 - Not an internationally recognized border
 - A **temporary but enforced tactical boundary**

Origin and Evolution

- **First Introduced:** October 2025 during the Gaza conflict
- **Purpose:** To establish a controlled buffer between Israeli forces and militant zones
- **Current Expansion:** Extended into **southern Lebanon**, indicating a broader regional application

This expansion reflects a transition from a **localized conflict tool** to a **multi-front military strategy**.

Strategic Objectives of the Yellow Line

1. Creation of Buffer Zones

The primary aim is to create **security depth** by pushing potential threats farther away from Israeli territory.

2. Control Over Movement

- Restricts civilian and militant movement across zones
- Enables surveillance and monitoring of cross-border activities

3. Tactical Military Advantage

- Simplifies troop deployment and logistics
- Provides clear operational boundaries for ground forces

4. Counter-Insurgency Mechanism

Helps in:

- Isolating militant groups
- Preventing infiltration
- Securing sensitive areas

Extension to Southern Lebanon: Why It Matters

The extension into southern Lebanon is significant for several reasons:

1. Multi-Front Conflict Preparedness

Israel appears to be preparing for **simultaneous threats** from:

- Gaza (Hamas)
- Southern Lebanon (primarily Hezbollah)

2. Escalation Risks

- Could increase tensions with Hezbollah
- Raises the possibility of **wider regional conflict**

3. Strategic Depth Beyond Borders

Unlike Gaza, Lebanon is a **sovereign country**, making this move more geopolitically sensitive.

Implications

Security Implications

- Enhances Israel's **defensive posture**
- Improves early warning and threat containment

Humanitarian Concerns

- Restricts civilian mobility
- May lead to displacement and access issues
- Raises concerns under international humanitarian law

Political Implications

- Could trigger diplomatic tensions with Lebanon
- May attract global scrutiny over territorial control practices

Broader Context

The Yellow Line strategy reflects a **modern evolution of buffer-zone warfare**, where:

- Physical demarcation is used alongside surveillance technology
- Control of territory becomes dynamic rather than fixed

This approach resembles earlier buffer strategies used globally but is more **structured and visibly enforced**.

Conclusion

The expansion of Israel's "Yellow Line" from Gaza to southern Lebanon signals a **shift toward layered territorial control in conflict zones**. While it enhances short-term security and operational clarity, it also introduces **long-term geopolitical, humanitarian, and legal challenges**.

In essence, the Yellow Line is not just a boundary—it represents a **strategic doctrine of controlled separation in modern asymmetric warfare**.

Polity

Supreme Court Highlight Lapses in Safeguarding Sexual Assault Survivors' Identity



Why in the News?

The **Supreme Court of India** recently expressed concern over repeated failures by trial courts and police authorities to protect the identity of sexual assault survivors. The Court observed that despite clear statutory provisions, there is a pattern of negligence in maintaining confidentiality, which violates both legal safeguards and the dignity of survivors.

What Did the Supreme Court Observe?

The Court highlighted several systemic problems in the handling of sexual offence cases:

- General indifference among trial courts and police towards statutory protections
- Disclosure of survivors' names and personal details in affidavits and court records
- Violation of confidentiality provisions meant to protect victims
- The Court had to intervene twice within a short span, indicating systemic gaps
- Directions were issued to redact names and any identifying information from records

The Court emphasized that such disclosures undermine the right to dignity and privacy of survivors and may discourage reporting of sexual crimes.

Recent Cases Highlighted by the Court

Gurugram Case

The Supreme Court took serious note of lapses in a case involving a minor survivor.

Key issues highlighted:

- Case involved a 3.8-year-old survivor
- Police affidavits reportedly revealed identity details
- School documents containing personal data were attached to court filings
- Bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant intervened
- Supreme Court Registry was directed to immediately redact identifying information

The Court questioned the sensitivity shown by investigating agencies in cases involving minors.

Himachal Pradesh Case

Another similar violation was noticed in a case from Himachal Pradesh.

Key observations:

- Case involved a nine-year-old survivor
 - Identity details were disclosed in court documents
 - Bench headed by Justice Sanjay Karol examined the issue
 - The Court termed the disclosure a “disturbing” lapse
- The Court observed that such incidents suggest weakening compliance with mandatory legal safeguards.

Which Law Protects Survivor Identity?

Section 228A IPC (Now Section 72 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita)

The protection of the identity of sexual assault survivors is mandated under criminal law.

Key provisions:

- Section 228A of the IPC (now Section 72 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023) prohibits disclosure of the identity of rape survivors
- Applies to police officials, court staff, media organisations, and the general public
- Disclosure without permission of the court is a criminal offence
- Punishment may extend to imprisonment and fine

- The provision was originally introduced to prevent social stigma and secondary victimisation of survivors

Constitutional Dimensions

The issue also relates to fundamental rights:

Article 21 (Right to Life and Personal Liberty):

The Supreme Court has interpreted this to include:

- Right to dignity
- Right to privacy
- Protection from secondary victimisation

Protecting the identity of survivors is therefore considered part of the constitutional guarantee of dignity.

Related Legal Safeguards

Other protections available to sexual assault survivors include:

- **POCSO Act, 2012:** Special confidentiality protections for child victims
 - **CrPC Section 327:** In-camera trials for rape cases
 - **Media guidelines:** Prohibit publication of identifying details
 - **Judicial guidelines:** Use of pseudonyms in judgments
- Courts have repeatedly stressed that even indirect identification (like address, school, or relatives' names) is prohibited.

Significance of the Judgment

The Supreme Court's observations are significant because they:

- Reinforce victim-centric justice
- Strengthen accountability of police and lower judiciary
- Promote sensitivity in handling sexual offence cases
- Protect reporting of crimes by ensuring confidentiality
- Uphold dignity-based criminal justice reforms

The ruling also signals the need for better training and sensitisation of officials dealing with sexual offence cases.

Way Forward

Experts suggest the following reforms:

- Mandatory sensitisation training for police and judicial officers
- Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for handling victim data
- Digital redaction protocols in court filings

- Strict disciplinary action for violations
- Greater awareness among media and legal practitioners

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's intervention highlights that legal safeguards are meaningful only when implemented effectively. Ensuring confidentiality of survivors is essential not only for legal compliance but also for maintaining trust in the criminal justice system and encouraging victims to seek justice.

Supreme Court: Voter Roll Exclusion Does Not End Voting Rights Permanently



Why in the News?

The **Supreme Court of India** recently ruled that voters excluded from electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise in West Bengal cannot be permanently deprived of their voting rights. The Court emphasised that electoral authorities must follow due process, ensure transparency, and provide affected voters with a fair opportunity to challenge their exclusion.

This judgment reinforces the constitutional principle that the **right to vote, though statutory, is a crucial component of democratic participation** and cannot be denied arbitrarily.

Key Observations by the Supreme Court

The Court made several important observations to safeguard electoral fairness:

- Voting rights cannot be **"washed away forever"** merely because a person's name is deleted from the electoral rolls.

- Individuals removed from the voter list must be given a **reasonable opportunity to appeal**.
- The tribunal mechanism created to hear appeals must function in a **fair, transparent, and time-bound manner**.
- Electoral Registration Officers must **record and communicate reasons** for deleting names from the rolls.
- Administrative convenience cannot override the **principles of natural justice**.

The Court reiterated that electoral inclusion is central to participatory democracy and procedural safeguards must be strictly followed.

