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Current Affairs

*Content research and development work by
Springboard Academy Team*

April - 2026

**CURRENT AFFAIRS (April -2026)
PUBLISHER**

MAHECHA PUBLICATION

PLOT NO. 58, WEST WAY HEIGHTS, BHANKROTA, JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN), 302026

E-mail: thenoteshub@gmail.com , **Website:** www.thenoteshub.com

The Notes Hub

+91 7300134518, +91 7610010054



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Famous Personalities

Prominent Personalities	Why in the News / Achievements
<p>1. Mahesh Sharma: Appointment to BRICS</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Appointment of a young entrepreneur from Jaipur as the "Honorary Vice President" of the 'BRICS Entrepreneur Alliance' (BEA) India. (April 21) ◆ He has become "India's youngest entrepreneur" to be appointed to this 'international position.' ◆ Representation of Rajasthan: The "first person from Rajasthan" to lead India on this economic and innovation platform of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa).
<p>2. Dr. Jyoti Kiran Shukla</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Recently, on April 2, 2026, completed a tenure as the Director of the "Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre" (SVCC), located in São Paulo, Brazil. ◆ Contribution: Strengthened 'Soft Power Diplomacy' and 'People-to-People' relations through Yoga, Ayurveda, and Indian arts. ◆ Rajasthan State Finance Commission: Chairperson of the Fifth Commission, and the first woman to hold this position. (2015-16 to 2019-20) (Rank of Minister of State) ◆ Her most renowned book is 'Antyodaya - Rise of the Last', which was published by UNESCO in 1989.
<p>3. Shiv Ratan Agarwal 'Fanna Babu' - Bikaner</p>  <p>जन्म: 4 मई 1951 निधन: 23 अप्रैल 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Chairman of 'Bikaji Foods International Limited' passed away on April 23 at the age of 75 due to a heart attack at Apollo Hospital in Chennai. ◆ Professional Legacy: Hailing from the renowned Haldiram family, 'Fanna Babu' launched his independent brand, "Bikaji," in 1993. ◆ The Second Great Philanthropist After Maharaja Ganga Singh: In 1937, Maharaja Ganga Singh had built the "PBM (Prince Bijay Singh Memorial) Hospital" in memory of his son. ◆ Decades later, in 2010, Shivratan's family (the Haldiram Trust) established the 'Haldiram Moolchand Government Cardiovascular Sciences and Research Center' at a cost of ₹20 crore.
<p>4. Akanksha Modi (Baori Baisa)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Akanksha from Jaipur documented 189 stepwells over a period of 3.5 years. ◆ Initiative: Work based on the principle of 'with the people and for the people.' ◆ Till now, she has mapped approximately 461 stepwells. ◆ Objective: To preserve heritage, harvest rainwater, raise groundwater levels, and integrate water conservation with responsible tourism.

Famous Places

Famous Places	Why in the News / Key Facts
<p>1. Kekri City: Ajmer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Declared as “Rajasthan’s First Fully Free Wi-Fi Zone.” (April 10) ◆ Announcement by: Jhabar Singh Kharra (Minister for Local Self-Government and Urban Development) ◆ Project Cost: Approximately ₹3 Crore ◆ Internet Speed: 5 Mbps (per user) → Megabits per second ◆ Capacity: Capable of connecting over 5,000 users simultaneously. ◆ Maintenance: To be handled by the concerned company for the initial 3 years following the launch.
<p>2. Sundara Village: Sheo, Barmer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Historic Achievement: “For the first time since Independence (1947),” ‘Tap Water’ was delivered to every household (via the 728-kilometer “Narmada Canal Project”). ◆ Sundra is considered the ‘last village’ situated along the country’s western frontier (India-Pakistan border). ◆ Sundra village was established in the year 1734. For nearly 292 years, its residents yearned for fresh water. ◆ Water Campaign: ‘Har Ghar Jal’ – under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM).
<p>3. Gular Dam: Jaipur</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Situated on the ‘Dravyavati River’ in the Sanganer region of Jaipur, the Gular Dam is set to transform its traditional identity to become a modern ‘Tourist Hotspot’ (Tourism Hub). ◆ ‘Renovation and Beautification’ by the State Government: ₹25 Crore (Budget Announcement). ◆ Key Works: Construction of ghats, creation of attractive gardens, landscaping, and construction of walking tracks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Water Distribution Network (Feeder System): Two canals originate from here, connecting – ❖ → Chandlai Dam (14.23 km) → Nevta Dam (9 km).
<p>4. Shri Nausar (9-Faced) Mata Temple: Pushkar, Ajmer</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A temple approximately 1,200 to 1,300 years old, situated amidst the valley on the Ajmer-Pushkar route. ◆ Cultural Event: Recently, the Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Vasudev Devnani, participated in the "Shri Rajrajeshwari Mahalakshmi Yagna" held at this site. ◆ The Nine-Faced Form: The Goddess manifested herself bearing "nine faces (9 heads)" within a single body to protect the Yagna (sacrificial ritual). For this reason, she came to be known as 'Nausar Mata'. ◆ Clay Idol: The idol housed within the temple's sanctum sanctorum is not made of stone, but rather of clay—a form that remains remarkably preserved even after centuries.
<p>5. District: Banswara</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The first district in Rajasthan where a ‘Village Water Volunteer’ has been appointed in every village. ◆ Coverage: The appointment of ‘one water volunteer each’ across all 1,495 villages of the district. ◆ These volunteers are residents of the respective villages and will render their services entirely free of cost (without any honorarium). While prioritizing experience, preference has been given to retired individuals for these roles. ◆ Training: The Department of water resource is currently imparting technical and management-related training to all volunteers at the block level. ◆ This innovative initiative is set to prove a milestone in achieving SDG-6 (Clean Water and Sanitation) and in ensuring water security for ‘Viksit Rajasthan @2047’.

**6. Tala (Kunda ki Dhani)
Dekla Village, Jaipur**



- ◆ Rajasthan's Largest 'KUSUM' Solar Power Plant: Jaipur
- ◆ On April 28, 2026, under the Pradhan Mantri KUSUM Yojana (PM-KUSUM), Rajasthan's 'largest solar power plant till date' was established in Kunda ki Dhani, Jaipur.
- ◆ Key Features of the Plant:
 - ❖ Location: Situated in the village of Dekla—connected to the 33 kV substation at Tala—within the Kunda ki Dhani sub-division of the Jaipur District Electricity Circle (North).
 - ❖ **Capacity:** Approximately 4.9 Megawatts (MW).
 - ❖ Land Usage: The plant spans an area of approximately 24 bighas* of land.
 - ❖ **Production:** Estimated average daily electricity generation of 25,000 units.
 - ❖ Agricultural Empowerment: This plant will enable the supply of uninterrupted daytime electricity for farming activities to 437 agricultural consumers in the region.
 - ❖ **New Record:** Previously, Rajasthan's largest KUSUM plant (4.84 MW) was located within the **Ajmer DISCOM area**; this record has now been surpassed by this new plant.
 - ❖ **Rajasthan's Progress:** till now, a total of **1,819 plants** with a combined capacity of **4,027 MW** have been established in Rajasthan under Component-A and Component-C of the scheme.

Schemes/ Programme/ Campaign

□ **Rajasthan Highway Modernization Project -**

- ◆ The World Bank's approval of funds (US\$ 225 million, approximately ₹2,135 Cr.) for the "Modernization of Rajasthan's Highways" is set to prove a historic step in the development of Rajasthan's infrastructure.
- ◆ **Objective:** Upgradation and maintenance of **14 highways** spanning **800-926 kilometers**.
- ◆ **Technology:** Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and a Safe System Approach.
- ◆ **Model:** 5 projects under the EPC mode and 9 projects under the HAM mode.
- ◆ **Key Objectives:** To boost highway connectivity for industrial competitiveness corridors, as well as for the tourism and agricultural sectors.
- ◆ **Beneficiaries:** Over 3 million people will benefit from improved connectivity.
- ◆ **Institutional Reforms:** To transform the Rajasthan State Highway Authority (RSHA) into a modern and service-oriented institution.
 - ❖ **Formation of RSHA:** Constituted **on June 2, 2015**, under **Section 44 of the 'Rajasthan State Highway Act, 2014'** for the development, management, and maintenance of state highways; its headquarters is located in Jaipur.
- ◆ **A First in India:** Introduction of a '**Step-up Loan**' (a loan structure wherein the repayment amount increases at fixed intervals over time).
- ◆ **Loan Terms:** This loan, secured from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), carries a maturity period of **35 years**, which includes a grace **period of 5 years**.
- ◆ **Economic Impact:** According to Paul Procee, Acting Director at the World Bank, this enhanced connectivity will unlock new opportunities for economic activity and employment for the youth.

World Bank Approves \$225 Million for Rajasthan Highway Modernisation



❑ **37th International Training Programme:**

- ◆ According to Rajasthan Legislative Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani: On April 18, 2026, 43 participants from 17 countries across the world visited and received training at the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly. ("**School of Democracy**")
- ◆ **Key Participating Countries:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Zambia, among others.
- ◆ **Subject:** International Legislative Drafting
- ◆ **Organizer:** The Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.
- ◆ **Administration:** This programme is conducted under the 'Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation' (ITEC) scheme of the **Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.**

❑ **Viksit Rajasthan @ 2047: Governance Transformed and the Roadmap for the Future**

- ◆ Mr. Srinivas, Chief Secretary to the Government of Rajasthan, while speaking in Jaipur on the theme "**Viksit Rajasthan @ 2047: Governance Transformed,**" outlined Rajasthan's path to development: Inclusivity, Equity, stability and Good Governance.
- ◆ **Targets:** Set objectives to propel Rajasthan's economy to new heights of growth:
 - \$350 billion by the year 2029
 - \$800 billion by the year 2035
 - \$1.6 trillion by the year 2040
 - \$4.3 trillion by the year 2047
- ◆ Amrit Kaal (2022-2047): A transformative phase dedicated to the rejuvenation of the state.
- ◆ **Raj-UNNATI:** Launched in January 2026, this platform is modeled after the Central Government's "**PRAGATI** (Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation)" framework. Rajasthan has become '**India's first state**' to operationalize the "**Raj-UNNATI**" system.
 - **Raj-UNNATI:** Rajasthan-Unified Network for Nurturing Accelerated Transformation and Inclusive Implementation

Major Pillar GYAN: 4 Pillars:-
Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Narishakti

Census 2027: The vision of Digital India is becoming a reality, with citizens able to self-enumerate starting May 1st.

An accurate census is a crucial foundation for development plans.

- An accurate census is an important basis for development planning.
- The data collected during the census is used to determine and implement various **public welfare schemes** of the central and state governments.
- Only reliable data provides the government with information about the condition of individuals and families in villages and cities, the availability and need for electricity, water, roads, toilets, schools, hospitals, domestic gas connections, etc.
- In this context, all citizens should actively contribute to making Census 2027 a success.

Self-enumeration facility available through the portal


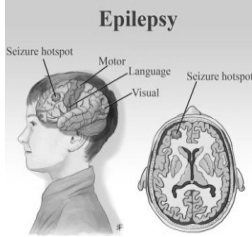
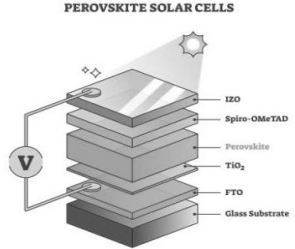
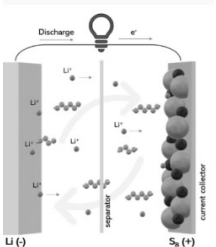
- Advancing the vision of Digital India, citizens will also be provided with the facility to self-enumerate between **May 1st and May 15th**.
- Every citizen should take advantage of this facility and participate in this national responsibility by entering their information through the **se.census.gov.in portal.**

Awards

Major Award Winners	Details and Information												
<p>1. Avdhesh Akodia (Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan)</p> <p>1. Award: 'Danish Siddiqui Memorial Journalism Award: 2026'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Established in memory of the late photojournalist and Pulitzer Prize winner (2018, 2022) Danish Siddiqui, this award is conferred upon journalists who report with courage, integrity, and in the public interest. ◆ Date & Venue: April 5; India International Centre, New Delhi ◆ Conferred: Former Supreme Court Judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur ◆ Undercover Operation: He exposed the rampant corruption prevailing within the 'MLA Local Area Development' (MLA-LAD) fund in Rajasthan. <p>2. 'Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Award: 2026'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Category: Best Reporting (Hindi) ◆ Conferred: Vice President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan 													
<p>2. 'Rajasthan Shiromani Samman - 2026'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Venue: Maheshwari Public School – Jawahar Nagar, Jaipur (April 5) ◆ Chief Guest: Ms. Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan ◆ Organizer: Prof. Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi Vichar Manch (On the occasion of the 11th death anniversary of the late Minister, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi) • Awards: 12 prominent personalities who have performed outstanding work in various fields were honored. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Anila Kothari - Jaipur (Lifetime Achievement)</td> <td style="width: 50%;">7. Manish Sharma (Media - Jaipur)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Pt. Ramkishan - Bharatpur (Lifetime Achievement)</td> <td>8. Ustad Anwar Khan (Arts - Jaisalmer)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Dr. Lalit K. Panwar (Administrative Service - Balotra)</td> <td>9. Bharat Singh Rajpurohit (Gau Sewa - Pali)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Avani Lekhara (Sports - Para-Shooting - Jaipur)</td> <td>10. Poonam Kulariya (Social Service - Bikaner)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Pt. Rajkumar Sharma (Spirituality - Tonk)</td> <td>11. Pradeep Kumawat (Education - Udaipur)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Dr. Vijay Sardana (Medicine - Kota)</td> <td>12. Kamlesh Sharma (Business - Karauli)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1. Anila Kothari - Jaipur (Lifetime Achievement)	7. Manish Sharma (Media - Jaipur)	2. Pt. Ramkishan - Bharatpur (Lifetime Achievement)	8. Ustad Anwar Khan (Arts - Jaisalmer)	3. Dr. Lalit K. Panwar (Administrative Service - Balotra)	9. Bharat Singh Rajpurohit (Gau Sewa - Pali)	4. Avani Lekhara (Sports - Para-Shooting - Jaipur)	10. Poonam Kulariya (Social Service - Bikaner)	5. Pt. Rajkumar Sharma (Spirituality - Tonk)	11. Pradeep Kumawat (Education - Udaipur)	6. Dr. Vijay Sardana (Medicine - Kota)	12. Kamlesh Sharma (Business - Karauli)
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<p>3. Dr. Ruchika Ojha - Jodhpur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Honors: Conferred the prestigious 'Vice-Chancellor's Award for Research Impact' in Melbourne, Australia, for outstanding contributions to the field of cancer research. ◆ PhD: Completed her PhD at Monash University, Melbourne. ◆ Primary Research Focus: 'Platinum-metal-based cancer treatment.' ◆ Current Position: Serving as a 'Vice-Chancellor's Research Fellow' at RMIT (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) University. 												
<p>4. Dinesh Singh, Inspector, Regional Transport Office (RTO), Jaipur II</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Award: 'National Road Safety Excellence Award - 2026' ◆ Organizer: All India Federation of Motor Vehicles Department Technical Executive Officers Association. ◆ Honour for innovation and outstanding service in the field of road safety. ◆ Venue: April 10, Hotel Ramada, Bengaluru (Karnataka) ◆ Chief Guest: Presented by Ramalinga Reddy, Transport Minister of Karnataka. ◆ Road Safety: The Road Safety Vision 2030 is 'Zero Fatality,' which aims to bring the number of deaths caused by road accidents down to zero by the year 2030. 												