Case Background

The issue arose after the Election Commission conducted a **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)** of electoral rolls in West Bengal to remove:

- Duplicate entries
- Deceased voters
- Shifted voters
- Ineligible entries

During this process, many individuals found their names removed from the voter list, leading to concerns about wrongful exclusion.

To address grievances:

- **19 tribunals** were constituted by the Election Commission.
- These tribunals were headed by:
 - Former High Court Chief Justices
 - Former High Court Judges

Purpose of Tribunals

The tribunals were tasked with:

- Hearing appeals of excluded voters
- Examining documentary evidence
- Ensuring genuine voters are reinstated

Supreme Court Directions

The Supreme Court issued important procedural directions to ensure fairness:

Directions to Election Commission

The Court directed the Election Commission to:

- Provide **clear reasons for deletion** of names
- Share **remarks of adjudicating officers**

- Ensure a **transparent review mechanism**
- Provide adequate opportunity for affected voters to present their case
- Ensure tribunal decisions follow principles of natural justice

Directions Regarding Tribunal Hearings

The Court stressed that:

- Hearings must not be mechanical
- Each case must be examined individually
- Wrongly excluded voters must be restored promptly

These directions strengthen accountability in electoral administration.

Supplementary Electoral Lists

The Court also addressed the issue of updating voter lists:

- The **final electoral roll was published on 28 February 2026**
- The Court allowed the publication of **supplementary electoral lists** to include eligible voters who were wrongly excluded.
- The **fourth supplementary list** has already been published to correct omissions.

This ensures that genuine voters are not disenfranchised due to administrative errors.

Constitutional and Legal Significance

The judgment is important from a constitutional governance perspective.

Constitutional Basis

Voting rights are linked to:

Article 326 of the Constitution

- Provides for elections based on **universal adult suffrage**
- Grants voting rights to citizens aged 18 and above (after the 61st Constitutional Amendment, 1988)

Legal Framework

Representation of the People Act, 1950

- Governs preparation and revision of electoral rolls
- Provides procedures for inclusion and deletion of names

- Allows appeals against wrongful exclusion

Key Democratic Principle Reinforced

The core principle emerging from the judgment is:

An eligible voter cannot be denied voting rights arbitrarily without due process.

This reflects three fundamental democratic values:

- **Inclusiveness** – Every eligible citizen must get a chance to vote
- **Transparency** – Administrative decisions must be reasoned
- **Accountability** – Authorities must justify deletions

Broader Democratic Importance

The judgment has wider implications:

- Strengthens **electoral integrity**
- Prevents **disenfranchisement due to bureaucratic errors**
- Reinforces **procedural fairness in voter verification**
- Improves trust in the **Election Commission's processes**
- Protects the democratic right of political participation

Conclusion

The Supreme Court's ruling highlights that while electoral roll purification is necessary to maintain free and fair elections, it must not come at the cost of genuine voters. By mandating transparency, appeal mechanisms, and supplementary lists, the Court has balanced **electoral accuracy with democratic inclusion**.

Ghose Commission & Telangana HC Verdict Why in the News?

The Telangana High Court ruled that the Ghose Commission report on the Kaleshwaram project will be **"inoperative"**, meaning no legal or administrative action can be taken based on its findings against former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and others.

This ruling has significant political and administrative implications, as the report was expected to examine alleged irregularities in one of India's largest irrigation projects.

Background: Ghose Commission Inquiry

The Telangana government constituted a **Commission of Inquiry in 2024** under:

- Justice P. C. Ghose
- Objective: Investigate alleged irregularities in the **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS)**

Scope of Investigation

The Commission was tasked to examine:

- Cost escalation and financial management
- Structural integrity and engineering concerns
- Tendering and contract processes
- Possible misuse of public funds

However, the High Court's ruling effectively nullifies the enforceability of its findings, raising questions about **accountability mechanisms in large public infrastructure projects**.

About Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIS)



The **Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS)** is one of the **largest multi-stage lift irrigation projects in the world**, designed to harness water from the Godavari River.

Key Features

- **Location:** Telangana
- **Purpose:** Irrigation, drinking water supply, and industrial use
- **Type:** Multi-stage lift irrigation system
- **Scale:** Massive network of pumps, reservoirs, tunnels, and canals

Major Barrages

- **Medigadda (Lakshmi Barrage)**
- **Annaram (Saraswati Barrage)**
- **Sundilla (Parvati Barrage)**

These barrages facilitate water lifting across multiple stages to irrigate drought-prone regions.

Engineering and Operational Highlights

- One of the **world's largest underground pump houses**
- Uses **high-capacity motors** to lift water across elevations
- Designed to irrigate **over 18–20 lakh acres** (approx.)
- Integrates **modern automation and monitoring systems**

Importance of the Project

KLIS plays a crucial role in:

- Expanding irrigation in arid regions of Telangana
- Supporting agriculture and rural livelihoods
- Providing drinking water to urban and rural areas
- Boosting industrial growth

It is often cited as a flagship example of **large-scale river water utilisation and interlinking within a state**.

Controversies and Concerns

Despite its scale and ambition, the project has faced several criticisms:

1. Cost Escalation

- Initial estimates rose significantly over time
- Concerns about financial sustainability and debt burden

2. Structural Issues

- Reports of damage to barrages (e.g., Medigadda piers)
- Questions over design and construction quality

3. Environmental Impact

- Submergence of land and ecological disruption
- Concerns about long-term sustainability

4. Governance and Transparency

- Allegations of irregularities in contracts and execution
- Triggered the formation of the Ghose Commission

Implications of the High Court Ruling

Legal Impact

- The Ghose Commission report **cannot be used for prosecution or disciplinary action**
- Limits immediate accountability based on the inquiry

Political Impact

- Provides relief to K. Chandrashekar Rao and associated officials
- May influence ongoing political debates in Telangana

Administrative Impact

- Raises concerns about the effectiveness of **Commissions of Inquiry**
- Highlights the need for **stronger legal frameworks for accountability**

Way Forward

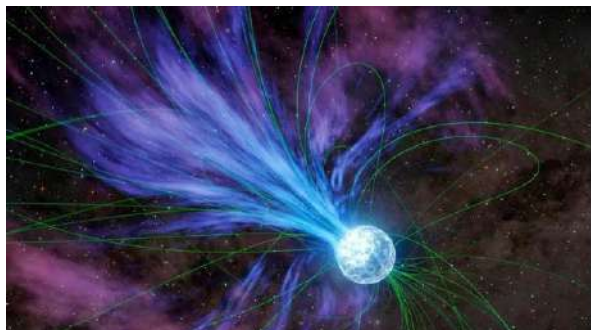
- Independent technical audits of infrastructure projects
- Greater transparency in public spending
- Strengthening legal validity of inquiry commissions
- Ensuring long-term sustainability and maintenance of KLIS

Conclusion

The Kaleshwaram project remains a landmark in India's irrigation infrastructure, but the Telangana High Court's ruling underscores the complexities of **governance, accountability, and legal oversight** in mega projects. While the project continues to serve critical water needs, the debate around its execution and scrutiny is far from over.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

Indian Scientists Crack the Solar Radio Burst Mystery



Why in the News?

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have solved a decades-old mystery related to **Type II solar radio bursts**. The discovery improves understanding of solar eruptions and could significantly enhance **space weather forecasting**, which is critical for protecting satellites, GPS navigation, and communication infrastructure.

The findings were published in the Solar Physics journal.

What Are Type II Solar Radio Bursts?

Type II solar radio bursts are low-frequency radio waves produced during powerful solar eruptions.