Science & Technology

Science and Technology	Key Details/Information
<p>1. Single-Row Deep Groove Ball Bearing -</p>  <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Deep Groove single Row Ball Bearing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jaipur Branch Office, has granted the “First All-India Level License” for “Single Row Deep Groove Ball Bearings” under the ‘Indian Standard IS 6455: 2025’. ◆ Licensee → National Engineering Industries Ltd. (NEIL), Jaipur ◆ Technical Testing: Dimensions and Designation, Raw Material Quality, Tolerances and Geometrical Characteristics, Radial Internal Clearance, Surface Finish. ◆ “Single Row Deep Groove Ball Bearing” → A mechanical device; “It is the world's most popular bearing, featuring a single row of steel balls that rotate within a deep, groove-like raceway to reduce friction in machinery and enable it to operate smoothly at high speeds.”
<p>2. IIT Jodhpur Develops Next-Generation “Bio-Bricks and Agro-Plastic Blocks”</p> <p>□ Circular Economy: Based on the principle of ‘Waste-to-Wealth’.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Jodhpur: Has developed a patented technology aimed at “Converting agricultural residues and plastic waste into high-quality construction materials.” This initiative marks a significant step toward circular and climate-friendly infrastructure. ◆ India’s first fully developed bio-brick structural model has been created, alongside the construction of a bio-brick-based housing unit at IIT Jodhpur. ◆ Leadership: This research was led by Dr. Priyabrata Rautray, Assistant Professor at the “School of Design.” ◆ Innovation 1 → Bio-Bricks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Raw Materials: Paddy straw, wheat husk, and sugarcane bagasse. ❖ Technique: A low-energy, lime-based process. ❖ Key Feature: These are carbon-negative—means they absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. They do not require firing in a kiln. (Environmentally friendly) ◆ Innovation 2 → Agro-Plastic Blocks (APBs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Raw Materials: Mixed plastic waste and agricultural residues. ❖ Technique: A thermal fusion and compression process. ❖ Key Feature: These blocks provide superior thermal and acoustic insulation.
<p>3. “Technology with Humanity” International Conference: Udaipur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Organizer: Pacific University, Udaipur (Department of Commerce and Management) ◆ Key Theme: 'Redefining Business Paradigms through Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG), AI, Sustainability, and Inclusivity' ◆ Chief Guest: Vasudev Devnani (Speaker, Rajasthan Legislative Assembly) ◆ ESG: (Standards for sustainable investment in the corporate sector) ◆ AI Sustainability and Inclusivity: (The application of Artificial Intelligence in a manner that does not harm the environment or future resources)

<p>4. Hypothalamic Hamartoma: Successful Treatment - AIIMS Jodhpur</p>   <p>Epilepsy</p> <p>Seizure hotspot, Motor, Language, Visual, Seizure hotspot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ With the successful treatment of the rare and complex condition known as 'Laughing Epilepsy,' the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Jodhpur, has become "the first in Rajasthan and the second in the country" (the first being AIIMS Delhi) to offer this specialized facility. ◆ Condition: Hypothalamic Hamartoma (Laughing Epilepsy / Gelastic Seizures) ◆ Surgical Technique ⇒ "Minimally Invasive Stereotactic Radiofrequency Ablation" ◆ Benefit: Free treatment provided under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. ◆ Surgery Led By: Dr. Mohit Agarwal (Neurosurgeon) ◆ What is 'Laughing Epilepsy' (Gelastic Seizures)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ A rare form of epilepsy wherein the patient experiences sudden and uncontrollable bouts of laughter. ❖ Cause: These uncontrollable episodes of laughter are triggered by a Hypothalamic Hamartoma (a type of tumor-like tissue) located deep within the brain. ❖ Impact: Controlling this condition through medication alone is nearly impossible. Children treated at AIIMS Jodhpur for this condition were experiencing as many as 10 to 20 seizures per day. ❖ Technique: Using a "Computer-Guided Stereotactic Frame," the abnormal tissue was destroyed through a tiny incision measuring just one inch, thereby eliminating the need for open-brain surgery.
<p>5. IIT Jodhpur Develops Next-Generation 'Photo-Batteries'</p>  <p>PEROVSKITE SOLAR CELLS</p> <p>IZO, Spiro-OMeTAD, Perovskite, TiO₂, FTO, Glass Substrate</p>  <p>Lithium-sulfur battery</p> <p>Discharge, Li⁺, S₈ (+), separator, current collector, U (-)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Under the leadership of Dr. Shahab Ahmad, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics at IIT Jodhpur, the 'Advanced Energy Materials Lab' has achieved a technological breakthrough in the field of solar energy harvesting and storage. 1. Photo-batteries: An Integrated Solution - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Currently, solar panels and batteries are utilized as separate devices for solar energy applications. A photo-battery is a compact device capable of simultaneously harvesting solar energy and storing it in the form of electrochemical energy. ▪ Benefits: This technology significantly reduces device'S complexity, cost and weight. 2. Metal halide perovskites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research Focus: Centered on 'solution-processable semiconductors.' ▪ Quasi-dimensional Perovskites:** The team has developed materials that not only possess high light absorption capabilities but are also more stable and efficient compared to current 'bulk-phase perovskites.' ▪ Applications: Used in the fabrication of low-cost solar cells, LEDs, photodetectors, and weight. 3. Next-Generation Battery Systems: In addition to 'Lithium-ion batteries,' the laboratory is also working on other advanced alternatives – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lithium-Sulfur (Li-S) Batteries: By utilizing carbon nanotube-based microstructures, the issue of the "Shuttle Effect" has been resolved, thereby enhancing the battery's lifespan and efficiency. ▪ Shuttle Effect: A process within Li-S batteries wherein polysulfides migrate uncontrollably between the electrodes, leading to a reduction in the battery's capacity and lifespan. The new technology claims to prevent this phenomenon, making the battery up to 10 times more powerful. 4. Future Practical Applications: Space and drone technology, wearable electronics, and off-grid IoT devices – particularly for sensors deployed in remote areas lacking access to electricity.

<p>6. 'State's First Hydrogen Gas and Antimatter Energy Lab' - University of Rajasthan: Jaipur</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Objective: To develop a world-class laboratory in Jaipur for research on 'Hydrogen Gas and Antimatter Energy'. ◆ Cost: The State Government has proposed a budget of ₹10 crore. ◆ Location: It will be established at the Entrepreneurship and Career Hub (ECH) Center within the University of Rajasthan. ◆ Technology. Utilizing "Made in India" "prototype machines," this technology separates hydrogen molecules from oxygen by breaking down the elements of water—a process that also entails lower electricity consumption.
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Rajasthan is on third position in country in rooftop solar energy (till 21st April 2026)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The inclination of electricity consumers towards solar energy in the state is increasing rapidly. <input type="checkbox"/> Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma and the guidance of State Energy Minister Shri Heeralal Nagar, the state government is encouraging the use of solar energy. <input type="checkbox"/> So far, a total of 2,45,317 rooftop solar plants have been installed in the domestic, non domestic, and industrial categories in the state. <input type="checkbox"/> Due to this, the electricity consumption bills of 1,43,965 consumers have become zero. <input type="checkbox"/> By installing rooftop solar plants, electricity consumers are becoming energy self-reliant and contributing to the country's energy security. <input type="checkbox"/> Rajasthan ranks third in the country in terms of total rooftop solar plant installations. <input type="checkbox"/> Its total installed capacity is 2,090 megawatts. <input type="checkbox"/> Gujarat ranks first with a capacity of 6,882 megawatts, while Maharashtra ranks second with a capacity of 5,442 megawatts. <input type="checkbox"/> Around 32,000 consumers in the state have installed rooftop solar plants with a capacity of 10 kilowatts or more. 	<div style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="margin: 0;">1.77 Lakh units installed under PM Surya Ghar Yojana</h3> </div> <p>Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, rooftop solar plants with a total capacity of 686 megawatts have been installed in the state so far, covering 1,77,468 consumers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On average, 675 to 700 new consumers are joining solar energy every day. <input type="checkbox"/> In the month of March alone, a total of 20,343 rooftop solar plants were installed. <input type="checkbox"/> This is the second-highest number of rooftop solar plant installations recorded in any single month. <input type="checkbox"/> On 23rd March alone, 910 solar energy systems were installed in a single day. <input type="checkbox"/> This is the highest number of solar installations recorded in any single day. <input type="checkbox"/> Before this, 20,853 rooftop solar plants were installed in January and 16,957 in February this year. <input type="checkbox"/> Under the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, Rajasthan ranks fifth in the country after Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, and Kerala.
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Key Agreements of the Government of Rajasthan: April 2026

Mou Project	Objective/Information
<p>1. Research and Technological Innovation – Strategic Partnership: ‘Indigenous Defence Modernization’</p>  <p>दक्षिण पश्चिमी कमान का प्रतीक चिन्ह</p> <p>सक्रिय 15 अप्रैल 2005 - वर्तमान देश भारत शाखा भारतीय सेना</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Between Whom: Sapta Shakti Command, Jaipur + Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani (Jhunjhunu) ◆ Agreement: April 20 – Venue: Sapta Shakti Command Headquarters, Jaipur ◆ Signatories: Lieutenant General Manjinder Singh (Army Commander) and Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao (Group Vice-Chancellor, BITS) ◆ Objective: To integrate academic expertise in alignment with emerging military operational requirements and to foster an “innovation-driven ecosystem to address the complex challenges of the modern battlefield.” ◆ 'Battlefield Experience' (Operational Experience) and 'Engineering Excellence'(Academic Expertise) ⇒ (Rajasthan: “Defense-Tech Hub”) ◆ Awareness Session on “Organ and Tissue Donation”** organized in collaboration with the ‘MOHAN Foundation Jaipur Citizen Forum’ ⇒ (April 20 – Sapta Shakti Command, Jaipur) ◆ Sapta Shakti Command: Headquarters: Jaipur (South Western Command) - • Establishment: April 15, 2005 (22nd Raising Day celebrated) • The seventh and youngest Command of the Indian Army. • Motto: ‘Sarvada Vijayee Bhava’ (Always Victorious) • The Seven Virtues of Warfare: This name (Sapta-Shakti) also represents the seven key virtues of martial arts and the art of warfare—Courage, Discipline, Agility, Vigilance, Resilience, Tenacity, and Victory.
<p>2. ‘Digital Girls Hub (DGH) Model’ –</p>  <p>भारत</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Between Whom: Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) + UNICEF India ◆ Objective: To digitally empower young women in the state. ◆ (Digital Girls Hub (DGH) Model: Age Group 18–29 years)** ◆ Document: Signing of a 'Letter of Intent' (LoI). ◆ Venue: Concluded at the Jaipur office in the presence of RSLDC Managing Director, Rishabh Mandal. ◆ Numerical Target: Aim to train approximately 2,000 young women. ◆ Nature of Training: Short-term digital skills training. ◆ Program Alignment: SDG-5 (Gender Equality) and SDG-8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).
<p>3. Rajasthan Petro Zone (RPZ): Marudhara’s New ‘Global Manufacturing Hub’</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Between Whom: 18 significant tripartite agreements were concluded between the HPCL Rajasthan Refinery (HRRL)—located in Pachpadra (Balotra)—the Rajasthan Petro Zone, and various industries. ◆ Objective: Petrochemical products and downstream industries—utilizing raw materials (by-products) derived from the refinery—will transform Rajasthan into a manufacturing hub. ◆ Included Areas (Villages): The land allocated in favor of RIICO comprises the areas of Ramnagar (Thob), Sindhiyon Ki Dhani, Vedaralai, Borawas Extension, and Khemababa Nagar; manufacturing activities here will primarily focus on products within the plastics, pharmaceuticals, and automobile sectors. ◆ Key Raw Materials: Polypropylene, Polyethylene, Benzene, Toluene, Butadiene. ◆ Plastic Products: Furniture, agricultural pipes, packaging films. ◆ Automobile: Car dashboards and bumpers. ◆ Others: Synthetic fibers, medical syringes, paints, and chemicals such as detergents.

Famous Festivals/Celebrations/Conferences/Fairs

Famous Festivals/ Conferences/Fairs	Key Details/Information																
<p>1. 6th General K. Sundarji Memorial Lecture</p>  <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> 13th Chief of the Army Staff In office 1 February 1986 – 31 May 1988 President Zail Singh R. Venkataraman Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Preceded by Arun Shridhar Vaidya Succeeded by Vishwa Nath Sharma </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Venue: Sapta Shakti Auditorium, Jaipur Military Station (April 2) ◆ Organizers: Mechanised Infantry Centre and School (MIC&S), in collaboration with the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). ◆ Key Theme → "Challenges to Achieving Strategic Autonomy in a Rapidly Fragmenting Global Order" ◆ Objective: To strengthen India's 'Strategic Autonomy' amidst current geopolitical instability and great-power competition; and to facilitate the exchange of expert views on technology, cyber warfare, military indigenization, and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific region. ◆ Training Centre: A state-of-the-art 'Urban Warfare Training Centre' is being established by MIC&S at Ahilyanagar (Ahmednagar), Maharashtra. ◆ The Thinking General': He served as the 13th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army (1986–1988) and is regarded as the 'Father of the Mechanised Infantry' Regiment. 																
<p>2. 26th National Cooperative Spices Fair: 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Held annually since the year 1999. ➤ Motto: 'Prosperity through Cooperation' ➤ Nodal Agency → Rajasthan State Cooperative Consumers' Federation CONFED) ➤ Village Service Cooperative Society: 1st Place: Palsana, Sikar 2nd Place: Nimod, Didwana-Kuchaman ➤ Innovation Category: Sundra Village Service Cooperative Society (Barmer District) awarded. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Venue: Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK), Jaipur (April 17–26) ◆ Main Theme: "Taste, Purity, and Cooperation" ◆ Objective: To make pure, high-quality, and unadulterated spices available to the general public under a single roof. ◆ Current Minister of Cooperation (Rajasthan): Gautam Kumar Dak ◆ The fair witnessed a record-breaking sale of spices and other products exceeding ₹5.50 crore—the highest sales figure recorded to date, surpassing last year's total by approximately ₹1.25 crore. ◆ For the first time, a record number of 160 stalls were set up at the fair. <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <thead> <tr style="background-color: #f4a460;"> <th style="padding: 5px;">Award Category</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">First</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">Second</th> <th style="padding: 5px;">III</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Top-Selling Organizations</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">CONFED</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Tilam Sangh</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">RCDF (Jaipur Dairy)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">District Consumer Stores</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Kota</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Udaipur</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Baran</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Purchase and Sale Cooperative Societies</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Mathania</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Bilara</td> <td style="padding: 5px;">Nagaur</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Award Category	First	Second	III	Top-Selling Organizations	CONFED	Tilam Sangh	RCDF (Jaipur Dairy)	District Consumer Stores	Kota	Udaipur	Baran	Purchase and Sale Cooperative Societies	Mathania	Bilara	Nagaur
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राज्य सरकार ने हाल ही में किस जिले के स्टेडियम का नाम बदलकर 'सगत सिंह राठौड़ स्टेडियम' कर दिया है?

- (A) चूरू ✓
- (B) बीकानेर
- (C) डीडवाना-कुचामन
- (D) जोधपुर

राज्य सरकार द्वारा दलहन उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए किन दो जिलों को 'मॉडल जिले' के रूप में विकसित किया जा रहा है?