Key Characteristics

- Generated during **solar flares** and **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs)**
- Produced by shock waves travelling through the Sun's corona
- Travel at speeds close to **1000 km per second**
- Used as early indicators of geomagnetic storms
- Important for space weather monitoring

How They Form

When a CME moves faster than the surrounding solar plasma, it produces a shock wave similar to a sonic boom. This shock accelerates electrons which generate radio emissions detectable from Earth.

Why Are Solar Radio Bursts Important?

Solar radio bursts help scientists predict:

- Geomagnetic storms
- Satellite damage risks
- GPS disruptions
- Power grid disturbances
- Radiation hazards to astronauts

Thus, understanding these bursts improves **space weather prediction capability**.

What Was the Long-Standing Scientific Mystery?

Scientists studying Type II radio bursts observed two types of radio signals:

Two Types of Radio Emissions

1. Fundamental Emission

- Lower frequency signal
- Directly produced at plasma frequency
- Theoretically expected to be stronger

2. Harmonic Emission

- Higher frequency signal
- Produced at twice the plasma frequency
- Expected to be weaker

The Puzzle

Theory predicted:

→ Fundamental emission should always be stronger.

But observations showed:

→ Sometimes harmonic emission was stronger.

This contradiction remained unexplained for nearly **50 years**.

What Did Indian Scientists Discover?

Researchers found that the strength of emissions depends on **where the solar eruption occurs on the Sun's surface**.

Key Discovery

When solar activity occurs at higher solar longitudes (beyond 75°):

- Harmonic emission appears stronger
- Fundamental emission becomes weaker

When activity occurs near the centre of the solar disk:

- Fundamental emission appears stronger
- Harmonic emission weaker

This resolved the long-standing observational contradiction.

Why Does This Happen?

Scientists identified two key physical reasons:

1. Refraction in the Solar Corona

As radio waves travel through the Sun's corona:

- Density variations bend radio waves
- Fundamental emissions get refracted more
- Harmonic emissions escape more easily

This changes the observed intensity from Earth.

2. Viewing Angle Effect

The location of solar eruptions relative to Earth affects:

- Signal propagation
- Signal absorption
- Detection strength

When eruptions occur near the solar edge:

- Fundamental waves may get scattered away
- Harmonic waves reach Earth more directly

Thus, the difference is partly a **geometrical observation effect**.

How Was the Study Conducted?

Researchers conducted a detailed observational study.

Methodology

- Analysis of **58 solar eruption events**
- Data collected from international observatories
- Statistical comparison of radio emission strength
- Solar longitude mapping

Instruments Used

1. CALLISTO Global Network

Data collected from the CALLISTO Network.

2. Indian Observatory

Observations from the Gauribidanur Radio Observatory in Karnataka.

What Is the CALLISTO Network?

CALLISTO (Compound Astronomical Low-cost Low-frequency Instrument for Spectroscopy and Transportable Observatory) is a global solar monitoring network.

Key Features

- Worldwide network of solar radio spectrometers
- Continuous solar monitoring
- Tracks solar radio bursts

- Supports space weather forecasting

- Provides real-time solar activity data

India is an important contributor to this global network.

Scientific Significance of the Discovery

Major Contributions

1. Solves a Fundamental Solar Physics Problem

Resolves a decades-old contradiction between theory and observation.

2. Improves Space Weather Prediction

Better understanding helps:

- Forecast solar storms
- Predict satellite disruptions
- Protect communication systems

3. Supports Satellite Safety

Helps protect:

- Navigation satellites (NavIC, GPS)
- Communication satellites
- Weather satellites

4. Enhances India's Scientific Reputation

Demonstrates India's growing strength in:

- Space science
- Solar physics
- Astrophysical research

What Is Space Weather?

Space weather refers to conditions in space influenced by solar activity.

Main Causes

- Solar flares
- Coronal Mass Ejections
- Solar wind
- Magnetic storms

Impacts on Earth

- Satellite malfunction
- Radio communication disruption
- Navigation errors
- Power grid failures
- Aurora formation

Why This Research Matters for India

India depends heavily on space infrastructure such as:

- NavIC navigation system
- ISRO communication satellites

- Weather satellites
- Defence space assets

Better forecasting improves resilience of these systems.

Conclusion

The discovery by Indian scientists marks a significant advancement in solar physics by explaining why harmonic emissions sometimes appear stronger than fundamental emissions in Type II solar radio bursts. This breakthrough not only solves a long-standing scientific puzzle but also strengthens space weather forecasting capabilities, helping protect critical technological infrastructure.

NASA Artemis II: How Astronauts Will Fly to the Moon and Back



Why in the News?

The **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** recently launched **Artemis II** mission, which is the **first human mission to the Moon's vicinity since the Apollo Program missions ended in 1972**. It marked a major step in NASA's Artemis programme aimed at returning humans to the Moon.

Artemis II Mission Overview

Parameter	Details
Mission	Artemis II
Agency	NASA
Type	Crewed lunar flyby mission
Duration	About 10 days
Astronauts	4 astronauts
Launch site	Kennedy Space Center, Florida
Landing	Ocean splashdown

Key Components of Artemis II

Space Launch System (SLS) and Orion Spacecraft

Rocket: Space Launch System (SLS)

Spacecraft: Orion spacecraft Crew Capsule

Features:

- SLS is currently the most powerful rocket developed by NASA.
- Orion is designed for deep space human missions.
- Orion includes advanced life-support, radiation protection and re-entry heat shield systems.

Artemis II Mission Path (Step-by-Step)

1. Launch from Earth

- Launch using SLS rocket.
- Orion spacecraft carries four astronauts.
- Launch from Kennedy Space Center.

2. Earth Orbit Phase

- Orion will complete **two Earth orbits**.
- Engineers will perform:
 - Systems checks
 - Navigation tests
 - Trajectory adjustments

3. Journey to the Moon

- Travel time: **3–4 days**
- Similar direct trajectory used during Apollo missions.

Why is it fast?

- SLS provides very high thrust.
- Direct trajectory reduces travel time.
- Requires more fuel but reduces mission duration.

4. Lunar Flyby

- Orion will travel around the Moon without landing.
- Closest approach distance from the far side: **about 6,500 km**.
- This will be the **farthest distance humans have travelled from Earth**, exceeding Apollo 13 records.

5. Return Journey

- Orion begins return trajectory to Earth.
- Travel time: about **3–4 days**.

- Tests deep-space navigation and communication systems.

6. Re-entry and Splashdown

- Orion re-enters Earth's atmosphere at very high speed.
- Heat shield will be tested under extreme temperatures (~2,800°C).
- Landing will be through **ocean splashdown**, similar to Apollo missions.

Why Some Missions Take Longer (Example: Chandrayaan-3)

The **Chandrayaan-3** mission by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** used a different trajectory.

Artemis II	Chandrayaan-3
Direct trajectory	Fuel-efficient orbit raising trajectory
Travel time: Few days	Travel time: Several weeks
High fuel consumption	Low fuel consumption
Human mission priority	Robotic mission optimisation

Reason for longer Chandrayaan route:

- Uses Earth orbit-raising manoeuvres.
- Saves fuel using gravitational mechanics.
- Suitable for robotic missions where time is less critical.

Significance of Artemis II

- First crewed deep space mission after 50 years.
- Tests systems for future Moon landing (**Artemis III**).
- Part of long-term plans for:
 - Permanent lunar presence
 - Lunar space station (Gateway)
 - Future Mars missions

Conclusion

Artemis II represents a historic return of human spaceflight beyond low Earth orbit and serves as a crucial test mission before astronauts land on the Moon again. Its fast, fuel-intensive trajectory reflects the priorities of

human safety and mission reliability, unlike slower fuel-efficient robotic missions like Chandrayaan-3.