- (A) कोटा और बारां
- (B) जयपुर और दौसा
- (C) श्रीगंगानगर और हनुमानगढ़
- (D) टोंक और झालावाड़ ✓

<p>3. Rajasthan Shamlat Convention: 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective: Conservation and optimal utilization of shared resources (pastures, water sources, forests, wetlands, etc.). ➤ Shamlat Resources: Emphasizing the effective management of shared resources—such as pastures, water sources, forests, and wetlands—by establishing them as the foundation of rural livelihoods. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event: April 15 – Indira Gandhi Panchayati Raj Institute, Jaipur ◆ Inaugurator: Madan Dilawar (Minister of Panchayati Raj, Rajasthan) ◆ Theme: "Shaping our Prosperity with Commons Resources" ◆ Book Released: "Shamlat Ki Gatha" (A collection of stories by grassroots writers) ◆ Key Announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 'Gau Mata' (Cow) Shelters: 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Pasture Development-based Gau Mata Shelters' will be established in one Gram Panchayat within each of the state's 457 Panchayat Samitis. ❖ Expansion of Seed Banks: Currently, 150 seed banks are established in the state; this number is to be increased to 300 to facilitate the conservation of seeds of local grasses, fodder crops, and endangered plant species. ❖ 'Beej Guni': Individuals designated as 'Beej Guni' have been selected to oversee the operations of the seed banks.
<p>4. "Project Caracal"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 'Asian Caracal' ➤ Global IUCN Red List: (Least Concern) ➤ Wildlife Protection Act (India), 1972: Schedule-I ➤ CITES: The Asian population is listed in Appendix-I, entailing a complete ban on international trade. ➤ Species Recovery Programme: The Government of India included it in the list of 22 critically endangered species in 2021. <p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ये अधिकतर मिडिल ईस्ट, अफ्रीका, सेंट्रल एशिया के जंगलों में अधिक पाई जाती है। ● भारत में करीब 50 के आसपास केरेकल केट ही बची है। ● यह जंगल में रहने वाले तेंदुआ एवं छोटी जंगली बिल्ली के बीच का वन्यजीव है। ● यह दिखने में बहुत ही खूबसूरत व फुर्तीला होता है। </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ State-level Workshop on the theme: "Caracal Conservation in Rajasthan" – ◆ "Project Caracal" – Launch Date: April 15, 2026 ◆ Venue: Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Sawai Madhopur ◆ Organized by: Rajasthan Forest Department ◆ Collaborating Institutions: Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun, Uttarakhand); SACON (Sálim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu); and the Tiger Watch organization. ◆ Project Expert Team – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Principal Investigator: Dr. Shomita Mukherjee ❖ Co-Principal Investigators: Dr. Ayyan Sadhu and Dr. Dharmendra Khandal ◆ Formulated for the conservation of the Siyahgosh (Caracal) in Rajasthan. This is the country's first "National Masterplan" (India's first national roadmap) dedicated to this species. ◆ Mapping and Data: SACON will undertake the mapping of their habitats across the country. ◆ Radio Collaring: To detect and monitor their presence in border areas. ◆ Rajasthan has been divided into two major conservation zones: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Thar Desert (Barmer, Jaisalmer, Rann of Kutch) 2. The Ranthambore, Dholpur, Karauli, and Mukundra Hills region ◆ The Asiatic Caracal: A rare and elusive "wild cat" species; the workshop emphasized the critical need for its conservation. Its population has declined due to habitat degradation, fragmentation, and a reduction in prey species, thereby necessitating coordinated efforts for its protection.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Question 1: Comment on the geographical significance and current status of 'Project Caracal' in Rajasthan. ❑ Question 2: "Project Caracal is a milestone for Rajasthan's biodiversity and ecological balance." Analyze this statement within the geographical context of Rajasthan. (RAS Mains – Rajasthan Geography) 	

<p>5. 77th Rajasthan Police Foundation Day Celebration - सेवार्थ कटिबद्धता Committed To Serve</p> <p>➤ Three citizens honored for setting a unique example in the field of social service ➡</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prakash Prajapati (Sirohi) ○ Surjit Kashyap (Jhalawar) ○ Smt. Sindhu Binujit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Udaipur: Divisional-level Child Protection Advisor ▪ Campaign against Child Labor: Prevented child labor and the migration of children in the B.T. Cotton regions of Dungarpur in 2010. ▪ Innovations: 'Child-Friendly Police Station' and 'Safe School' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event: April 16, 2026 – Rajasthan Police Academy (RPA), Jaipur ◆ Chief Guest: Bhajanlal Sharma (Chief Minister, Rajasthan) ◆ Police Chief (DGP): Rajiv Kumar Sharma (27th DGP – Assumed charge on July 3, 2025) ◆ Honors and Medals (“Chief Minister’s Medal for Outstanding Service”) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Biju George Joseph (ADG) and Bipin Kumar Pandey (ADG) ❖ Anil Kumar (Inspector), Sitaram Bhakal, Girdhari Lal Sharma (Sub-Inspectors), Govindram (Assistant Sub-Inspector) ◆ Key Announcements by the Chief Minister: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ “For the development of police training capacity”: Construction of 5 barracks—each with a capacity of 100 personnel—at each of the training institutions. ❖ An additional allocation of ₹5 crore to the Sports, Welfare, and Festival Funds. ❖ “Launch of a new portal and mobile app” for retired police personnel. ❖ Official Statistics on Crime Reduction (Over the last 2 years): Due to the ‘Zero Tolerance’ policy, there has been an overall reduction of 18.77% in crimes across the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dacoity: 47.26%, Robbery: 50.75% ✓ Murder: 25.68%, Crimes against Women: 10% <div style="border: 1px dashed gray; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li style="width: 50%;">● 16 अप्रैल 1949 : राजस्थान पुलिस की नींव <li style="width: 50%;">● जनवरी 1951 : राजस्थान पुलिस सेवा का गठन <li style="width: 50%;">● 30 मार्च 1954 : पुलिस ध्वज से सम्मानित <li style="width: 50%;">● श्री आर. बनर्जी बने थे पहले पुलिस मुखिया </div>
<p>6. 135th Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations - April 14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State-Level Program: Bhawani Niketan Campus (Sikar Road), Jaipur ▪ Government of India: The Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, organized the 135th birth anniversary of Babasaheb on April 14 at "Prerna Sthal," located within the Parliament House Complex in New Delhi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event organized at the Central University of Rajasthan (Bandarsindri: Kishangarh, Ajmer) on the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary – ◆ Chief Guest: Dr. Prem Chand Bairwa (Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Rajasthan) ◆ Special Award ➡ The inaugural ‘Dr. Babasaheb Samaj Ratna Award’ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ The University instituted this award starting this very year. ❖ Recipient: Smt. Sanjaya Regar ❖ Award Components: A cheque of ₹51,000, a shawl, and a memento. ❖ Objective: To recognize contributions towards the upliftment of SC/ST and marginalized communities. ◆ NOTE: Swami Brahmadev Ji Maharaj—a social worker from Sri Ganganagar and a recipient of the Padma Shri (2026)—was conferred the “Jeevan Sadhana Gaurav Award” by the Central University of Rajasthan on April 16. <p style="text-align: center;">राजस्थान केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय Central University of Rajasthan <small>(संसद के अधिनियम क्रमांक 25 वर्ष 2009 द्वारा स्थापित) (Established under the Central Universities Act, 2009)</small></p>

राज-ममता कार्यक्रम के तहत 'सेंटर ऑफ एक्सिलेंस इन मेंटल हेल्थ' की स्थापना राजस्थान के किस शहर में की जा रही है?
(A) जोधपुर
(B) कोटा
(C) उदयपुर
(D) जयपुर ✓

सहकारिता आन्दोलन का मूल मंत्र या ध्येय वाक्य क्या है?
(A) सेवा ही धर्म है
(B) एक सबके लिए, सब एक के लिए ✓
(C) सहकार से समृद्धि
(D) जय सहकार, जय किसान

<p>7. Raj-MAMTA</p> <p>जयपुर में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस और जिला स्तर पर सुदृढीकरण</p> <p>इस नवाचार के तहत जयपुर में सेंटर ऑफ एक्सीलेंस इन मेंटल हेल्थ की स्थापना की जा रही है।</p> <p>□ यहां अत्याधुनिक काउंसलिंग और टेली-मेडिसिन जैसी सुविधाएं उपलब्ध होंगी।</p> <p>□ इससे दूर-दराज के क्षेत्रों के लोगों को भी विशेषज्ञों की सलाह मिल सकेगी।</p> <p>□ साथ ही, प्रदेश के प्रत्येक जिला मुख्यालय पर मेंटल हेल्थ केयर सेल स्थापित किए जाएंगे, ताकि नागरिकों को अपने ही जिले में विशेषज्ञ परामर्श, पुनर्वास और उपचार सुलभ हो सके।</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Full Name: Rajasthan – Mental Awareness, Monitoring and Treatment for All ◆ Announcement: Made in the Budget 2026-27 under the 'Viksit Rajasthan @ 2047' initiative. ◆ Effective implementation launched on the occasion of 'World Health Day' (April 7). ◆ 2026 Theme (by WHO): <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ A 'Center of Excellence in Mental Health' is being established in Jaipur. ◆ District Level: 'Mental Health Care Cells' will be established in every district of the state. 								
<p>8. "Transformative Tuesday – Navigating Life Legally" Campaign</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>"Empowering Rajasthan Youth: A Legal Literacy Initiative – 2026"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Launch: April 2026 – on the first Tuesday (April 7). ◆ Duration: A year-long, continuous legal literacy program. ◆ Schedule: Conducted on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. ◆ Initiator: Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority (RSLSA). ◆ Target Group: Over 400,000 students (Class 9–12) across 1,400 schools in the state. ◆ Key Topics: Cyber Security, the POCSO Act, and Fundamental Legal Rights. ◆ Slogan: "Think Before You Click; Stay Safe Online – The Internet Remembers Everything." ◆ Appointment of 'Court Wali Didi': A Safety Shield (Confidentiality) – Students can share their concerns (such as exploitation or bullying) without the fear of their identity being revealed. 								
<p>9. 'Public Service Day' in Rajasthan: 2026 Celebrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Background : Civil Services Day is observed in commemoration of April 21, 1947, when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of probationers of the All India Administrative Service and described civil servants as the "Steel Frame of India." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event: Held on April 26, 2021, at HCM RIPA, Jaipur. ◆ Achievement: Due to sustained efforts and effective monitoring, Rajasthan has emerged as a leader among the country's 25 schemes (securing 1st place in 11 schemes, 2nd in 5, and 3rd in 9). ◆ Chief Minister's Excellence Awards: The Chief Minister honored 9 public servants for their outstanding work across various categories. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Distinguished Officers</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Governance</td> <td>Ms. Aarti Dogra, Mr. Siddharth Mahajan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Flagship Schemes</td> <td>Dr. Khushal Yadav Mr. Rohitashva Singh Tomar, Mr. Rajiv Tomar</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Innovation</td> <td>Mr. Krishna Kunal, Mrs. Gayatri A. Rathore Mr. Nakate Shivaprasad Madan, Mr. P. Balamurugan</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 18th Civil Services Day - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. ❖ Venue: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi ❖ Chief Guest: Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan ❖ Theme: "Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance and Development at the last mile" 	Category	Distinguished Officers	1. Governance	Ms. Aarti Dogra, Mr. Siddharth Mahajan	2. Flagship Schemes	Dr. Khushal Yadav Mr. Rohitashva Singh Tomar, Mr. Rajiv Tomar	3. Innovation	Mr. Krishna Kunal, Mrs. Gayatri A. Rathore Mr. Nakate Shivaprasad Madan, Mr. P. Balamurugan
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<p>10. The Great Indian Travel Bazaar (GITB): Rajasthan Emerges as a World-Class Tourism Hub</p> <p>➤ Participants include the Ministry of Tourism (Government of India), Rajasthan Tourism (Host State), State Tourism Boards, Hotels and Resorts, and DMCs from across India.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event: 15th Edition held from April 26-28 at JECC, Sitapura, Jaipur. ◆ Organizers: Department of Tourism (Government of Rajasthan) + Ministry of Tourism (Government of India) + FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry). ◆ Objective: To establish Rajasthan as a global tourism destination. ◆ Approximately 185 foreign tour operators from over 50 countries participated as 'Buyers' (B2B Meetings). ◆ Diya Kumari (Deputy Chief Minister): Tourism is Rajasthan's 'Growth Engine'. ◆ Suman Billa (Additional Secretary, GoI): India aims to increase the tourism sector's contribution to the GDP from 5.2% to 10% over the next 10 years. ◆ Launch (Knowledge Paper): "Reimagining Inbound Tourism in India - Trends, Technology, and Transformational Opportunities Towards Incredible India 4.0". ◆ MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) will be developed as a high-growth segment for India.
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Miscellaneous

Rajasthan's cattle fairs: a unique confluence of cultural heritage, folk beliefs, traditions, and economy

District-level cattle fairs will now be held.

The present government, under the able leadership of Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, is committed to the welfare of animals and livestock farmers. In the first phase, the Animal Husbandry Department planned to organize 11 district level fairs, and of these, fairs have already been organized in nine districts - Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Jaipur, Churu, Bikaner, Rajsamand, Pali, Sirohi and Jalore, except Udaipur and Jhunjhunu districts. The Animal Husbandry Department in Rajasthan has been organizing 10 state level cattle fairs every year since independence.

Pushkar Cattle Fair, Pushkar, Ajmer

Held annually in Pushkar district from Kartik Shukla Ashtami to Margashirsha Krishna Dwitiya, this fair is world-famous.

The administration arranges bathing in Pushkar Lake for tourists.

The **Animal Husbandry Department organizes the cattle fair**, and the **Tourism Department organizes various cultural activities and competitions.**

Primarily, Gir breed bulls, camels, and horses are bought and sold. The Animal Husbandry Department has been operating the fair since **1963**.

Ramdev Animal Fair, Nagaur

This fair is held annually from Magh Shukla Ekam to Magh Shukla Purnima in Manasar village, 5 kilometers from Nagaur city.

Marwar King Ummed Singh is considered the originator of this fair.

It is believed that the idol of Ramdev Ji appeared spontaneously on the land of Manasar village.

The Animal Husbandry Department included it among the state-level fairs and took over its management from February **1958**.

Shri Baldev Cattle Fair, Merta City, Nagaur

Nagaur district has been world-renowned for its Nagauri breed of cattle since ancient times. Three state-level cattle fairs are held annually in Nagaur district.

This fair is held annually from Chaitra Shukla Ekam to Chaitra Shukla Purnima in memory of the popular farmer leader, Shri Baldev Ram Mirdha

The main attraction is the **Nagauri breed of bulls**, renowned for their strength. Due to their popularity, cattle breeders and traders from Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Punjab come here.

Mallinath Cattle Fair, Tilwara, Balotra

Mahashivratri Cattle Fair, Karauli

This fair is held annually in **Karauli** from **Magh Shukla Purnima to Phalgun Krishna Saptami**. Held on the occasion of Mahashivratri, the fair is named Mahashivratri Cattle Fair.

This fair originated during the princely era, and later, the state government's **Animal Husbandry Department** took over its operation.

- Animals of Haryana breed are bought and sold. Animal breeders from Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh also come in good numbers to this fair which lasts for a week in Karauli area of Rajasthan.

This cattle fair is held in memory of the brave warrior **Rawal Mallinath**. **The Animal Husbandry Department** began organizing this fair in 1957, but the story behind the Mallinath Cattle Fair, held annually from **Chaitra Krishna Ekadashi to Chaitra Shukla Ekadashi**, is quite interesting.

Upon ascending the throne, the valiant Rawal warrior Mallinath organized a massive bhajan kirtan (song recitation). Thousands of people gathered from far and wide and, before returning at the end of the event, exchanged their beautiful riding camels, chariot horses, and beautiful and attractive bulls.

This fair is held every year on the banks of the **Luni River in Tilwara** village of **Pachpadra** tehsil of **Balotra** district.

Gomti Sagar Cattle Fair, Jhalrapatan

This animal fair is held annually in the town of **Jhalrapatan in Jhalawar** district from **Vaishakh Shukla Trayodashi to Jyeshtha Krishna Panchami**.

This animal fair is a famous fair in the **Hadoti** region, where **Malvi** breed bulls are bought and sold.

In 1959, the state government included it among the state-level animal fairs and entrusted its organization to the **Animal Husbandry Department**.

Shri Gogamedi Cattle Fair, Hanumangarh

This fair is held annually at Gogamedi, Nohar tehsil, Hanumangarh from **Shravan Shukla Purnima to Bhadrpada Shukla Purnima** in memory of Gogaji, a folk deity symbolizing Hindu-Muslim unity.

People of all religions express their faith here. **The Animal Husbandry Department has been managing** the fair since August 1959.

Shri Chandrabhaga Cattle Fair, Jhalawar

This cattle fair is held annually from **Kartik Shukla Ekadashi to Margashirsha Krishna Panchami** on the banks of the Chandrabhaga River, which passes through the town of Jhalrapatan in Jhalawar district.

It is said that Maharaja Jhala Jaalim

Singh, during his reign, decided to establish a trading center to improve the state's economy.

Malvi breed bulls are the main attraction of this fair, which has been **organised by the Animal Husbandry Department** since November 1958.

This fair is held every year from **Ashwin Shukla Panchami to Ashwin Shukla Chaturdashi** at the **Bharatpur** district headquarters.

Maharaja Krishna Singh of the **Bharatpur** State named the fair after his grandfather, Maharaja Jaswant Singh, to perpetuate his memory.

But this fair was **started** in the year 1920 as a small market.

Before the management of this fair came under the **Animal Husbandry Department** in October 1958, it was organised by the princely state government and the **Agriculture Department** in collaboration with each other.

Veer Tejaji Cattle Fair, Parbatsar



This fair, held from **Shravan Purnima to Bhadrpada Amavasya** in **Parbatsar**, Didwana-Kuchaman district, is the largest fair in Rajasthan in terms of income.


Maharaja Ajit Singh of Jodhpur had started this fair by installing a statue of Tejaji and establishing a

temple.

This fair is also famous for the **Nagauri** breed. The **Animal Husbandry Department** took over its operation in 1947.

<p>1. Jaipur Metro Phase-2</p> <p>➤ Phase I of the Metro System in Jaipur (Already Operational): the “East-West Corridor is 11.64 kilometers from ‘Mansarovar to Badi Chaupar’ with 11 stations along the route.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Approval: April 8; by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister. ◆ Total Length: Construction of a 41-kilometer-long "North-South Metro Corridor." ◆ Cost: ₹13,037.66 crore; covering the stretch "from Prahladpura to Todi Mod,"cover total of 36 stations. ◆ Equity Share: Government of India + Government of Rajasthan (50:50) Joint Venture. ◆ Implementing Agency: Rajasthan Metro Rail Corporation Limited (RMRCL). ◆ Target Date: Aim to complete by September 2031. ◆ Route: Will connect key hubs such as the Sitapura Industrial Area, Jaipur Airport, Tonk Road, SMS Hospital and Stadium, Ambabari, and Vidyadhar Nagar. This includes "underground stations located within the airport area." ◆ Comprehensive Evaluation: Conducted at multiple levels, including inter-ministerial consultations, Network Planning Group reviews, and Public Investment Board appraisals. ◆ Economic Internal Rate of Return (EIRR): (The projected annual profitability percentage over the entire lifespan of the project) – 14%, exceeding the prescribed threshold. ◆ Financing: In accordance with the Metro Rail Policy, 2017, the financing structure involves equity support from the Government of India and the Government of Rajasthan, along with subordinate debt and multilateral financing.
<p>2. Pachpadra Refinery: Revised Investment and Cost Escalation -</p> <p>➤ Greenfield Refinery-cum-Petrochemical Complex.</p> <p>➤ Petrochemical production capacity: 2.4 Million Metric Tonnes per annum.</p> <p>➤ Fire Incident: Hydrocarbon Leakage - Caused by a pressure-induced hydrocarbon leak in the inlet line of the Refinery's Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) or Vacuum Residue Exchanger.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Approval: April 8, by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister. ◆ Project: HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Limited (HRRL) ◆ Location: Pachpadra, Balotra District ◆ Original Cost: ₹43,129 Crore ◆ Revised Cost: ₹79,459 Crore ◆ Joint Venture: HPCL (74%) and the Government of Rajasthan (26%) ◆ HPCL's Additional Investment:** ₹8,962 Crore (Total Equity: ₹19,600 Crore) ◆ Total Capacity: 9 MMTPA (Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum) ◆ Scheduled Commercial Operations Date (SCOD): July 1, 2026 ◆ Implementation Strategy and Targets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Petrochemical Focus: This is a massive refinery where petrochemical products will account for over 26% of the total output. ❖ Fuel Production: Petrol: 1 MMTPA + Diesel: 4 MMTPA ❖ Polypropylene: 1 MMTPA ❖ LLDPE (Linear Low-Density Polyethylene):** 0.5 MMTPA ❖ HDPE (High-Density Polyethylene):** 0.5 MMTPA ❖ Significance: These products will prove to be the backbone for industries such as transport, pharmaceuticals, paints, and packaging. ◆ Refinery Inauguration Event (by Prime Minister Narendra Modi): Scheduled for April 21; postponed by the government on April 20 due to a fire incident.

<p>3. Agricultural Zonal Conference (Western Regional Agricultural Conference) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The country's first regional conference ➤ "This initiative serves as an excellent example of 'Cooperative Federalism,' wherein policymakers (the Ministry) and the beneficiaries of the policy (farmers) sit together at the same table to chart the path for the future." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inauguration: Union Minister of Agriculture, Shivraj Singh Chouhan ◆ Venue & Date: Hotel Marriott, Jaipur, and Jaipur Exhibition and Convention Center (JECC), Sitapura – April 7 ◆ Organizer: Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India ◆ Vision: 'Empowered Farmer, Prosperous India' ◆ Partner States (5): Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Goa ◆ Three Key Objectives: National food security, enhancement of farmers' income, and nutritional security. ◆ Key Dignitaries: Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma, Agriculture Minister Dr. Kirori Lal Meena, along with Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from the western states, were in attendance. ◆ Purpose: To achieve self-reliance in pulses and oilseeds; to provide transparent agricultural services through 'Farmer IDs'; to formulate "state-specific agricultural roadmaps"; and to promote initiatives such as the Digital Agriculture Mission, Agri-Stack, National Mission on Edible Oils, and the Natural Farming Mission. ◆ Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan: This campaign will now be implemented in accordance with the specific agro-climatic conditions and cropping cycles of each state. Approximately 16,000 scientists—drawn from ICAR institutes, agricultural universities, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)—will engage directly with farmers, working on the principle of "Lab to Land."
<p>4. Gyan Bharatam Mission: Digitization of Manuscripts – Context of Rajasthan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Survey Period: March 16 – April 3, 2026 ➤ Nodal Officer: Dr. Lata Shrimali, Director, Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy ➤ Institutional Framework: A 'State Manuscript Heritage Council' will be established. ➤ Technology: The "Gyan Bharatam App" is being utilized, and the 'Har Ghar Dastak' campaign is being conducted to raise awareness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Gyan Bharatam Mission: Ministry of Culture, Government of India <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Announcement: Union Budget 2025-26 ❖ Launch of Survey: March 16, 2026 (National Manuscript Survey) ❖ Progress: Data on over 12.97 lakh manuscripts received (as of March 19, 2026) ❖ National Digital Repository: 1.29 lakh manuscripts available online to the public. ❖ Budget Utilization: ₹13.29 crore utilized as of March 15. ❖ The Standing Finance Committee (SFC) has approved ₹491.66 crore for the period 2025–2031. ◆ Rajasthan: Selection of Cluster and Independent Centers for the Conservation and Digitization of Manuscripts – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Cluster Centers in Rajasthan (02) – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rajasthan Sanskrit Academy, Jaipur 2. Vishwa Gurudeep Ashram Research Institute, Jaipur ❖ Independent Centers in Rajasthan (03) – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abhay Jain Granthalaya, Bikaner 2. Rajasthan Oriental Research Institute (RORI), Jodhpur (The invaluable edition of the Ramayana, 'Arsha Ramayana', has been conserved) 3. Padma Shri Narayan Das Manuscript Research Institute, Jaipur 

<p>5. Nagauri Pan Methi: Registered as a 'Community Farmer Variety'</p> <p>➤ For a long time, it was being sold under the name 'Kasuri Methi,' as a result of which local farmers were unable to secure proper recognition or a fair price.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nagauri Pan Methi: Officially registered as a 'Community Farmer Variety' under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, and granted a patent. ◆ Legal Protection: Granted under the 'Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001' – marking the world's first Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection accorded to this variety of fenugreek. ◆ Inclusion: Included as the 53rd spice in Schedule-I of the Spices Board of India Act, 1986. ◆ Significance: This achievement was attained during the 'International Year of Women Farmers 2026,' as declared by the United Nations. 																		
<p>6. 'National Agriculture Market' Objective: To realize the concept of "One Nation, One Market" by connecting agricultural markets across India through an online network.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 14, 2016, the e-NAM platform has become the foundation for transparent and technology-driven trade within Rajasthan's *mandis* (agricultural markets). ◆ 10 Years of the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) and Rajasthan's Progress: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ e-Trade ('Online Agricultural Trading'): Ranked 'First' in the country. ❖ Total Arrivals ('Agricultural Produce in Mandis'): Ranked 'Second' in the country. ❖ e-Payment: Ranked 'Fourth' in the country in terms of digital payments. ❖ Scale of Trade: From 2016 through January 2026, 31.6 million metric tonnes of produce were traded within the state, with a total value exceeding ₹1.30 lakh crore. ❖ e-NAM Rajasthan: Ease of Trading (As of April 2026) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Registered Mandis = 173 (AI and ML utilized in 134 e-NAM mandis). ○ Registered Traders + Integrated Licenses = 87,441. ○ 546 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) registered ○ A total of 138 commodities traded through the platform. 																		
<p>7. India Justice Report (IJR) 2026</p> <p>Map 1: Large and mid-sized states</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>State</th> <th>Rank (out of 19)</th> <th>Score (out of 10)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Andhra Pradesh</td> <td>1</td> <td>6.28</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Madhya Pradesh</td> <td>2</td> <td>5.92</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rajasthan</td> <td>3</td> <td>5.82</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Karnataka</td> <td>4</td> <td>5.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Bengal</td> <td>5</td> <td>5.07</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	State	Rank (out of 19)	Score (out of 10)	Andhra Pradesh	1	6.28	Madhya Pradesh	2	5.92	Rajasthan	3	5.82	Karnataka	4	5.77	West Bengal	5	5.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Rajasthan has secured the 'third position' among the large states across the country in the field of 'Consumer Protection'. (Total Score = 5.82 / 10) ◆ Publisher: Tata Trusts ◆ National Ranking: Rajasthan secured the third position in the category of large and medium-sized states. Andhra Pradesh ranked first, followed by Madhya Pradesh in second place. ◆ Evaluation Basis: The assessment is based on a total of 11 parameters, prominent among which are budgetary provisions, infrastructure development, human resources, and workload management. ◆ Budget Allocation: Rajasthan ranked second in the country with a budget allocation of ₹38.29 crore for the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (SCDRC).
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Important One-Liner

❑ Brigadier Jagmal Singh Rathore

- ◆ A hero of the 1971 Indo-Pak War, passed away on April 27.
- ◆ Indomitable Courage: A valiant officer who, in 1971, rode camels 16 kilometers deep into Pakistani territory to hoist the Tricolor at the Ranihal Checkpost.
- ◆ **Honored by:** the Government of India with the Vir Chakra and the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).
- ◆ Born in the village of Garbdesar in Bikaner, Rathore received his commission in the Army in 1961 and played an active role in both the 1965 and 1971 wars.
- ◆ He was posted with Bikaner's Camel Corps (Ganga Risala), which was later converted into the 13 Grenadiers.

❑ Ambassador of Denmark (Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen)

- ◆ Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma met with the Ambassador of Denmark on April 28, 2026, and held discussions on technical innovations in water management, renewable energy, and the dairy sector, as well as in green technology.

❑ North Western Railway: B.L. Meena, Principal Financial Advisor

- ◆ Bhajanlal Meena, a senior officer of the Indian Railway Accounts Service, assumed charge on April 29; prior to this, he was posted at the Modern Coach Factory, Raebareli.

❑ Gram Rath Abhiyan

- ◆ **Launch:** Rajya Sabha MP Niti Naveen (BJP National President) and Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma launched this 15-day campaign from OTS, Jaipur, in the context of the "Global Rajasthan Agritech Meet: 2026," scheduled to be held in Jaipur on April 27, 2026.
- ◆ **Objective:** To raise awareness among villagers by providing information regarding government schemes related to agricultural production techniques, food processing, horticulture, and animal husbandry.

❑ 'Nano-War' Against Cancer: IIT Jodhpur ("Theranostic" Platform)

- ◆ Researchers have developed a smart platform, utilizing nanotechnology, that is capable of simultaneously integrating the diagnosis and treatment of diseases. This platform was developed under the leadership of Dr. Raviraj Vankayala.
- ◆ **Microscopic Superheroes:** The research focuses on working with MXenes, Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs), Black Phosphorus, and Borophene. These cutting-edge materials—dubbed “microscopic superheroes”—are capable of delivering therapeutic payloads directly to diseased cells due to their unique surface properties, while simultaneously acting as diagnostic indicators.
- ◆ **“Phototheranostics”:** A process involving the combination of light and nanotechnology to diagnose, treat, and monitor diseases. Specifically, by utilizing near-infrared (NIR) light, these nanomaterials generate localized heat, produce reactive oxygen species, and release therapeutic drugs in a controlled manner, thereby enabling the precise and minimally invasive destruction of cancer cells. The ability of NIR light to penetrate deep into tissues makes it particularly suitable for clinical applications.

❑ Samadhan Saathi WhatsApp Chatbot

- ◆ **Launch:** April 14, 2026, on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti. WhatsApp Number: 76900-80055
- ◆ **Objective:** To transform traditional government functioning—shifting from a reactive model to one of proactive transparency—thereby empowering the concept of "Citizen-First Governance."
- ◆ **Scope:** To facilitate access for the general public to government schemes, while also raising awareness regarding both scholarships and pensions through a bilingual interface (Hindi and English).
- ◆ **Vision:** To deliver prompt and reliable official information regarding public welfare initiatives, and to provide integrated solutions—all via a single message.

Increase in Lok Sabha Seats and Delimitation

- ❑ Recently, the government failed to secure parliamentary approval for three key bills introduced in the Lok Sabha: the **Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026; the Delimitation Bill, 2026; and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.**
- ❑ **The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**
 - ◆ This bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha by a margin of 54 votes. In a House with a strength of 528 members, it received 298 votes in favour and 230 against, falling short of the required two-thirds majority (352 votes).
 - ◆ This marks the first government bill since the Prevention of Terrorism Bill (POTA) of 2002 to fail to pass in Parliament.
 - ◆ It is also the first Constitution Amendment Bill to be defeated in the Lok Sabha since the **Constitution (64th Amendment) Bill of 1990.**
 - ◆ **Proposed Amendments:** Articles 81, 82, 170, 330, 332, and 334A of the Constitution of India
 - ◆ **Article 81:** Proposed increase in Lok Sabha strength to 850 (815 from States and 35 from Union Territories). Current strength: 543
- ❑ **The Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**
 - ◆ The Bill proposed **redefining “population” for delimitation purposes, using the 2011 Census as the basis.**
 - ◆ Based on the **'50% Growth Model' proposed in the bill**, provisions were included to increase the current number of Lok Sabha seats **from 543 to 816.**
 - ◆ The bill empowers the Central Government to constitute a Delimitation Commission for the purpose of redrawing electoral constituencies.
- ❑ **The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**
 - ◆ The Bill seeks to amend laws relating to Puducherry, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate delimitation and implementation of the Women’s Reservation framework.

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

- ❑ The Bill was introduced by the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- ❑ The Bill is based on four key pillars:
 1. Warning before punishment
 2. Proportionate penalties
 3. Expeditious and equitable resolution
 4. Dynamic penalty framework
- ❑ The Bill builds upon the Jan Vishwas Act, 2023, which amended 42 Acts and decriminalised 183 provisions.
- ❑ Under this legislation, amendments have been proposed to 79 Central Acts administered by 23 ministries, covering 784 provisions.
- ❑ Of the 784 identified provisions, 717 have been decriminalized, while the remaining 67 provisions focus on improving 'Ease of Living.'

- ❑ Aims to reduce the compliance burden for MSMEs and other businesses through a graded enforcement mechanism, including consultation notices and warnings prior to penalties

NCERT Granted 'Deemed University' Status

- ❑ **News:** The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted the status of a 'Deemed to be University' under Section 3 of the **University Grants Commission (UGC) Act, 1956**.
- ❑ This status encompasses NCERT along with its six constituent units (including the one in Ajmer).
- ❑ The status of a 'Deemed University' is conferred by the Central Government (**Ministry of Education**) upon the advice of the UGC.
- ❑ **Key Powers:** NCERT will now be able to function as an independent university.
 - ◆ It will have the authority to formulate its **own curricula and award degrees**.

NCERT Reconstitutes Textbook Committee

- ❑ **News:** NCERT has reconstituted the National Syllabus and Teaching-Learning Material Committee (NSTC).
- ❑ This step was taken following the Supreme Court's intervention regarding a section on "Corruption in Judiciary" in the Class 8 Social Science textbook.
- ❑ Total members in the Committee: 22 (Chairman-MC Pant, Co-Chairman: Prof. Manjul Bhargava)

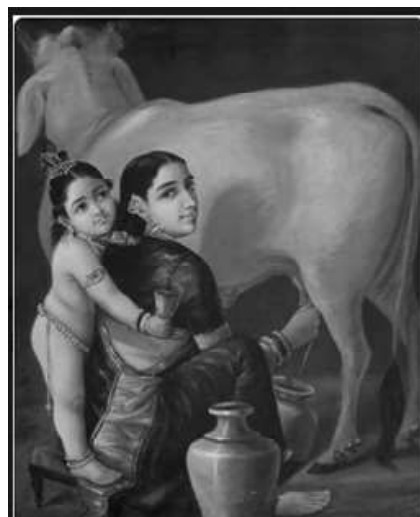
NCERT

- ❑ Headquarters: New Delhi

- ❑ An autonomous organization established in 1961 under the Union Ministry of Education.
- ❑ Nodal Agency: As per the National Education Policy, 2020, it is responsible for developing National Curriculum Frameworks (NCFs) for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), School Education, and Adult Education.