CSIR Develops Bio Bitumen: Turning Farm Residue into Roads



Why in the News?

The **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)** has recently transferred its **Bio-Bitumen Technology** to industry partners. This innovation converts agricultural residue into road construction material, offering a sustainable alternative to conventional bitumen and helping address the persistent issue of **stubble burning** in India.

What is Bio-Bitumen?

Bio-bitumen is a **renewable and eco-friendly alternative** to traditional petroleum-based bitumen used in road construction.

Key Features:

- Derived from **agricultural biomass and farm waste**
- Reduces dependence on **fossil fuels**
- Helps manage **crop residue**, especially stubble
- Suitable for **road paving and maintenance**

Developed by:

- **CSIR–Central Road Research Institute (CRRI)**
- **CSIR–Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP)**

This innovation reflects India's growing focus on **green infrastructure and circular economy practices**.

How Bio-Bitumen is Made

Raw Materials:

- Crop residues (such as rice straw, wheat straw)
- Agricultural biomass
- Farm waste and lignocellulosic material

Production Process:

1. **Collection of biomass** from agricultural fields
2. **Thermochemical conversion** (such as pyrolysis or liquefaction)
3. Extraction of **bio-oil**
4. Upgradation and blending to produce **bio-bitumen**

This process ensures that waste materials are converted into **valuable construction inputs**, reducing environmental pollution.

Significance of Bio-Bitumen Technology**1. Tackling Stubble Burning**

- Provides an **economic use for crop residue**
- Reduces air pollution caused by burning in states like Punjab and Haryana

2. Sustainable Infrastructure

- Promotes **green road construction**
- Aligns with India's climate commitments and **net-zero goals**

3. Reducing Crude Oil Dependence

- Conventional bitumen is a **by-product of crude oil refining**
- Bio-bitumen lowers reliance on **imported petroleum**

4. Economic Benefits for Farmers

- Creates a **market for agricultural waste**
- Enhances **rural income opportunities**

Challenges and Considerations

- **Scaling up production** for nationwide use
- Ensuring **cost competitiveness** with petroleum bitumen
- Standardisation and long-term **performance testing**
- Need for **policy support and incentives**

Way Forward

- Integration with schemes like **waste-to-wealth initiatives**
- Public-private partnerships for **commercial deployment**
- Adoption in **national highway and rural road projects**

- Strengthening R&D for **improved durability and efficiency**

Conclusion

Bio-bitumen technology represents a **transformational step toward sustainable infrastructure in India**. By converting farm waste into valuable construction material, it simultaneously addresses **environmental, economic, and energy challenges**, making it a key innovation in the transition to a greener future.

Record Space Activity in 2025: ISSAR Report**Why in the News?**

The **Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) 2025**, released by ISRO, highlights a sharp rise in global space activity. The report notes that **315 space launches in 2025 placed 4,651 objects into orbit**, reflecting rapid expansion in the use of outer space.

Global Space Activity in 2025**Key Highlights**

- **Total launches: 315**
- **Objects placed in orbit: 4,651**
- **Objects re-entered atmosphere: 1,911**
- **Net growth in space objects: 74.5%**

What This Means

- The number of objects in orbit is increasing rapidly due to:
 - Mega satellite constellations (communication, internet services)
 - Increased participation by private companies
- However, high re-entry numbers indicate growing **space debris management challenges**

India's Space Assets (2025)

1. Satellites Status

- **Total Indian satellites in orbit: 86**
 - **Operational: 27**
 - **Defunct (non-functional): 23**
 - **Decayed (already re-entered): 36**
- **Satellites launched in 2025: 8**

2. Rocket Bodies & Orbital Objects

- **Rocket bodies placed in orbit: 4**
- **Indian objects re-entered atmosphere: 12**

Understanding the Trends

1. Rise in Space Congestion

- Rapid increase in satellites → **crowded orbits**, especially Low Earth Orbit (LEO)
- Raises risk of:
 - Collisions
 - Creation of more debris (Kessler Syndrome)

2. India's Position in Space

- India maintains a **moderate but growing presence** compared to global leaders
- Focus remains on:
 - Communication satellites
 - Navigation systems (NavIC)
 - Earth observation

3. Sustainability Concerns

- Increasing launches demand:
 - **Better tracking systems**
 - **Debris mitigation strategies**
 - **Responsible end-of-life satellite disposal**

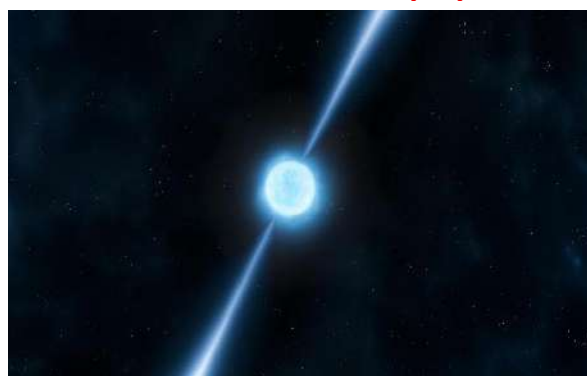
Why ISSAR is Important

- Provides **space situational awareness (SSA)** data
- Helps in:
 - Collision avoidance
 - Space traffic management
 - Protecting critical satellites
- Supports India's growing ambitions in:
 - Commercial space sector
 - Human spaceflight (Gaganyaan)

Conclusion

The ISSAR 2025 report reflects a **new era of intense space activity**, with both opportunities and risks. While global launches and satellite deployments are accelerating, the findings underline the urgent need for **sustainable space governance and debris management**. India, through ISRO, is steadily expanding its capabilities while also contributing to global efforts in ensuring **safe and sustainable use of outer space**.

Indian Scientists Develop New Method to Measure Distances in Deep Space



Why in the News?

Indian astronomers, including researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, have developed a **new method to measure distances in space** by combining two key radio signal effects—**dispersion measure and scatter broadening**. This innovation improves the accuracy of mapping objects in deep space.

What are Pulsars?

Pulsars are a special type of neutron star formed after the explosion of massive stars (supernovae).

Key Characteristics:

- Extremely **dense and compact objects**
- Rotate rapidly (from milliseconds to seconds)
- Emit **beams of radio waves** from their magnetic poles
- Appear as **pulsating signals** when observed from Earth
- Known as **cosmic clocks** due to their precise and stable timing

Scientific Uses:

- Detection of **gravitational waves**

- Testing theories of **relativity**
- Studying the structure of the **interstellar medium**

Traditional Method: Dispersion Measure (DM)

When radio waves from pulsars travel through space, they pass through ionised gas (free electrons).

How it works:

- Lower-frequency waves **slow down more** than higher-frequency waves
- This delay is measured as **dispersion measure (DM)**
- DM gives an estimate of the **total electron content**, which helps infer distance

Limitation:

- Accuracy depends on assumptions about electron distribution in space

Scatter Broadening Explained

As pulsar signals travel through space:

- They encounter **irregularities in plasma (ionised gas)**
- Signals take **multiple paths** due to scattering
- This causes **signal stretching or broadening**

Importance:

- Provides additional information about **turbulence and structure of interstellar medium**

The New Technique: Combining DM + Scatter Broadening

Innovation:

- Scientists combined **dispersion measure + scattering effects**
- This dual approach reduces uncertainty in distance estimation

Advantages:

- **Higher accuracy** than using DM alone
- Better modelling of **electron distribution in space**
- Helps overcome limitations of earlier methods

Study Highlights

- Observations conducted on **10 pulsars**
- Region studied: Gum Nebula

- Key finding: Vela Pulsar is located **behind the nebula**
- Developed an **improved model of electron density distribution** in that region

Significance of the Discovery

1. Improved Distance Measurement

- More precise mapping of **cosmic objects and structures**
- Reduces errors in astrophysical calculations

2. No Strict Distance Limit

- Can be applied to **farther objects in deep space**

3. Applications in Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs)

- Helps better locate mysterious signals like **Fast Radio Bursts**
- Improves understanding of their origin

4. Better Understanding of Interstellar Medium

- Provides insights into **plasma turbulence and electron distribution**
- Enhances models of the Milky Way's structure

Conclusion

This new technique marks an important advancement in **astronomical measurement methods**, combining multiple signal effects to improve accuracy. By refining how scientists estimate distances in space, it strengthens research in pulsars, FRBs, and the broader structure of the universe.

Curiosity Rover



Why in the News?

The Curiosity Rover has recently detected **organic molecules on Mars**, providing stronger evidence that the planet may have once supported conditions suitable for life. These findings are significant because organic molecules are considered the **building blocks of life**,

though they do not necessarily indicate the presence of living organisms.

This discovery adds to growing scientific evidence that ancient Mars may have been **habitable**, with liquid water, a thicker atmosphere, and favorable chemical conditions.

What is the Curiosity Rover?

The **Curiosity Rover** is a sophisticated robotic explorer developed by NASA as part of the **Mars Science Laboratory (MSL)** mission.

Key Objectives

- Study Mars' geology and climate
- Assess whether Mars ever had conditions suitable for microbial life
- Analyze rocks, soil, and atmosphere for chemical signatures
- Investigate organic compounds and water history

Unlike earlier rovers, Curiosity carries a **mini-laboratory** capable of performing advanced chemical analysis directly on the Martian surface.

Launch and Landing Details

- **Launch Date:** November 26, 2011
- **Launch Vehicle:** Atlas V rocket
- **Landing Date:** August 5, 2012

Curiosity's landing was one of the most complex in space exploration history, demonstrating cutting-edge engineering and precision.

Landing Site and Exploration Area

- **Location:** Gale Crater
- **Primary Exploration Target:** Mount Sharp

Why Gale Crater?

Gale Crater was chosen because it contains **layered sedimentary rocks**, which act like a geological record of Mars' past. These layers help scientists understand how the planet's environment changed over billions of years. Mount Sharp, rising from the crater's center, is particularly important because its layers indicate:

- Presence of **ancient lakes**
- Changes in climate over time
- Chemical conditions suitable for life

Unique Landing Technology: Sky Crane

Curiosity used an innovative **Sky Crane system**, a first in planetary exploration.

Landing Process

1. **Atmospheric entry** with heat shield protection
2. **Parachute deployment** to slow descent
3. **Rocket-powered hovering stage**
4. Rover lowered gently using cables onto the surface

This technique ensured a **safe and precise landing** for a heavy rover (about 900 kg), which traditional landing methods could not handle.

Latest Discovery: Organic Molecules

The recent detection of organic molecules is a major milestone.

What are Organic Molecules?

- Carbon-based compounds
- Essential for life as we know it
- Can form through biological or non-biological processes

Why It Matters

- Suggests Mars had **complex chemistry** in the past
- Supports evidence of **ancient habitable environments**
- Strengthens the case for **past microbial life possibilities**

Curiosity has also previously detected:

- Methane fluctuations
- Evidence of ancient water bodies
- Clay minerals indicating long-term water presence

Scientific Significance

The Curiosity mission has transformed our understanding of Mars:

- Confirmed that Mars once had **liquid water lakes**
- Showed that conditions could support **microbial life**
- Provided insights into **planetary evolution and climate change**

These findings are crucial not only for Mars exploration but also for understanding:

- How planets become habitable
- Whether life could exist elsewhere in the universe

Future Implications

The discovery of organic molecules strengthens ongoing and future missions like:

- NASA's Perseverance Rover (searching for biosignatures)
- Mars Sample Return missions
- Human exploration plans

Curiosity continues to operate beyond its original mission timeline, proving to be one of the most successful robotic explorers ever sent to another planet.

Conclusion

The Curiosity Rover's latest findings mark another step forward in answering one of humanity's biggest questions: **Was Mars ever home to life?**

While definitive proof is still pending, the growing body of evidence suggests that Mars was once a **dynamic, potentially life-supporting world**, making it a prime focus for future exploration.

Security Issues

The Drone Revolution in Modern Warfare



Why in the News?

In **March 2026**, defence analyses highlighted the growing impact of Iran's **Shahed-series loitering munitions** in the West Asian conflicts and the Russia-Ukraine war. These relatively cheap "kamikaze drones" have demonstrated how low-cost unmanned systems can challenge highly sophisticated and expensive air-defence networks, marking a major shift in the nature of warfare.

Experts describe this trend as the "**economics of attrition warfare**", where the ability to sustain losses cheaply is becoming as important as technological superiority.

Why Drone Warfare is a Game Changer

The rise of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), especially loitering munitions like the **Shahed-136**, reflects a transition toward **asymmetric warfare**, where weaker actors can impose significant costs on technologically superior militaries.

1. Cost Asymmetry (Cost-Exchange Ratio)

One of the biggest advantages of kamikaze drones is the extreme cost imbalance between attack and defence:

System	Estimated Cost
Shahed-136 drone	\$20,000–\$50,000
Patriot interceptor missile	Around \$3–4 million
THAAD interceptor	About \$12–15 million
Iron Dome interceptor	Around \$40,000–\$100,000
F-16 fighter operational cost	About \$25,000 per hour

This creates an **unfavourable cost-exchange ratio** for defenders. Even if air defence systems successfully intercept drones, the defender may still lose economically.

2. Swarm Warfare

Modern drone warfare relies heavily on **swarm tactics**:

- Dozens of drones launched simultaneously.
- Designed to saturate radar systems.
- Forces defenders to either expend expensive interceptors or risk damage.

This tactic was widely observed in:

- Russia-Ukraine war (2022–2026)
- West Asia conflicts
- Attacks on energy infrastructure

3. Operational Sustainability

Traditional air superiority relies on:

- Expensive fighter aircraft
- Highly trained pilots
- Complex logistics

By contrast, drones offer:

- Low maintenance costs
- Rapid mass production
- Minimal training requirements

This allows prolonged operations without exhausting resources.

4. Attrition Advantage

Drone warfare changes the traditional risk calculation:

Drone Loss	Fighter Jet Loss
Financial loss only	Strategic and financial loss
No personnel risk	Loss of trained pilot
Easily replaceable	Takes years to replace
No political backlash	Possible domestic pressure

Thus, drones favour **attrition strategies** where quantity can outweigh quality.

How the Shahed-136 “Kamikaze Drone” Works

The **Shahed-136** is a **loitering munition**, meaning it can hover in an area before striking its target.

Key Technical Features

1. Design

- Delta-wing shape
- Rear push propeller
- Launchable from trucks in racks of 5–10 drones

2. Stealth Characteristics

- Low altitude flight: about **20–60 meters**
- Small radar cross-section
- Difficult to detect on conventional radar

3. Navigation System

Uses a combination of:

- GPS guidance
- Inertial navigation systems
- Pre-programmed coordinates

The drone follows a programmed route and dives into the target.