Auction of the Oil Painting 'Yashoda and Krishna'

- ❑ **News:** Raja Ravi Varma's renowned painting 'Yashoda and Krishna' was sold for Rs. 167.2 crore at an auction organized by Saffronart. It's an 1890s painting and depicts a scene from Bhagwat Purana.
- ❑ This marks a new record for the highest price ever fetched in the history of Indian art.
- ❑ **Buyer:** Industrialist Cyrus Poonawalla (Founder of the Serum Institute of India).
 - ◆ **Previous Record:** It has surpassed the previous record held by M.F. Husain's painting 'Gram Yatra' (purchased by Kiran Nadar for over Rs. 118 crore).



Raja Ravi Varma: 'Father of Modern Indian Art'

- ❑ **Birth:** Born in 1848 into the Kilimanoor royal family of Travancore (present-day Kerala).
- ❑ **Contribution:** Depicted Indian mythological themes and characters in a European realist style.

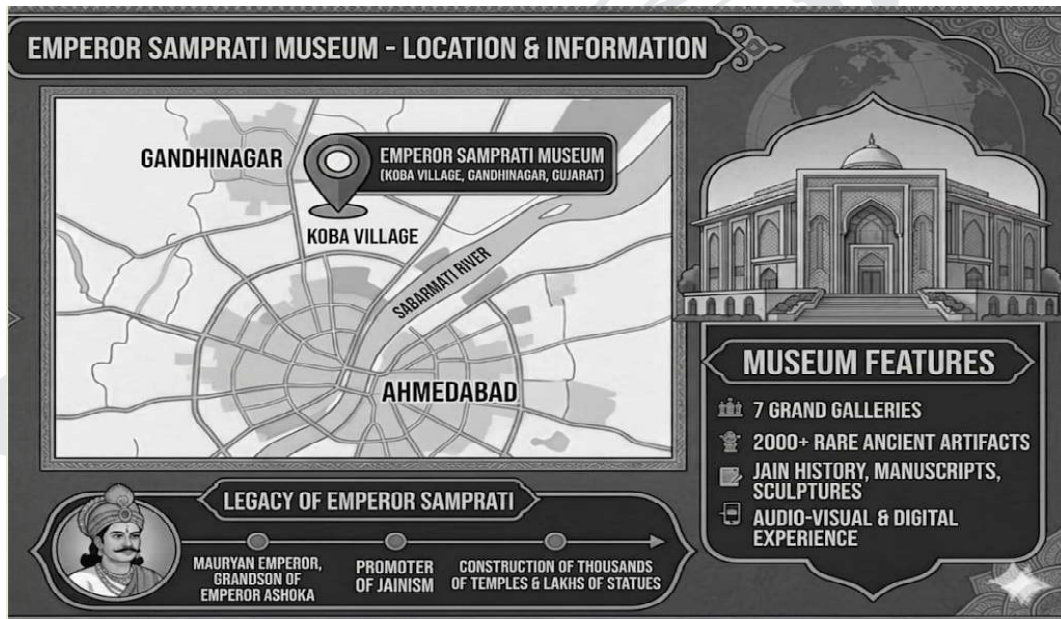
- ◆ Established the 'Fine Arts Lithographic Press' in Bombay in 1894.
 - Through this initiative, he made his exquisite artworks accessible to the common people.
- ◆ **Important Paintings:** Damayanti talking to a swan; Shakuntala looking for Dushyanta; a Nair woman adorning her hair.

Rajya Sabha Elections 2026

- ❑ **News:** In March 2026, the electoral process for a total of 37 seats across 10 states of the country was concluded.
- ❑ **State-wise breakdown of seats:** Total 37 seats= Maharashtra (7), Tamil Nadu (6), Bihar (5), West Bengal (5), Odisha (4), Assam (3), Chhattisgarh (2), Haryana (2), Telangana (2), and Himachal Pradesh (1).
- ❑ **Election Results:** Uncontested elections: 26 seats; Voting held for 11 seats- the NDA secured victory in 9 seats.
 - ◆ The NDA won 22 out of the 37 seats, while the Opposition secured 15 seats.
 - ◆ **Current Composition:** BJP (106+07), Congress (29), Trinamool Congress (13).
- ❑ **Dr. K. S. Somashekhar:** On April 18, 2026, the Chairman, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, appointed him to the post of Secretary in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Samrat Samprati Museum

- ❑ **Inauguration By:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of Lord Mahavir's birth anniversary, at the Koba Tirth in Gandhinagar.



'Moh-Juj'

- ❑ The Gauhati High Court has directed the Government of Assam not to organize traditional buffalo fights ('Moh-Juj') within the state.
- ❑ According to the court, Buffalo fighting contravenes the statutory provisions of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960**.
- ❑ **Moh-Juj:** In Assam, the traditional buffalo fights are organized during the festival of Magh Bihu (January).

Supreme Court Directives to Make Prisons Accessible for Persons with Disabilities

- ❑ The Supreme Court has directed a High-Powered Committee, **headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat (Retd.)**, to formulate a comprehensive action plan for making prisons accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ❑ **Objective:** To create an implementable framework for providing inmates with disabilities with assistive devices, mobility aids, and necessary facilities tailored to their specific requirements.
- ❑ The Court underscored that the conditions of incarceration must not violate the fundamental rights enshrined under Article 14 (Right to Equality) and Article 21 (Right to Live with Dignity) of the Constitution.
- ❑ The Court has clarified that prison officials found mistreating inmates with disabilities will be penalized under the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016**.

Release of the Latest Edition of the Constitution in the Sindhi Language

- ❑ **Released by:** Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan on the occasion of Sindhi Language Day (April 10).
- ❑ **Publication:** the Devanagari script (first edition) and the Persian script (second edition).
- ❑ Vasudev Devnani, Speaker of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, was also present on this occasion.
- ❑ **Sindhi Language:** One of the 22 constitutionally recognized languages.
 - ◆ Included in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution in 1967 through the 21st Constitutional Amendment.

Nari Shakti Youth Parliament

- ❑ **Event:** Held simultaneously across a total of 17 locations- including Jaipur, Rajasthan- on April 12, 2026.
- ❑ **Organizers:** Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, through the 'Mera Yuva Bharat' (MY Bharat) platform.
- ❑ **Objective:** To empower young women by actively engaging them in policy-making, democratic processes, and parliamentary proceedings.
- ❑ **Theme:** "Nari Shakti: Viksit Bharat Ki Awwaz – Strengthening Inclusive Democracy."
- ❑ In this **The 131st Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2026**, was unanimously endorsed through the passing of a formal resolution.

Film Azad Bharath's Special Screening

- ❑ **News:** A special screening of this film was organized for Members of Parliament in the Parliament Library Building.
- ❑ **Produced and Directed by:** Dr. Roopa Iyer
- ❑ The film depicts the heroic struggle of the '**Rani Jhansi Regiment**'-
 - ◆ **Establishment:** In July 1943 in Singapore. ◆ **Leadership:** Captain Lakshmi Sahgal
 - ◆ It has been named after Rani Lakshmi bai, the leader of the 1857 revolution.

Places in News

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh's Sole Capital

- ❑ **News:** Following Presidential assent to the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, Amaravati is now the state's sole statutory capital, effective from June 2, 2024.
- ❑ This statutory ratification has officially rendered the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party's (YSRCP) 'three-capital' proposal- designating Visakhapatnam as the Executive Capital, Kurnool as the Judicial Capital, and Amaravati as the Legislative Capital- null and void.
- ❑ **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014:** On June 2, 2014, Telangana was carved out of Andhra Pradesh to become a separate state.
 - ◆ Hyderabad: As per Section 5 of the Act, Hyderabad was to be the common capital for the next 10 years (2024).
- ❑ **Amrawati:** It is a state-of-the-art greenfield city situated on the banks of the Krishna River.
 - ◆ The foundation stone for the development of Amaravati was laid in 2015, during the tenure of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government.



Noida International Airport, Jewar

- ❑ **Inauguration:** On March 28, 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first phase.
- ❑ **Development:** By Yamuna International Airport Private Limited (YIAPL) in collaboration with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the Government of India under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
 - ◆ YIAPL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zurich Airport International AG, Switzerland.
- ❑ **Capacity:** 12 million passengers per annum (MPPA) in the initial phase.
- ❑ **Investment:** approximately Rs. 11,200 crore.
- ❑ **Connectivity:** On March 10, 2026, the Union Cabinet approved a revised cost of Rs. 3,630.77 crore for the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway link.

Bihar

- ❑ **Nitish Kumar:** Resigned from the Chief Ministership of Bihar on 14th April after becoming a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- ❑ **Samrat Choudhary 24th Chief Minister of Bihar,** First from Bharatiya Janata Party in Bihar.
 - ◆ **Deputy Chief Minister:** First tenure in January 2024; re-appointed on November 20, 2025.
- ❑ **Deputy Chief Ministers:** Vijay Choudhary and Bijendra Yadav [From the Janata Dal (United) {JD(U)}].
 - ◆ Vijay Choudhary had also served as Deputy Chief Minister in the Nitish Kumar government.
- ❑ **Governor of Bihar:** Syed Ata Hasnain

Varkala, Kerala

- ❑ **News:** Included in the UN's '20 Cities Towards Zero Waste' initiative on International Zero Waste Day (March 30).
 - ◆ **2026 Theme:** "Food Waste"

❑ '20 Cities Towards Zero Waste' Initiative

- ◆ A global initiative launched under the guidance of the UN Zero Waste Advisory Board in collaboration with UN-Habitat and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- ◆ Under this program, 20 leading cities from around the world have been selected for demonstrating innovative approaches toward improving waste management, adopting circular economy models, and developing more sustainable and inclusive urban frameworks.

Bengaluru: International Honor for BWSSB

- ❑ **News:** The Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has been conferred with the internationally renowned ISO 50001:2018 certification.
- ❑ **Conferred by:** By Bureau Veritas (April 14, 2026).
- ❑ **Significance:** BWSSB has become the first water utility board in India to receive this certification.
- ❑ **Note:** In 2025, it also became the country's first water board to obtain certification from the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for its piped drinking water supply management system.

Ladakh: The Country's First Petroglyph Conservation Park

- ❑ **News:** Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena laid the foundation stone for the country's first Petroglyph Conservation Park, aimed at preserving Ladakh's ancient heritage.
- ❑ **Location:** On the banks of the Indus River in Leh.
- ❑ **Objective:** To ensure the preservation of rock carvings and make them accessible for public display to tourists.
- ❑ **Petroglyphs:** Prehistoric images and symbols carved onto stone surfaces.
- ❑ **Note: 5 new districts have been formed in Ladakh:** Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass (Total Districts: 7).

Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

- ❑ **Construction of the Country's First Cement-Free Road:** The road has been developed through a combination of fly ash emitted from power plants and advanced geopolymer technology.
- ❑ **Development:** By CSIR – Advanced Materials and Processes Research Institute (AMPRI), Bhopal.

Kankaria Coaching Depot (Ahmedabad), Gujarat

- ❑ **News:** Western Railway's Kankaria Depot has adopted a modern wastewater treatment system based on phytoremediation.
- ❑ It has become India's first 'Water Neutral' depot (treating as much water as it consumes).
- ❑ **Phytoremediation:** A natural process for water purification in which pollutants are removed using specific plants.

Person in News

Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh

- ❑ On April 17, 2026, elected unopposed as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- ❑ This marks his third consecutive term (first elected as the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha on August 9, 2018, and re-elected on September 14, 2020).
- ❑ He has become the first nominated member to hold this office.
- ❑ After Najma Heptulla, he became the first individual since 2004- and the first non-Congress member- to be re-elected to this post for a third time.

- ❑ President Droupadi Murmu nominated him as a member of the Rajya Sabha on April 10, 2026.
 - ◆ He was nominated to fill the seat previously held by former Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi.



Justice Yashwant Varma

- ❑ **News:** He submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu on April 9.
- ❑ A motion for his removal had been introduced in Parliament.
- ❑ The matter was under examination by a panel constituted under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

Divya Singh

- ❑ Divya Singh, a teacher from Uttar Pradesh, achieved the historic feat of reaching the Mount Everest Base Camp by bicycle.
- ❑ She is the first woman from India and the second globally to accomplish this feat.
- ❑ She completed the expedition from Kathmandu to Everest Base Camp in 14 days.

Death

<p>Colonel Sonam Wangchuk (Birthplace: Ladakh)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra and a valiant warrior of the 1999 Kargil War has passed away. • He displayed exceptional bravery during Operation Vijay.
<p>Renowned Singer Asha Bhosle</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She passed away in Mumbai at the age of 92. • She was recorded in the 'Guinness Book of World Records' by singing in more than 20 languages including Hindi and Marathi. • Awards: Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000), Padma Vibhushan (2008). • She was the daughter of the celebrated classical vocalist Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar. • She recorded over 12,000 songs during her song career.
<p>Mohsina Kidwai (Former Union Minister)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Congress leader from Uttar Pradesh passed away on April 8. • She served as a Union Minister in various ministries during the tenures of former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi.
<p>Raghu Rai</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarded as: The "Father of Indian Photography" and The "Father of Indian Photojournalism". • He described Visual history i.e. photographs as the 'truest form of documentation'. • Awards: Nominated for Magnum Photos in 1971 (the world's most prestigious international photographers' cooperative) ; awarded the Padma Shri in 1972 (for documenting the Bangladesh War); named 'Photographer of the Year' in 1992 for the story 'Human Management of Wildlife in India'; conferred the title of 'Officier des Arts et des Lettres' by the French Government in 2009; and honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in 2017. • Notable Works: The Bhopal Gas Tragedy ('Burial of an Unknown Child'), Mother Teresa, and the Bangladesh Liberation War. • Notable Books: 'Raghu Rai's Delhi', 'Sikhs', 'Calcutta', 'Khajuraho', 'Taj Mahal', 'A God in Exile', 'India', and 'Mother Teresa' (he has authored around 57 books).
<p>N. Bhaskar Rao</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He served as the 11th Chief Minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh in 1984.

Appointment

Vamsi Rama Mohan Burra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL)
Veer Vikram Yadav	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director General, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) Veer Vikram will replace Faiz Ahmed Kidwai. The DGCA is the apex statutory body regulating civil aviation in India.
New Appointments at NITI Aayog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vice Chairperson: Ashok Kumar Lahiri (4th) {the rank and status of a Cabinet Minister} Former Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India and was also a member of the 15th Finance Commission. Full-time Members: Rajiv Gauba, Prof. K.V. Raju, Prof. Gobardhan Das, Prof. Abhay Karandikar, and Dr. M. Srinivas. (Rank and Status of Minister of State)
Justice Lisa Gill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> She is the 1st Women Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
Rajesh Kumar Agarwal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director(Finance) of Power Finance Corporation.

Conference

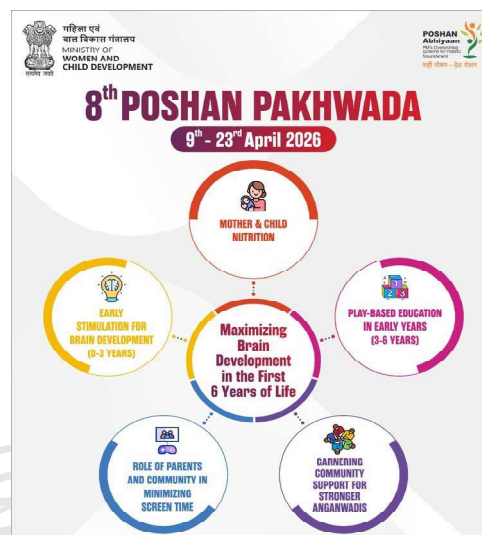
9th India Pharma Conference April 13-14, 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Discover in India: Leapfrogging Life-Sciences Innovation". Organizers: By the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP) in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance (IPA).
The Van Dhan Conclave 29 March, 2026.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: Sustainable Livelihoods for Tribal India. Organised by: TRIFED under MoTA. Inaugurated by: Durgadas Uikey, MoS for Tribal Affairs. As part of Bharat Tribes Fest (18 March- 5 April).
Conference on "Data Driven Exploration" 17 April, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organised by: Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) Under the Samudra Manthan- National Offshore Mission.
3rd Global Conference of Meditation Leaders 3-5 April, 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Theme: "Meditation for Holistic Living and Peaceful World" Chief Guest: Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan. Organized by: Pyramid Spiritual Societies Movement and Buddha-CEO Quantum Foundation with the support of the Ministry of AYUSH

Important Summit/Conference	Theme / Description
<p>9th India International Water Week Venue: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 22-26 September 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News: The website and theme of this summit were launched by Union Minister of Jal Shakti C.R. Patil recently. • Theme: “Climate Resilient Water Management” • Organised by: Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti • About India's International Water Event <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ was conceptualised in 2012 ▪ Previously, it was known as India Water Week; however, its name has been changed this year.
<p>Northern Regional Agriculture Conference Venue: Hotel Centrum, Lucknow, 24 April.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nodal Ministry: Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development • Inaugural Address: Union Agriculture Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan in the presence of Yogi Aditya Nath • Objective: to make the agriculture sector more modern, inclusive, and farmer-oriented.
<p>Commonwealth Parliament Association Venue: Panaji, Goa, 9-10 April 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News: Recently, the first Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region, Zone VII, concluded. • Inaugurated by: Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Om Birla. • Participating Legislatures (Zone-VII): Goa, Gujarat, and Maharashtra.
<p>National Deliberative Summit on "Harmonizing Administrative Data for Governance" Venue: Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 29-30 April, 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organiser: The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) • Objective: to build consensus on the action plan and timelines for harmonizing and making administrative data ready for wider use in policy making and governance.
<p>'Sahkar se Samridhhi' National Review Conference Venue: Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, 9-10 April 2026.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised by: Union Ministry of Cooperation and the Government of Uttar Pradesh • It brought together senior officials from the Centre, States/UTs and major cooperative institutions to focus on Grounding Cooperative Reforms at District Level.