4. Range and Payload

- Estimated range: **1,000–2,500 km** (some estimates up to 3,000 km)
- Warhead: about **30–50 kg explosives**
- Speed: roughly **150–190 km/h**

5. Operating Mechanism

Unlike conventional UAVs:

- It does not carry missiles.
- **It is itself the weapon.**
- Detonates on impact.

Because of the distinctive engine sound, Ukrainian soldiers nicknamed it the “**flying moped**” or “**lawnmower drone**.”

Strategic Advantages of Loitering Munitions

Modern militaries increasingly use loitering munitions because they combine surveillance and strike capabilities.

Major advantages include:

Precision strike capability

- Reduces collateral damage
- Suitable for infrastructure targeting

Psychological warfare

- Continuous buzzing sound creates fear
- Forces civilians into shelters

Target flexibility

- Can change target mid-flight (advanced versions)

Low logistical burden

- Truck-based launchers
- No airbase required

Modern Counter-Drone Technologies

Due to the rising drone threat, countries are investing in **layered counter-drone defence systems** focusing on cheaper interception methods.

1. Directed Energy Weapons (DEWs)

Laser Weapons

Laser systems destroy drones by heating their structure until failure.

Advantages:

- Very low cost per shot (often estimated under \$10).
- Unlimited ammunition (power dependent).
- Instant engagement speed.

Limitations:

- Weather sensitive (rain, fog, dust).
- Limited range.
- Requires stable power supply.

Examples include:

- US Navy HELIOS laser
- Israeli Iron Beam laser defence system (expected deployment phase)
- Indian DRDO laser weapon testing programs

2. Electronic Warfare (Soft Kill Methods)

These methods disable drones without destroying them:

Techniques include:

- GPS jamming
- Radio frequency disruption
- Spoofing navigation signals

Advantages:

- Cheaper than missile interception
- Reusable systems

Limitation:

- Ineffective against autonomous drones using inertial navigation.

3. Acoustic and AI Detection

New detection systems use:

- Sound signature databases
- AI pattern recognition
- Thermal imaging

These help detect small drones missed by radar.

4. Low-Cost Interceptor Drones

Countries are developing cheaper interception methods.

Examples include:

Sting (Ukraine)

- Cost: \$2,000–\$4,000
- Designed to intercept loitering munitions.

LUCAS (Low-cost Uncrewed Combat Attack System – USA)

- Estimated cost: about \$35,000
- Designed as an affordable strike and intercept UAV.

Merops anti-drone systems

- Rapid deployment systems in West Asia.

- Focus on short-range protection.

5. Kinetic Close-Range Defences

These include:

- Anti-drone guns
- Programmable air-burst ammunition
- Close-in weapon systems (CIWS)

These are cheaper than missile defence for short-range threats.

Global Trends in Drone Warfare (2024–2026)

Recent conflicts show several emerging trends:

Democratisation of air power

Even non-state actors now possess aerial strike capability.

Mass production warfare

Countries are prioritising:

- Cheap drones
- Rapid manufacturing
- Disposable systems

AI integration

Future drones may include:

- Autonomous targeting
- Swarm intelligence
- Cooperative attack behaviour

Shift from platform-centric warfare to network-centric warfare

Focus moving from expensive platforms to:

- Networks
- Sensors
- Data fusion
- Autonomous systems

Implications for India

Drone warfare has important implications for India's defence preparedness:

Security challenges

- Pakistan's drone smuggling across Punjab border.
- Chinese drone development along LAC.
- Terrorist use of commercial drones.

India's responses

India is developing:

- DRDO anti-drone systems.
- Indigenous loitering munitions like Nagastra.

- Counter-drone policies for critical infrastructure.

Policy measures

India released:

- Counter Rogue Drone Guidelines (2022)
- Drone Rules 2021 (liberalised civilian drone use)
- Expansion of domestic drone manufacturing under Make in India.

Conclusion

The success of systems like the Shahed-136 shows that **future wars may be decided not just by technological superiority but by affordability, scalability, and sustainability**. Modern conflicts increasingly favour forces that can:

- Produce weapons cheaply
- Sustain prolonged attrition
- Integrate autonomous technologies

As a result, drone warfare represents not just a technological shift but a **doctrinal transformation in military strategy**, where the **economics of warfare is becoming as decisive as firepower itself**.

Japan Deploys First Long-Range Missile



Why in the News?

Japan has deployed its first upgraded **Type-12 long-range missile** at Camp Kengun in Kumamoto Prefecture as part of efforts to strengthen its defence posture amid rising regional security concerns, particularly related to China and North Korea. The move reflects Japan's shift toward enhancing deterrence and counter-strike capabilities.

Type-12 Missile

The **Type-12 Surface-to-Ship Missile** is an indigenously developed Japanese missile system designed to enhance coastal defence and long-range strike capability.

Key Features

Feature	Details
Developer	Mitsubishi Heavy Industries
Type	Land-to-Ship / Land-Attack cruise missile
Platform	Truck-mounted mobile launcher
Earlier Range	About 200 km
Upgraded Range	Around 1,000 km
Role	Stand-off strike and coastal defence
Key Capability	Ability to target enemy bases and ships

Technological Improvements

The upgraded Type-12 missile is expected to include:

- Extended stand-off strike range
- Improved guidance systems
- Enhanced survivability through low radar visibility
- Ability to strike both maritime and land targets

This upgrade represents a major shift from Japan's traditionally defensive military posture to a more proactive deterrence strategy.

Why Japan is Expanding Military Capability

Japan has justified the move by citing a rapidly changing regional security environment.

Major Reasons

1. Rising Chinese military activity

- Increased Chinese naval presence in the East China Sea
- Disputes over the Senkaku Islands
- Growing Chinese military modernisation

2. North Korean missile tests

- Frequent ballistic missile launches by North Korea
- Development of nuclear weapons capability

- Missiles sometimes flying over Japanese territory

3. Taiwan Strait tensions

- Rising tensions involving Taiwan Strait
- Concerns about possible conflict affecting Japanese security and sea lanes

4. Regional security uncertainty

- Increasing geopolitical competition in the Indo-Pacific
- Need to strengthen deterrence and alliance coordination, especially with the United States

Strategic Significance

The deployment of the upgraded Type-12 missile marks an important change in Japan's defence policy.

Key implications:

- Strengthens Japan's **counter-strike capability**
- Enhances deterrence against potential threats
- Improves Japan's ability to defend remote islands
- Aligns with Japan's new National Security Strategy (2022 reforms)
- Reflects Japan's gradual move away from strictly defensive doctrine under Article 9 constraints

Conclusion

Japan's deployment of the upgraded Type-12 missile reflects its response to growing regional security challenges and its evolving defence doctrine. The move highlights Japan's focus on deterrence, technological modernisation, and preparedness in an increasingly uncertain Indo-Pacific security environment.

Rajya Sabha Passes CAPF Bill Amid Opposition Walkout



Why in the News?

The **Rajya Sabha** passed the Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 amid protests from Opposition parties, which staged a walkout alleging that their concerns—particularly regarding deputation of IPS officers and career prospects of CAPF personnel—were not adequately addressed.

The government has stated that the Bill aims to bring administrative uniformity and improve the functioning of Central Armed Police Forces.

What are Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)?

The Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are paramilitary forces functioning under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**, primarily responsible for internal security, border guarding, and protection of critical infrastructure.

Major CAPFs include:

- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**
India's largest CAPF, mainly responsible for internal security, counter-insurgency, and law-and-order duties.
- **Border Security Force (BSF)**
Guards India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**
Provides security to airports, PSUs, metro networks, and critical infrastructure.
- **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**
Guards the India–China border in high-altitude Himalayan regions.
- **Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**
Guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.
- **Assam Rifles**
India's oldest paramilitary force; administratively under MHA but operationally under the Indian Army. Primarily deployed in the Northeast.