Festival

8th Poshan Pakhwada 2026

- ❑ **Organiser:** Ministry of Women and Child Development; from 9-23 April, 2026.
- ❑ **National Launch:** On April 9, 2026, in New Delhi, by Union Minister Annapurna Devi.
- ❑ **Theme:** "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life."
- ❑ The campaign emphasises the importance of the first 1,000 days of a child's life, which are critical for physical and cognitive development.
- ❑ According to experts, over 85% of a child's brain development occurs by the age of 6; therefore, optimal nutrition and care are essential.



Karmayogi Sadhana Week 2026

- ❑ **Event:** 2-10 April, 2026, as a nationwide capacity development initiative.
- ❑ **Sadhana Saptah:** Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement (Sadhana)
- ❑ **Organizer:** Department of Personnel and Training, Capacity Building Commission and Karmayogi Bharat.
- ❑ Three Themes of Sadhana Saptah: Technology, Tradition, and Tangible Outcomes.
- ❑ **Key Launches:** karmayogi Kshamata (Capacity) Connect, UNNATI Portal and Rashtriya Jan Sewa Programme.
- ❑ **UNNATI Portal:** The Unified New-Age National Training Institutions (UNNATI) Portal establishes an integrated digital foundation for training institutions,
 - ◆ **Objective:** enabling real-time monitoring, collaboration, and data-driven capacity building across the entire ecosystem.
- ❑ Mission Karmayogi based national summit: Held in New Delhi during the launch of Saptah.
- ❑ National Conclave on Mission Karmayogi: Sadhana Saptah begins with it in New Delhi.

Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, 11-13 April 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** To educate farmers on quality fertilizers and seeds, modern irrigation methods, and horticulture technicalities.
- ❑ **Training:** Over 20 technical sessions on topics such as horticulture, drones, soil testing, and market linkages.

- ❑ **Soil Mobile App:** The festival launched a mobile app that allows farmers to check their soil in the field using their mobile phones and determine how much and which fertilizers to apply.

Nationwide Commemoration of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's 200th Birth Anniversary


- ❑ The Government of India is organising a two-year nationwide commemoration from 11 April 2026 to 11 April 2028.
- ❑ **Formal Launch:** 11 April 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Organiser:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, through an inter-state cultural diversity programme titled 'Phule Across India'.
- ❑ **Objective:** To commemorate his contributions and inspire youth to uphold the ideals of equality, education, and social justice.

National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD)

- ❑ **Main Event:** By the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Background:** the day commemorates the enactment of the landmark 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act
- ❑ **Theme:** "Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas"
- ❑ **Announcements:**
 - ◆ 3 books were released under the 'Meri Panchayat Meri Dharohar'.
 - a Monograph on Rural Heritage of Tripura,
 - a Monograph on Rural Heritage of Tirupati and
 - 'Uttarkashi: Saumya Kashi: The Soul of Himalayan Heritage'

Panchayat Development Index (PAI) 2.0

- ❑ Released by: Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24, 2026).
- ❑ **Scope of Assessment**
 - ◆ Total Gram Panchayats: 2,59,867 Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories were assessed (97.30% of total Panchayats).
 - ◆ States Covered: 27 out of 28 States (excluding West Bengal).
 - ◆ Union Territories Covered: 6 out of 8 (excluding Delhi and Chandigarh).
- ❑ **Calculation of PAI-2.0:**
 - ◆ Period: Financial year 2023-24.
 - ◆ Basis: Compiled based on 112 specific local indicators comprising 153 unique data points across 9 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ❑ **Thematic Areas:** This assessment covers 9 thematic areas under the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

								
Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Theme 6	Theme 7	Theme 8	Theme 9
Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods in Panchayat	Healthy Panchayat	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Water Sufficient Panchayat	Clean and Green Panchayat	Panchayat with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure	Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Panchayat with Good Governance	Women Friendly Panchayat

Image

- ❑ **First Runner-up:** Rajnandini Pawar (Maharashtra); Second Runner-up: Shri Advaita (Jammu and Kashmir).
- ❑ **"Vishwa Sutra - Weaves of India for the World" Initiative**
 - ◆ Under a special partnership between the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, Ministry of Textile and Femina Miss India, a distinctive handloom collection was showcased at the Grand Finale.
 - ◆ **Launched:** The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms and National Institute of Fashion Technology.
 - ◆ Through this initiative, 30 unique handloom weaving styles representing various states of India have been brought together. **(Rajasthan - Kota Doria)**
 - ◆ These styles have been reinterpreted through inspirations drawn from 30 different countries.

IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26

- ❑ **Venue:** Greater Noida.
- ❑ **Organizers:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).
- ❑ **Primary Objective:** To create a globally competitive and future-ready skilled workforce.
- ❑ **Categories:** Over 650 high-performing participants competed across 63 skill categories.
- ❑ **Top Performing States:** 1.Odisha (57 Medal) 2.Tamil Nadu (46 Medal)
- ❑ **Note:** The national winners will represent India at the WorldSkills Competition 2026, to be held in Shanghai (China).

Miss Sake India 2026 Competition

- ❑ **Organiser:** By Hirohama India at Robata-Kuraku, Mumbai
- ❑ **Winner:** Nishita Yogesh Antarkar (Crowned as the new Cultural Ambassador for Japanese Sake in India).
 - ◆ She will represent India at the 'Miss Sake Japan Finals' to be held in Japan in June 2026.
- ❑ **Runners-up:** 1st- Priyanka Sarkar (A Chef from Bengaluru); 2nd - Sakshi Khari (A storyteller and Japanese language student from Delhi).

Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award

- ❑ **Winner:** Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), Pusa Campus, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Contribution:** Recognized for his outstanding contributions to natural resource management and climate-resilient agriculture.
- ❑ This award was instituted in the year 2004-05 by the Retired ICAR Employees Association (RICAREA) in collaboration with Nuziveedu Seeds Limited (NSL).

Nominated for World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Award 2026

- ❑ **Initiative:** Samridh Gram initiative (Category: Enabling Environment)
- ❑ **Samridh Gram Initiative**
 - ◆ **Objective:**To strengthen rural digital infrastructure and integrate "phygital" (physical + digital) services in rural India
 - ◆ The initiative leverages BharatNet, the world's largest rural broadband project.
 - ◆ These centres provide services such as telemedicine, digital classrooms, e-commerce, and e-governance through high-speed broadband, FTTH, and Wi-Fi connectivity in rural areas.
 - ◆ WSIS Forum 2026: To be held in Geneva from 6 to 10 July 2026.

World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF) National Award

- ❑ **Winner:** N. Aleem Yusuf, Researcher, Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences (MBGIPS).
- ❑ **Contribution:** Developed an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered application capable of identifying nearly 100 invasive plant species in Kerala.

13th Sur Jyotsna National Music Awards

- ❑ **Winners:** Singers Padma Shri Sumitra Guha (Kirana Gharana) and Pandit Laxman Krishnarao Pandit (Gwalior Gharana)
- ❑ **Venue:** Ceremony held at Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Delhi.
- ❑ **Chief Guest:** Supreme Court Justice Sandeep Mehta.
- ❑ These awards are given in memory of Jyotsna Darda, founder of Lokmat Sakhi Manch and a music enthusiast.

8th Critics' Choice Awards

- ❑ **Venue:** JW Marriott Mumbai Juhu
- ❑ **Organiser:** Film Critics Guild (in association with WPP Motion Entertainment)

	Feature Film	Web Series	Short Film
Best Film/ Web Series	Homebound	Black Warrant	Maaybaapache Aashirwaad (Blessings)
Best Actor	Vishal Jethwa (Homebound)	Jaideep Ahlawat (Paatal Lok- Season 2)	Sunny Hinduja (That's a Wrap)
Best Actress	Priyanka Bose (Agra)	Monika Panwar (Khauf)	Sheeba Chaddha (Nidhiyan Chavan)
Best Director	Neeraj Ghaywan (Homebound)	Vikramaditya Motwane, Satyanshu Singh, Arkesh Ajay, Rohin Raveendran Nair, Ambika Pandit (Black Warrant)	

Portal

SMILE-Beggary Survey Mobile Application

- ❑ **Launched By:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- ❑ **Development:** Developed under the SMILE-Beggary Sub-scheme (Comprehensive Rehabilitation of Persons Engaged in Beggary).
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen grassroots-level implementation through real-time data collection and effective monitoring.
- ❑ This digital platform will enable implementing agencies and district administrations to compile survey data with accuracy, transparency, and timely reporting.

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) 2.0 App

- ❑ **Launched By:** Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen the implementation and monitoring mechanism of the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

- ❑ This digital platform enables states, districts, spiritual organizations, and other stakeholders to track campaign activities and upload reports.
- ❑ **Key Features:** E-pledges for citizens, dedicated access for Grant-in-Aid Institutions (GIA), real-time monitoring of grant status, and a facility to locate the 'nearest de-addiction center.'
- ❑ **Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA)**
 - ◆ **Launched By:** Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on August 15 2020, covering 272 vulnerable districts.
 - ◆ **Expansion:** Extended to cover the entire country from 15 August 2023.
 - ◆ **Objective:** To build a drug-free society through mass awareness.

'MYLIC' and 'Super Sales Saathi' Mobile Applications

- ❑ **Launched By:** Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC).
- ❑ **'MyLIC' app:** Designed for customers, it offers services such as policy servicing, claims support, and payment options – all in one place.
- ❑ **'Super Sales Saathi' app:** Developed exclusively for LIC agents, it provides digital tools and features, including marketing insights, real-time policy status tracking, and performance dashboards.

Environment

'Bhavsagara' Referral Centre

- ❑ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has designated CMLRE's "Bhavsagara" Referral Centre as a National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna.
- ❑ **CMLRE:** The Center for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi, Kerala, functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- ❑ **Legal Basis:** Conferred under the provisions of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ❑ **Objective:** To serve as a national facility for the conservation, study, and documentation of India's vast deep-sea biological heritage.'

Shekha Lake Bird Sanctuary, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

- ❑ It has been designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site and the 12th in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ It serves as a wintering ground for approximately 186 species of ducks and waterbirds, including the Bar-headed Goose and the Painted Stork.

'NHAI Arogya Van' Project

- ❑ **Launch/ Implementation:** National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- ❑ **Primary Objective:** To develop 'Arogya Van' through the plantation of medicinal trees on vacant land parcels along the National Highways.
- ❑ **Aim:** To enrich biodiversity along National Highways through the planting of medicinal tree species.
- ❑ To ensure the sustainability of the local ecosystem
- ❑ In the first phase, an action plan has been formulated covering 17 land parcels spread across 62.8 hectares.
- ❑ Under this initiative, approximately 67,462 medicinal trees will be planted along National Highways in various states, including Rajasthan.

- For this initiative, approximately 36 specific tree species possessing medicinal properties—such as Neem, Amla, Tamarind, Jamun, Lemon, Gular, Maulsari, etc.—have been identified.

Ban on New Approvals for Hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) Production

- **News:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has directed all state and central authorities to stop granting environmental clearances for any new or additional HFC production after December 31, 2027.
- This directive reflects India's commitment (ratified in 2021) to the Kigali Amendment to phase down the production and consumption of HFCs.
- India will implement the phase-down in 4 stages: The target is a cumulative reduction in HFC usage by 10% by 2032, 20% by 2037, 30% by 2042, and 85% by 2047.
 - ◆ The reduction will take effect from 1 January 2028.
- **Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs):** Powerful fluorine-containing greenhouse gases. Their Global Warming Potential (GWP) is 140 to 11,700 times greater than that of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂).
 - ◆ **Uses:** In refrigerants and cooling equipment- Air Conditioning, refrigerators, aerosol propellants, insulating foams, and fire suppression systems.
 - ◆ **Alternative:** Natural refrigerants (NH₃, CO₂, hydrocarbons such as propane, butane), Hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs).

Global Climate Summit (COP-33)

- The Government of India has withdrawn its bid to host the 2028 Conference of the Parties (COP-33).
- COP conferences are organised on a rotational basis among the five regional groups of the United Nations- Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and Western Europe and others—with
 - ◆ India is a member of the Asia-Pacific Group.
- The COP is the supreme decision-making body of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), headquartered in Bonn, Germany.
- **Key Events:**
 - ◆ COP 8 - New Delhi (2002): India has hosted COP only once.
 - ◆ COP 30 - Belém, Brazil ◆ COP 31 - Antalya, Türkiye (President: Murat Kurum, Türkiye)
 - ◆ COP 32 - Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2027).
- Recently, India has announced its 3rd updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the 2030-2035 period.

Biodiversity Conservation Institutional Capacity Strengthening Project

- **Project Name:** 'Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments'.
- **Objective:** To strengthen grassroots biodiversity governance by empowering local communities and institutions through the greening of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs) and innovative financing.
- **Nodal Agencies:** Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and the National Biodiversity Authority (NBA).
 - ◆ This is a joint initiative of the Government of India, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).
- **Funding:** Grant of \$4.88 million. □ **Duration:** 5 years (2025-2030).

- ❑ **Targeted Landscapes:** This project focuses on two ecologically sensitive landscapes –
 1. **Sathyamangalam Landscape (Tamil Nadu):** Incorporating the traditional knowledge of forest-fringe communities into the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDPs).
 - ◆ Situated at the confluence of the Western and Eastern Ghats.
 - ◆ Protected Areas: Mudumalai Tiger Reserve and Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve.
 2. **Garo Hills Landscape (Meghalaya):** Promoting community-led conservation through Village Employment Councils (VECs).
 - ◆ **Protected Areas:** Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, Balpakram National Park, and Siju Wildlife Sanctuary.

Ethanol-Blended Petrol (E20)

- ❑ The Central Government has made the **sale of E20 petrol mandatory** across the country from **1 April 2026**.
- ❑ **Launch of E20 (20% Ethanol Blend) Petrol:** 2023
- ❑ National Biofuel Policy, 2018: Recently, the target for achieving 20% ethanol blending was advanced from 2030 to 2025–26.
- ❑ **Ethanol:** A type of alcohol produced through the fermentation of sugars and starch-based feedstock.

Trial of Shore-to-Ship Methanol Bunkering

- ❑ On 2 April 2026, Kandla Port (Deendayal Port Authority) successfully conducted a trial of shore-to-ship methanol bunkering operation to validate its infrastructure and operational protocols.
- ❑ **Objective:** To reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- ❑ **Goal:** To ensure the availability of approximately 500 KTPA of renewable e-methanol by 2028–29.
- ❑ **Methanol Bunkering:** The process of supplying methanol fuel to marine vessels to power their engines.

MOUs

Important Agreements (Between whom)	Objective/Description
❖ The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways + the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For a project aimed at promoting skill development in India's shipbuilding sector. • The title of the project is 'Support the Establishment of Development Strategies and to Build a Foundation for Skilled and Professional Talents for the Indian Shipbuilding and Marine Sector'.
❖ The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) + the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To strengthen information-sharing and coordination mechanisms to bolster India's defense system against cyber fraud and financial crimes.
❖ The Department of Posts + DTDC Express Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective: To expand logistics and business operations by enabling DTDC to utilise the Department of Posts' extensive postal network for parcel delivery across the country, including cash-on-delivery (COD) services.

- ❑ **The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) + the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) + the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**
 - ◆ **Objective:** To strengthen and enhance the effectiveness of surveillance mechanisms against money laundering and other financial crimes in the country.
 - ◆ The agreement will facilitate the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities related to money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF) across various financial sub-sectors, as well as the identification and dissemination of red-flag indicators for suspicious transactions.

Financial Intelligence Unit - India (FIU-IND)

- ◆ Establishment: 2004, A central national agency under the Ministry of Finance.
- ◆ FIU-IND is the central national agency responsible for receiving, processing, analyzing, and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions.
- ◆ It serves as a coordinating body between national and international efforts to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

- ❑ **The Ministry of Labour and Employment + SmartShift Logistics Solutions Pvt. Ltd. (Porter) and Gigin Technologies.**
 - ◆ **Objective:** To expand employment opportunities and strengthen digital job matching through the National Career Service (NCS) portal.

National Career Service (NCS) Portal

- ◆ Operated by the **Ministry of Labour and Employment**, this portal serves as a digital one-stop solution for employment in both the private and public sectors, online and offline career counseling (including job fairs), skill development, and vocational guidance.
- ◆ **Objective:** To address labor market gaps through strategic partnerships, enhance workforce quality and women's participation, and facilitate the transition from the informal to the formal sector.
- ◆ **Integration:** This platform operates in coordination with e-Migrate, SIDH, My Bharat, and various state government portals.
- ❑ **The Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) + NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited (NLDS), a digital and data arm of the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC).**
 - ◆ **Objective:** to enhance logistics efficiency and promote data-driven policymaking for the MSME sector.

One Liner

- ❑ Responding to a discussion in the Lok Sabha under Rule 193 on efforts to **eliminate Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)**, Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated on 30 March 2026 that, as of **31 March 2026**, Naxalism has been completely eradicated from the country.
- ❑ **Commencement of the Census 2026**
 - ◆ President **Smt. Draupadi Murmu** continued the glorious tradition by launching the National Census through self-enumeration option.
 - ◆ In the **initial phase, the census process started in 8 States and Union Territories** including Delhi (NDMC and Cantonment Board), Andaman and Nicobar, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim.
- ❑ The **Gazette notification of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023** was released on 16 April 2026, and the Act has **came into force**.

- ❑ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cancelled** the banking license of **Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)** under Section 22(4) of the **Banking Regulation Act, 1949**.
- ❑ '**ATL Sarthi**' and the '**Mentor India Academy**' were launched in Telangana under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) of **NITI Aayog**.
- ❑ The Meghalaya Cabinet has designated **Khasi and Garo** as official languages by promulgating the Meghalaya Official Language Ordinance, 2026.
- ❑ The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has launched '**Mission Saksham**' to bring about governance reforms in Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- ❑ The traditional '**Garia Puja**' festival was celebrated in **Tripura**.
- ❑ Recently, '**Yana Caves**' from **Uttara Kannada, Karnataka**, have been declared a geo-heritage site of national importance.
- ❑ Recently, **Andhra Pradesh** has launched a '**Mushroom Mission**' with an investment of **Rs 13,000 crore**.
- ❑ The **Gujarat** government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of an **India-Taiwan Industrial Park in Sanand and Dholera**.
- ❑ The **Delhi** government has launched the '**DURGA**' scheme for the empowerment of women and transgender e-auto drivers.
- ❑ Through '**Jumpstart**' technology, a **Great Indian Bustard (GIB)** chick was born in Kutch, Gujarat, outside Rajasthan, after a gap of a decade.
- ❑ **Odisha** has become the country's first state to launch a '**Marine Spatial Planning**' (MSP) framework.
- ❑ India's **first private gold mine** is set to be commissioned by Geomysore Services India Pvt. Ltd. in **Kurnool (Jonnagiri), Andhra Pradesh**.
- ❑ Which High Court recently imposed a ban on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in drafting judicial verdicts and orders? **Gujarat High Court.**
- ❑ Where was the "India Rubber Expo 2026" organized by the All India Rubber Industries Association? **New Delhi.**
- ❑ In which state is the Indravati Tiger Reserve – which is reopening to tourists after 30 years following the cessation of Maoist violence and the restoration of peace – located? **Chhattisgarh (Bijapur).**
- ❑ This region is renowned for its dense Sal forests and the catchment area of the Indravati River, and serves as a primary habitat for the rare wild buffalo.
- ❑ Which state police force was honoured with the country's highest prestigious award, the 'President's Colour,' for its exemplary service? **Odisha Police.**
- ❑ Where was the foundation stone for India's first Pod Taxi laid? **Mumbai.**
- ❑ The R. S. Mushahiri Committee (December 2004) is primarily related to which sector? **Police.**
- ❑ The Union Government has given permission to build a dedicated railway line linking the Sijimali and Kutrumali bauxite mines to Tikri; these mines are located in which state? **Odisha.**
- ❑ Where did the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment organise a three-day Chintan Shivir with States and Union Territories on the Theme "Antyodaya ka Sankalp, Amrit Kaal ka Pratibimb - Viksit Bharat @2047"? **Chandigarh.**
- ❑ Where did the President recently inaugurate the Planetarium and Science Centre, the Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path, the Tribal Museum, and the Integrated Command and Control Centre? **Rourkela.**
- ❑ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, where has the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) established India's first Municipal Textile Recovery Facility (TRF)? **In Belapur.**

Economy Current Affairs

Schemes

Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS 3.0)

- ❑ **News:** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has expanded the eligibility criteria for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme.
- ❑ **Objective:** To provide internship opportunities to 1 crore youths across the top 500 companies over a period of five years.
 - ◆ To bridge the gap between academic education and industry requirements, thereby enabling students to be better prepared for employment immediately upon completing their degrees.
- ❑ **Age Limit Relaxation:** Youths aged 18-25 years (Earlier; 21-24 years)
 - ◆ Other Eligibility Criteria: Must be an Indian citizen and not currently employed full-time.
 - Education: 10th / 12th Grade / ITI / Diploma / Graduation.
 - Family Income: = Rs. 12 Lakhs per annum.
- ❑ **Expanded Eligibility:** Final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students are now permitted to apply.
 - ◆ NOC Requirement: Applicants must obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their educational institutions to ensure that their regular academic studies are not disrupted.
- ❑ **Monthly Stipend:** Increased from Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 9,000 (effective March 2026)
 - ◆ Company contribution: Rs. 900 (10%), Government contribution: Rs. 8,100
- ❑ **Contingency Grant:** Rs. 6,000 (in two instalments: Rs. 3,000 within 15 days and Rs. 3,000 after three months)
- ❑ **Internship Duration:** The duration of the internship has been reduced from 12 months to 6-9 months. Under this provision, it is now mandatory to spend a minimum of 50% of the time at an actual workplace rather than in theoretical classes.
- ❑ **Elimination of CSR Obligation:** Under the new regulations, the mandatory Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) obligation clause has been removed, enabling all companies to participate in this scheme.
- ❑ **Insurance Coverage:** Each intern will be provided by the government with comprehensive life and personal accident insurance coverage- equivalent to the 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' (PMJJBY) and 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana' (PMSBY)- for a period of one year.

Extension of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)

- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III until March 2028, extending it beyond its original tenure ending in March 2025.
- ❑ The primary focus of this scheme is to connect rural habitations with the following key centers:
 - ◆ Rural Agricultural Markets
 - ◆ Senior Secondary Schools
 - ◆ Hospitals
- ❑ **Revised Financial Outlay:** Rs. 83,977 Crore.
- ❑ **Launch of Phase III:** 2019
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Rural Development
- ❑ **Type:** Centrally Sponsored Scheme.



Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)

- ❑ **Special Component:** Under SASCI, an incentive mechanism worth Rs. 5,000 crore has been included for the FY 2026-27 to promote reforms in the mining sector.
- ❑ **Objective:** To facilitate and expedite mining operations, increase mineral production, enhance revenue collection by states from the mining sector, and improve the overall governance of the mining sector.
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Mines
- ❑ Incentive funds under the scheme will be provided to States and Union Territories with Legislatures across **three reform areas:**
 - (i) Implementation of mining reforms
 - (ii) Mining operations
 - (iii) State Mining Readiness Index (SMRI)-based reforms

Report

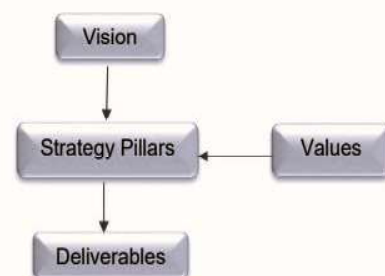
Payments Vision 2028

- ❑ **Announced by:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen and expand India's rapidly growing digital payments ecosystem.
- ❑ **Theme:** 'Shaping India's Payment Frontier'.
- ❑ Under this vision, several specific initiatives focusing on operational excellence and strategic innovation have been identified-
 - ◆ Interoperability of the Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS).
 - ◆ Introduction of a simplified single-window application process for the regulatory authorization of cross-border payments under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, and the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999.
 - ◆ A framework for 'Cyber Key Risk Indicators' (KRI) will be implemented for non-bank payment system operators.
 - ◆ Measures such as the introduction of electronic cheques, a Payments Switching Service (PaSS), a "Switch On/Off" facility, and a Uniform Domestic Legal Entity Identifier (DLEI) will be undertaken.

Utkarsh 2029: Medium-Term Strategic Framework for the Period 2026-2029

- ❑ **Presented by:** Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the framework outlines the Bank's strategic priorities.
- ❑ **Duration:** April 2026 to March 2029 (3 years).
- ❑ **Vision:** To continuously pursue excellence while enabling a stable, inclusive, and technologically sound financial system.
- ❑ **Strategic Pillars:** 49 deliverables categorized under six strategic pillars.
 - ◆ **Six Pillars:** Robust Regulations, Customer Centricity and Inclusive, Competitive Markets, Effective Technology, Future-ready Organisation, and Global India.

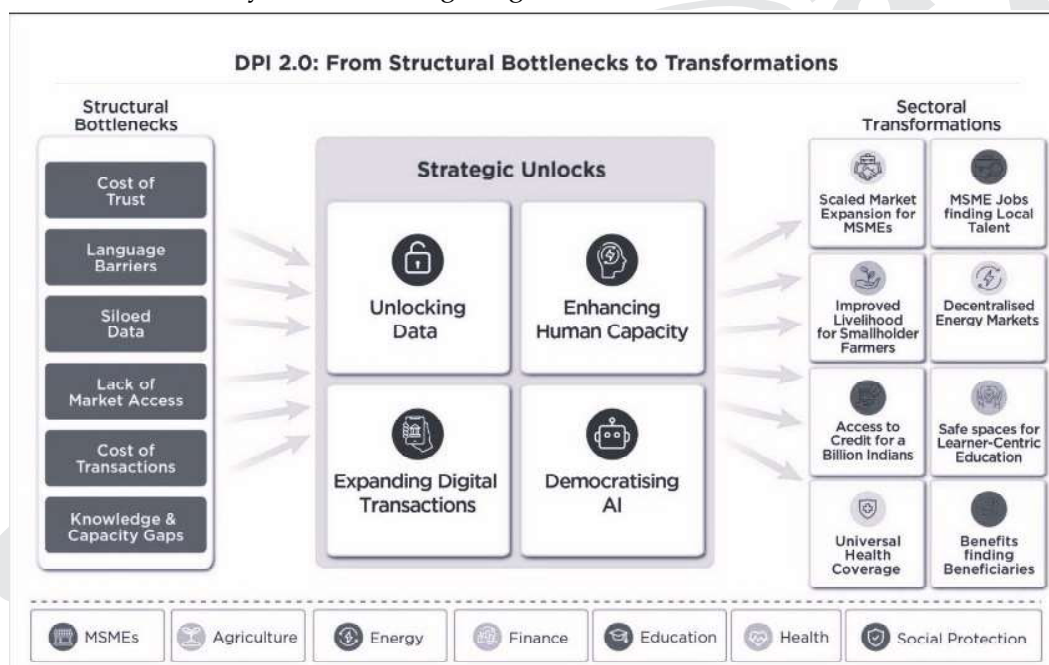
Chart I.1: Structure of Utkarsh 2029



- ◆ **Values:** Public interests, Integrity and Independence, Responsiveness and Innovation, Diversity and Inclusiveness, Introspection and the Pursuit of Excellence.
- ◆ Utkarsh 2029 builds upon Utkarsh 2022 and Utkarsh 2.0 to guide RBI operations.

DPI@2047 for Viksit Bharat

- The NITI Aayog released the report titled 'DPI@2047 for Viksit Bharat' on 27 April 2026 developed in collaboration with the **EkStep Foundation and Deloitte**.
- It outlines a two-phased roadmap for India's digital transformation.
- **Phase 1: DPI 2.0 (2025-2035)**
 - ◆ **Objective:** To accelerate livelihood-centric growth at scale.
 - ◆ **Four Key Implementation Strategies:** District-based demand mobilization, promotion of technology entrepreneurship, leveraging Artificial Intelligence (AI), and implementation of cross-sectoral strategic solutions ("Unlocks").
 - ◆ The framework identifies eight sectoral transformations aimed at addressing structural barriers across key sectors through digital interventions.



- **Phase 2- DPI 3.0(2035–2047):** Enabling Comprehensive Prosperity. Building on DPI 2.0, this phase aims to achieve productivity-led, inclusive growth at a national scale.

Anthology "Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India"

- **Released by:** Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog (17 April).
- **Objective:** To promote exploration of India's diverse tourism landscape through a structured and immersive approach for citizens and global travellers
- This compendium will serve as a 'year-round guide' for travelers.
- This compendium serves as a year-round guide for travellers, aligning tourist destinations with the monthly calendar to encourage visits during the appropriate season.
- It encompasses not only renowned landmarks but also hidden heritage sites and cultural festivals.

Miscellaneous

Kamala and Kalai-II Hydroelectric Projects, Arunachal Pradesh

- ❑ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the allocation for both projects.

Description	Kamala Hydroelectric Project	Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project
Total Installed Capacity	1,720 MW	1,200 MW
Implementation	A Joint Venture company between NHPC Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh	A Joint Venture Company of THDC India Limited and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh
Location (District)	Kamle, Kra Daadi & Kurung Kumey Districts	Anjaw
River/Basin	Kamala River (Tributary of the Subansiri River)	Lohit River (The first project in the Lohit Basin)

Customs Duty Concession for Products Manufactured in SEZs

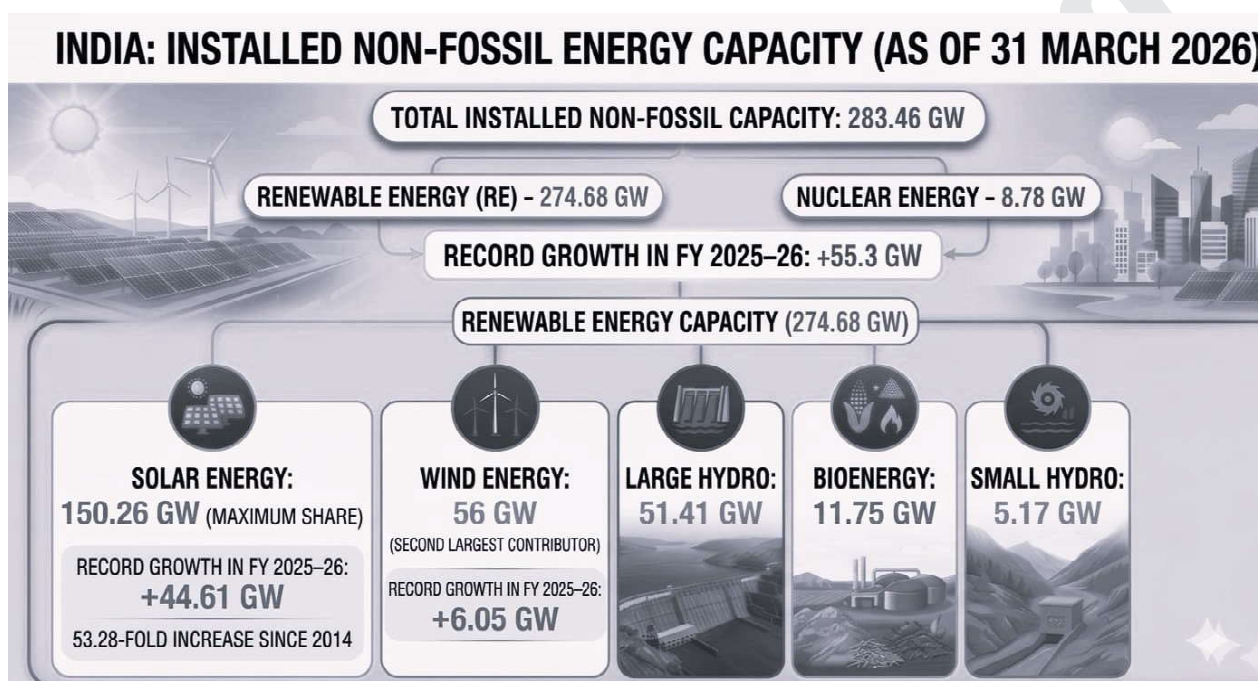
- ❑ The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has granted conditional customs duty concessions for goods manufactured within Special Economic Zones (SEZs) that are sold into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA).
- ❑ **Announcement:** Budget 2026-27
- ❑ **Objective:** To enhance capacity utilization and reduce costs for approximately 1,200 manufacturing units affected by global trade barriers.
- ❑ **Concessions Duration:** April 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.
- ❑ **Eligibility and Conditions:**
 - ◆ Eligible units are permitted to sell goods in the DTA up to 30% of their highest annual Free on Board (FOB) export value recorded in any of the preceding three financial years
 - ◆ To avail of this concession, it is mandatory to undertake a minimum value addition of 20% within the SEZ.
 - ◆ To prevent the accrual of dual benefits, export incentives- such as duty drawbacks on inputs- are not permitted at the time of clearance of goods.
- ❑ **Background:** Under Section 30 of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005, DTA sales were treated as deemed imports, affecting competitiveness; the current reform aims to create a level playing field.
- ❑ **SEZ Status:** A total of 368 notified SEZs are operational in India (as of 28 February 2026).