Key Objectives of the CAPF Bill, 2026

The Bill seeks to introduce a unified administrative framework for all CAPFs.

Major objectives include:

- Creating an **umbrella administrative structure** for better governance
- Removing inconsistencies in **service rules**
- Improving **cadre management systems**
- Streamlining **appointments and promotions**
- Improving coordination between CAPFs and **state police forces**
- Standardising administrative procedures across forces

Government's Justification

According to the government, the Bill will:

- Strengthen national security architecture
- Improve operational efficiency
- Boost morale of CAPF personnel
- Reduce administrative delays
- Improve career management structures

Why the Government Introduced the Bill

Over the years, CAPFs evolved separately with their own administrative rules, leading to several structural issues such as:

- Different promotion policies
- Variations in deputation rules
- Lack of uniform cadre management
- Administrative overlaps
- Coordination challenges

The Bill attempts to **standardise administrative practices** to address these long-standing structural gaps.

Opposition's Concerns

Opposition parties raised concerns particularly about service autonomy and career growth of CAPF officers.

1. Deputation Issue

One of the major concerns relates to the continued deputation of Indian Police Service (IPS) officers into senior positions in CAPFs.

Opposition members argued that:

- The Bill may **institutionalise IPS dominance** in leadership roles.
- It may reduce promotion opportunities for cadre officers within CAPFs.
- It could affect morale of long-serving CAPF personnel.

2. Career Progression Concerns

Critics also argued:

- CAPF officers should get more leadership opportunities.
- Internal promotion channels should be strengthened.
- Excessive deputation could create structural imbalance.

Administrative Significance of the Bill

If implemented effectively, the Bill could bring several reforms:

Potential Benefits

- Uniform service conditions across CAPFs
- Faster decision-making processes
- Better human resource management
- Improved operational coordination
- Greater administrative clarity

Possible Challenges

- Balancing deputation and cadre promotions
- Maintaining force-specific operational needs
- Addressing morale concerns of officers
- Ensuring fair promotion avenues

Conclusion

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 represents an important attempt to reform the administrative framework of India's paramilitary forces. While the government views it as a step toward efficiency and national security strengthening, concerns remain about **career progression, deputation policies, and institutional balance**.

IN-SLN DIVEX 2026



Why in the News?

INS Nireekshak has arrived at Colombo to take part in the **4th edition of the India–Sri Lanka Diving Exercise (IN–SLN DIVEX 2026)**. The exercise reflects deepening maritime cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

About the Exercise: IN–SLN DIVEX 2026

- **Name:** IN–SLN DIVEX 2026
- **Edition:** 4th
- **Participants:**
 - Indian Navy
 - Sri Lanka Navy

Objectives of the Exercise

- Enhance **interoperability** in diving and rescue operations
- Conduct **joint underwater missions**, including salvage and repair
- Improve coordination in **submarine rescue scenarios**
- Share best practices in **deep-sea diving techniques**

About INS Nireekshak

Classification

- **Type:** Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel

Key Roles and Capabilities

- **Deep-Sea Diving Operations:**
Supports divers in complex underwater environments for inspection and repair
- **Submarine Rescue Missions:**
Equipped to assist distressed submarines and rescue trapped personnel
- **Underwater Engineering Tasks:**
 - Salvage operations
 - Repair of underwater structures
 - Search and recovery missions

Strategic Importance

- Acts as a **specialized asset** for underwater warfare support
- Strengthens India's capability in **submarine rescue preparedness**
- Vital for **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** in maritime zones

Significance of the Exercise

1. Strengthening Bilateral Maritime Ties

Regular exercises like DIVEX deepen defence cooperation between India and Sri Lanka.

2. Enhancing Regional Security

Improves readiness to respond to:

- Submarine accidents
- Maritime emergencies
- Underwater threats in the Indian Ocean Region

3. Capacity Building

- Exchange of technical expertise
- Training in advanced diving and rescue procedures

Conclusion

The participation of INS Nireekshak in **IN–SLN DIVEX 2026** highlights India's growing focus on **maritime safety, underwater capability, and regional cooperation**. Such exercises are crucial for ensuring **secure sea lanes and rapid response to underwater contingencies** in the Indian Ocean.

India–Egypt Defence Cooperation



Why in the News?

India and Egypt convened the **11th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting in Cairo in April 2026**, marking a significant step toward deepening bilateral defence and strategic cooperation. The meeting reflects the growing convergence of interests between the two countries in areas such as maritime security, defence production, and regional stability.

Key Highlights

1. Defence Cooperation Plan (2026–27)

Both nations agreed on an updated **Defence Cooperation Plan for 2026–27**, aimed at expanding the scope and depth of military engagement.

- Enhanced **joint military exercises** across services
- Increased **training programmes and defence exchanges**
- Focus on **capacity building and interoperability**
- Greater frequency of **bilateral engagements**

This reflects a shift from symbolic cooperation to more **operational and institutional collaboration**.

2. Maritime Security Cooperation

Maritime cooperation emerged as a central pillar of the dialogue, given both nations' strategic maritime interests.

- Focus on **Indian Ocean security** and safeguarding global trade routes
- Emphasis on **freedom of navigation** and adherence to international maritime norms
- Engagement with the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region for real-time maritime domain awareness
- Conduct of the **first-ever Navy-to-Navy staff talks**, marking a new institutional milestone

This cooperation is crucial amid rising geopolitical competition and increasing naval activity in the Indian Ocean Region.

3. Defence Industry Collaboration

A major thrust was placed on **defence industrial partnership**, aligning with India's push for self-reliance.

- Focus on **co-development and co-production of defence equipment**
- India's defence sector performance:
 - Production exceeding **\$20 billion**
 - Exports nearing **\$4 billion**, with growing global demand

Egypt offers a strategic market and manufacturing base, while India brings **cost-effective technology and production capability**, making the partnership mutually beneficial.

4. Air Force Cooperation

India also held discussions with the **Egyptian Air Force leadership** to expand cooperation in the air domain.

- Strengthening **air defence collaboration**
- Potential for **joint exercises and training**
- Exchange of expertise in **aviation technology and operations**

This complements existing military ties and broadens cooperation into **multi-domain defence engagement**.

5. Institutional Mechanism: Joint Defence Committee

The **Joint Defence Committee (JDC)** serves as a structured platform for sustained dialogue.

- Anchored in:
 - **2022 MoU on Defence Cooperation**
 - **2023 Strategic Partnership Agreement**
- Ensures **regular review and expansion of defence ties**
- Facilitates coordination across **military, industrial, and strategic levels**

Strategic Importance

Egypt's Geostrategic Role

Egypt occupies a critical position in global geopolitics:

- Controls the Suez Canal — one of the world's busiest maritime trade routes
- Acts as a **bridge between Europe, Asia, and Africa**
- Ensures **secure sea lanes for global commerce and energy flows**

Significance for India

- Strengthens India's presence in **West Asia and North Africa (WANA region)**
- Supports **maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean**
- Promotes **indigenous defence exports under Atmanirbhar Bharat**
- Enhances strategic partnerships beyond traditional allies

This aligns with India's broader vision of becoming a **net security provider in the Indian Ocean Region**.

Link with Broader Defence Modernisation

India's growing defence cooperation with countries like Egypt complements its internal military modernisation efforts, such as the induction of advanced naval

platforms like INS Anjadip . These developments highlight a dual strategy of **domestic capability building and international defence partnerships**.

Conclusion

The 11th India–Egypt Joint Defence Committee meeting marks a **deepening strategic alignment** between two

historically connected nations. By expanding cooperation across land, sea, air, and industry, both countries are positioning themselves as **key partners in ensuring regional stability, maritime security, and defence innovation** in an increasingly complex global security environment.

Trivia

India Faces Challenge in Meeting 2030 Maternal Mortality Target



Why in the News?

A recent study published in The Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Women's Health highlights that although India has made substantial progress in reducing the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR), the current pace of decline may not be sufficient to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of reducing MMR below 70 deaths per 1 lakh live births by 2030.

What is Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR)?

Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) refers to the number of maternal deaths during pregnancy, childbirth, or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy per **1,00,000 live births**. It is a key indicator of the quality of a country's healthcare system, particularly maternal healthcare services.

Key Findings of the Study

India's Progress in Maternal Mortality

India has achieved a major reduction in maternal deaths over the past three decades:

Year	Maternal Deaths	MMR (per lakh live births)
1990	1.19 lakh	508
2015	36,900	Around 174
2023	24,700	116

Major observations:

- Maternal deaths declined by nearly **80% since 1990**
- MMR reduced from **508 to 116**
- However, the **rate of decline has slowed** in recent years, creating challenges in achieving the SDG target.

India remains one of the countries showing the **largest absolute improvement in maternal mortality since 1990**, similar to countries such as Bangladesh, Nepal, Rwanda, Morocco and Ethiopia.

Global Scenario

The study also highlights the global maternal health situation:

- Global maternal deaths (2023): **About 2.4 lakh**
- India contributes nearly **10% of global maternal deaths**
- Out of **204 countries**:
 - **100 countries** achieved SDG target (MMR below 70)
 - **104 countries** still lag behind

Countries facing similar challenges include:

- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Ethiopia
- Nigeria
- Pakistan

This shows that maternal mortality remains a major public health challenge, especially in developing countries.

India's Current Position

India currently falls in the **MMR category of 100–140**, which is above the SDG target.

Target: Below 70

India (2023): 116

Despite this, India is recognised globally for its long-term improvement trajectory due to:

- Expansion of institutional deliveries
- Improved maternal healthcare schemes
- Expansion of primary healthcare networks
- Better monitoring through national health programmes

State-wise Disparities

Maternal mortality in India shows strong regional disparities.

States affecting national average

The major contributors to higher MMR include:

- Assam
- Uttar Pradesh

Sample Registration System (SRS) Data

Region	MMR (2015-17)	MMR (2021-23)
India	122	88
Assam	215	110
Uttar Pradesh	197	141

Key insight:

Although these states have shown improvement, their MMR remains significantly higher than the national average.

Better performing regions

Southern states such as:

- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu
- Karnataka
- Andhra Pradesh

are closer to achieving the SDG target due to:

- Strong public health systems
- Higher female literacy
- Better antenatal care coverage

- Higher institutional delivery rates

Major Causes of Maternal Mortality in India

Common medical causes include:

- Postpartum haemorrhage (severe bleeding)
- Hypertensive disorders (preeclampsia)
- Sepsis (infection)
- Unsafe abortions
- Anaemia

Structural causes include:

- Poor access to healthcare in rural areas
- Shortage of skilled birth attendants
- Malnutrition
- Early marriage and teenage pregnancy
- Socio-economic inequalities

Government Initiatives to Reduce Maternal Mortality

India has launched several programmes to address maternal mortality:

Key schemes include:

- **Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)** – Promotes institutional deliveries through cash incentives
- **Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK)** – Free maternity services
- **Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA)** – Free antenatal check-ups
- **LaQshya Programme** – Improves quality of labour rooms
- **POSHAN Abhiyaan** – Addresses maternal nutrition
- **Anaemia Mukh Bharat** – Targets anaemia reduction

These interventions have played a major role in India's progress.

Challenges Ahead

India faces several challenges in achieving the SDG target:

- Slowing rate of MMR decline
- Interstate disparities
- Rural healthcare gaps
- Quality of emergency obstetric care
- Nutrition deficiencies among women
- Need for better referral systems

Way Forward

To achieve the SDG target by 2030, India needs to focus on:

- Strengthening primary healthcare
- Improving maternal nutrition
- Increasing skilled birth attendance
- Reducing regional disparities
- Expanding emergency obstetric care
- Strengthening data monitoring systems
- Enhancing women's education and empowerment

Advancing India's Fisheries Sector



Why in News

The **Union Budget 2026–27** has allocated a record **₹2,761.80 crore** to the fisheries sector—its **highest-ever funding**—to strengthen India's **blue economy**, boost exports, and improve fisher livelihoods.

India's Fisheries Sector: A Snapshot

- India is the **2nd largest fish producer globally**
- Contribution to **Agricultural GVA**: 7.43%
- Fish production growth:
 - **2013–14**: 95.79 lakh tonnes
 - **2024–25**: 197.75 lakh tonnes
 - **Growth**: ~106% increase
- **Seafood exports**: ₹62,408 crore

This rapid expansion highlights fisheries as one of the fastest-growing sub-sectors of agriculture.

Major Government Schemes Driving Growth

1. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)

- **Launched**: 2020
- **Allocation (2026–27)**: ₹2,500 crore

Focus Areas:

- Increasing fish production and productivity

- Modern infrastructure (harbours, cold chains)
- Strengthening the **value chain** from catch to market

PMMSY is the flagship scheme for transforming India into a **global fisheries hub**.

2. PM Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah Yojana (PM-MKSSY)

- **Duration**: 2023–24 to 2026–27
- **Total Outlay**: ₹6,000 crore

Focus Areas:

- Insurance coverage for fishers
- Access to institutional credit
- Formalisation of the fisheries sector

This scheme aims to bring fishers into the **formal financial system**, reducing vulnerability.

3. Fisheries Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

- **Launched**: 2018–19
- **Projects Approved**: 225
- **Total Investment**: ₹6,685 crore
- **Employment Generated**: ~2.5 lakh jobs

Focuses on **post-harvest infrastructure**, including cold storage, processing units, and logistics.

Financial Inclusion and Welfare Measures

- **Kisan Credit Card (KCC)**:
 - 4.39 lakh fishers covered
- **Insurance Coverage**:
 - 3.3 million (33 lakh) beneficiaries
- **Livelihood Support**:
 - 7.44 lakh families supported

These measures reduce financial risks and enhance income stability for fishing communities.

Significance of the Budget Allocation

1. Boost to Blue Economy

The fisheries sector is central to India's **blue economy strategy**, promoting sustainable use of marine resources.

2. Doubling Fishers' Income

Higher investment supports:

- Better infrastructure
- Market access
- Value addition

3. Export Competitiveness

With strong export earnings, India is emerging as a **major global seafood supplier**.

4. Employment Generation

The sector supports **millions of livelihoods**, especially in coastal and rural areas.

Conclusion

The record allocation in Budget 2026–27 signals a **strategic shift towards fisheries-led growth**. With rising production, expanding exports, and targeted welfare schemes, the sector is becoming a key pillar of India's agricultural economy and rural transformation.

ADMISSIONS OPEN
JOIN TODAY



Olive Greens Institute

Olive Greens Institute
Lohia International School,
Near BSNL Exchange,
Opposite Kalagram, Manimajra,
Chandigarh 160010 India

Phone: 9779172779

e-mail: info@olivegreens.in

Website: www.olivegreens.co.in