Skills Outcomes Fund

- ❑ Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, launched the campaign to establish this fund on April 8, 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote sustainable career opportunities for youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.
- ❑ **Function:** To mobilise public and private capital and link investments directly to certified employment outcomes through Outcomes-Based Financing (OBF).
- ❑ **Management:** National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ❑ This initiative is inspired by the achievements of the NSDC's Skill Impact Bond, India's first outcomes-based initiative.

Renewable Energy Installed Capacity: India Ranks Third Globally

- ❑ 'Renewable Energy Statistics 2026',
 - ◆ India has surpassed Brazil to reach the third position in global rankings.
 1. China (2258.02 GW)
 2. USA (467.92 GW)
 - ◆ **Launched by:** International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA)
 - ◆ As of December 2025, the installed renewable energy capacity stood at 250.52 GW.
- ❑ India achieved the milestone of 50% of its total electricity capacity from non-fossil sources in June 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 target.



Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)

- ❑ The National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has started the survey for the launch of the first ASISSE.
- ❑ **Objective:** To develop a comprehensive database of the corporate service sector for the purpose of policy formulation and economic analysis.
- ❑ **Reference Year:** Financial year 2024-25
- ❑ **Enterprises Covered:** Companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956 or 2013, and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.
- ❑ This survey utilizes the **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)** database for data collection.
- ❑ It will serve as a complement to the ASI (Annual Survey of Industries) and ASUSE (Annual Survey of Unorganized Sector Enterprises), thereby providing data on the non-agricultural economy.

Income Tax Act, 2025

- ❑ **Effective:** 1 April 2026.
- ❑ For its implementation, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) notified the 'Income Tax Rules, 2026' on March 20, 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** To modernize tax administration, reduce the tax burden, simplify the language of the law, minimize disputes, and eliminate obsolete provisions.



Guidelines Issued for the Compilation of GSDP and DDP Estimates

- ❑ **Issued by:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), with the aim of enhancing the quality and accuracy of statistical data.
- ❑ **Objective:** To harmonize the base years for the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of States and the District Domestic Product (DDP) of Districts, aligning them with the base year (2022-23) of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at the national level.
- ❑ To this end, a Sub-Committee on Regional Accounts was constituted.
- ❑ **Chairperson:** Professor Ravindra H. Dholakia.
- ❑ Constituted under the aegis of the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics (ACNAS).

Over 9.20 Crore Unique Farmer IDs Issued

- ❑ According to information provided in the Lok Sabha on March 24, 2026, by Ramnath Thakur, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, more than 9.20 crore unique Farmer IDs had been issued across the country under the 'AgriStack' project as of March 19, 2026.
- ❑ **Objective:** To consolidate agriculture-related data on a unified platform.
- ❑ **Leading States in Farmer ID Generation:** 1. Uttar Pradesh – 1.99 Crore (1st Position)
2. Maharashtra – 1.31 Crore 3. Madhya Pradesh – 1.04 Crore 4. **Rajasthan – 83.39 Lakh**

AgriStack

- ❑ This is a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) that was launched in 2024 under the Digital Agriculture Mission.
- ❑ **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)
- ❑ **Digital Identity:** It provides each farmer with a unique digital identity, which functions similarly to Aadhaar.
- ❑ **Components:** It establishes three key digital registers (a Farmer Register, a Register of Sown Crops, and Geo-referenced Village Maps), which are maintained by State Governments and Union Territories.
- ❑ The Farmer Registry encompasses all land-holding farmers, women farmers, livestock rearers, and fish farmers.

Major Ports Handle Cargo Exceeding Annual Target

- ❑ Major ports under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways handled 915.17 million tonnes of cargo during the financial year 2025–26, surpassing the annual target of 904 million tonnes.
- ❑ A growth of 7.06% was recorded compared to the previous financial year.
- ❑ **Leading Port:** Gujarat's Deendayal Port Authority emerged as the leading port, handling the highest volume of 160.11 million tonnes.

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

- ❑ **Inauguration:** On April 14, by PM Modi
- ❑ **Cost:** Rs. 12,000 crore.
- ❑ This multi-lane corridor passes through the states of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.
- ❑ It features Asia's longest 12-kilometer elevated wildlife corridor, the elevated section of which passes through Rajaji National Park.

Construction of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) Completed

- ❑ With the successful trial run of freight trains on the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) to New Safale (Vaitarna) section- conducted by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFCCIL)- the construction work for the entire Western Dedicated Freight Corridor was completed on March 31, 2026.
- ❑ To improve freight transportation, the Ministry of Railways has constructed two dedicated freight corridors:
 - a. **Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC):** Spanning 1,337 km from Ludhiana, Punjab, to Sonnagar, Bihar, the EDFC is currently operational.
 - b. **Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC):** This 1,506 km long corridor connects the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal (JNPT) in Maharashtra to Dadri in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ The Union Budget 2026-27 has proposed a new Dedicated Freight Corridor connecting Dankuni to Surat.

Mandatory Implementation of Two-Factor Authentication

- ❑ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made Two-Factor Authentication mandatory for all UPI and digital payments, effective from 1 April 2026.
- ❑ Users will be required to verify transactions, in addition to entering their UPI PIN- using a One-Time Password (OTP), fingerprint authentication, or facial recognition.

- 3 प्रधानमंत्री ने 'मन की बात' के 133वें संस्करण में राजस्थान के किस पक्षी के संरक्षण प्रयासों की विशेष रूप से सराहना की है?
- (A) कुरजां
(B) मोर
(C) गोडावण ✓
(D) साइबेरियन क्रेन

- 4 हाल ही में (अप्रैल 2026) न्याय प्रणाली को सुदृढ़ करने के उद्देश्य से राजस्थान हाईकोर्ट द्वारा कौन सा नया सिस्टम लॉन्च किया गया है?
- (A) यूनिफॉर्म रजिस्ट्रेशन नंबर सिस्टम ✓
(B) फास्ट ट्रैक हियरिंग पोर्टल
(C) ई-कोर्ट फीस सिस्टम
(D) डिजिटल विधिक सहायता ऐप



India- New Zealand FTA

- ❑ **Signed by:** Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay on 27 April 2026.
- ❑ **Bilateral Trade target:** To double \$5 billion in the next 5 years.
- ❑ **Foreign Direct Investment:** New Zealand has committed to invest \$20 billion in India over the next 15 years.
- ❑ **Tariff Reduction:**
 - ◆ India will lower tariffs on 70.03% tariff lines, covering 95% of bilateral trade value.
 - While keeping 29.97% of tariff lines in exclusion to protect India's sensitive sectors including items such as dairy products, sugar, certain vegetable products (like onions), and aluminium.
 - ◆ 100% of India's exports will be granted zero-tariff market access.
 - Services: Commitment across 118 services sectors, with Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment in 139 sectors.
- ❑ **Employment:**
 - ◆ **Establishment of new Temporary Employment Entry (TEE) Visa pathway:** up to 5,000 at any given time for Indian skilled professionals.
 - ◆ **Post-study work opportunities:** 3 years (STEM Bachelor's/Master's), 4 years (Doctoral)
 - ◆ **Working Holiday Visa:** 1,000 young Indians annually can avail multiple entry in New Zealand for a period of 12 months.
- ❑ **Agriculture**
 - ◆ Centres of Excellence for apples, kiwifruit, and Manuka honey

Tariff Rate Quota system with Minimum Import Price for selected agri products

- ◆ Joint Agriculture Productivity Council (JAPC) to monitor TRQs

❑ **Key Firsts**

- ◆ First FTA where New Zealand includes dedicated Health & Traditional Medicine (AYUSH) chapter
- ◆ First dedicated Student Mobility & Post-Study Work Visa pathway with any country
- ◆ New Zealand to amend GI law within 18 months to protect Indian GIs.

❑ **Trade Facilitation**

- ◆ Standard cargo clearance: within 48 hours
- ◆ Express/perishable goods: within 24 hours

South Korean President's visit of India

- ❑ President Lee Jae Myung paid a State Visit to India from 19-21 April, 2026.
- ❑ India-South Korea Business Forum was held on 20 April 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❑ Bilateral trade is \$27 bn, **Target:** \$50 bn by 2030.
- ❑ **Announcements**
 - ◆ Resumption of negotiation to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA).
 - ◆ Launch of Economic Security Dialogue.
 - ◆ Joint Strategic Vision for the India-ROK Special Strategic Partnership.
 - ◆ Launch a 'Korea-India Defence Accelerator' (KIND-X) innovation platform



- ◆ Establishment of Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP).
 - ◆ South Korea joining the Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative.
 - ◆ South Korea joining the International Solar Alliance and India joining Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI).
 - ◆ Launch of India- Korea Financial Forum.
 - ◆ Launching of India- Korea Digital Bridge.
 - ◆ Commemoration of the Year 2028-29 as Year of India-ROK Friendship.
 - ◆ Extension of Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) for the period 2026-30.
 - ◆ An India-South Korea "Space Day" in collaboration with IN-SPACE in Bengaluru was celebrated on 20 April 2026.
 - ◆ Will Open office of Korea Marine Equipment Association (KOMEA) in Mumbai, the first such office.
 - ◆ Agreement on the establishment of an India-ROK Annual Steel Dialogue.
- **MOUs:**
- ◆ These include agreements in ports, steel supply chains, Micro, small and medium enterprises, science and technology, climate action, and Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs).
 - ◆ MOU between POSCO and JSW for establishing a 6 MMT Integrated Steel Plant in Odisha.
 - ◆ Digital Payment Integration: NPCIL (National Payment Corporation of India Limited) and KFTC signed an MOU.
- Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker's visit to India**
- **Date:** 14-17 April, 2026
 - It is the first visit in over 40 years, marking a major boost to India-Austria strategic relations.
- **List of Outcomes:**
- ◆ Agreement on Audiovisual Co-production between India and Austria
 - ◆ Joint Announcement on setting up a Fast Track Mechanism for Indian and Austrian companies
 - ◆ Letter of Intent on Cooperation in Military Matters
 - ◆ Letter of Intent on Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism.
 - ◆ MoU on Food Safety between AGES, Austria and FSSAI, India
 - ◆ Joint Letter of Intent regarding dual vocational training, skills development and the recognition of vocational qualifications,
 - ◆ MoU between IIT Delhi and Austria's Montan University: To strengthen cooperation in engineering and technical education.
- **Announcements:**
- ◆ Increased cooperation of startup ecosystems under the India-Austria Startup Bridge.
 - ◆ **India-Austria Working Holiday Programme:** To promote youth exchange.
 - ◆ Partnership between India's Centre for UN Peacekeeping and the Austrian Armed Forces International Centre (AUTINT).
 - ◆ Agreement to jointly organise a bilateral space industry seminar in Vienna in 2026.
 - ◆ Focus India initiative of Austria's leading technical Universities to systematically deepen educational cooperation and research cooperation with India.
 - ◆ Renewal of the MoU on technical cooperation in the road infrastructure sector.
- Defence Minister's Visit of Germany**
- **News:** He went on an official visit to Germany from April 21 to 23, 2026.
 - He met his counterpart **Boris Pistorius** in Berlin.

- ❑ **List of Outcomes**
 - ◆ Signing of the Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and
 - ◆ Implementing Arrangement was signed for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping operations.

- ❑ **India and Germany held Foreign office Consultation**
 - ◆ **Venue:** Berlin, Germany on 14th April
 - ◆ **Co-chairmanship:** India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri & Germany's Geza Andreas von Geyr on 14th April in Berlin.
 - ◆ launched the **logo** commemorating 75 years of diplomatic relations

Bangladesh Foreign Minister's visit


- ❑ Bangladesh's Foreign Minister, **Khalilur Rahman**, arrived in the country on April 7, 2026.
- ❑ Bangladesh is set to import **200 broad-gauge railway coaches** from India. Deliveries are scheduled to begin this year and be completed by December 2027.
- ❑ **BIMSTEC 2026 Chair:** Bangladesh

Places in News

China

- ❑ Recently, Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) launched its **new Atlas drone swarm system** (atelasi).

Israel

- ❑ The government of Israel has formally broadened its **Yellow Line policy from Gaza into southern Lebanon**, creating a militarized buffer zone reaching as far as the **Litani River**.
- ❑ Members of the **B'nei Menashe Jewish community** have recently settled in Israel under the Israeli government's relocation programme. They are considered to be among the "10 lost tribes of Israel" and live in **Manipur and Mizoram**. 

Azerbaijan

- ❑ 6th round of Foreign Office Consultations in **Baku**- India and Azerbaijan are normalising

relations a year after Operation Sindoor-related tensions.

Indonesia

- ❑ **B50 biodiesel (50% palm oil, 50% diesel):** it is introduced to reduce dependence on expensive imported oil amid global price and geopolitical pressures.
- ❑ A magnitude 7.4 earthquake struck the Northern Molucca Sea off Indonesia's **Ternate island**.

Organisation

India unanimously Secures Key Positions in UN Economic and Social Council Elections

1. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development
2. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organisations
3. The Committee for Programme and Coordination
4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
 - ◆ Former senior diplomat **Preeti Saran** was re-elected in her personal capacity to this Committee



UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development

- ❑ **Announcement:** At the 2nd International Conference on Women Leading the Future of Work.
- ❑ **Venue:** Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune on April 24, 2026.
- ❑ **Launch:** Inaugurated by Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (I/C) for Skill Development.
- ❑ It will act as a centre of excellence and global knowledge hub for advancing skill-based education and employability with a focus on increasing the participation of women in the workforce.
- ❑ Asia's first UNESCO Chair for Gender Inclusion & Skill Development.

Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting

- ❑ **Venue:** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 28 April, 2026
- ❑ The Union Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** led the delegation.
- ❑ Raksha Mantri gifted the **two Bhishm Aarogya Maitri Health Cube** to Kyrgyzstan

Asia Africa Agri Alliance (AAAA)

- ❑ **Launched:** New Delhi in March 2026
- ❑ **Participants:** Senior ambassadors, diplomats, policymakers & agribusiness leaders from 10+ nations
- ❑ **Purpose:** Strengthen trade, agricultural cooperation, investment & technology exchange between Asia and Africa



OPEC

- ❑ **News:** UAE has announced to quit oil producer group OPEC and OPEC+ with the decision taking effect from May 1, 2026.
- ❑ UAE joined OPEC in 1967 and remained a member after gaining independence in 1971.

OPEC

- ❑ **Establishment:** 1960 in Baghdad Conference by 5 countries- Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.
- ❑ **Members:** 12 countries. Algeria, Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and Venezuela.

OPEC +

- ❑ In 2016, the OPEC joined with 10 other producers to form OPEC+.
- ❑ **Members:** OPEC's members + Russia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Malaysia, Oman, South Sudan, and Sudan.

1st BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi (Virtual), 15th April, 2026.
- ❑ **Host:** Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India (New Delhi).
- ❑ **Participants:** The meeting brought together senior health officials, technical experts, and delegates from BRICS member countries- Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia to deliberate on priority areas of cooperation in public health.
- ❑ **Nine priority areas:** identified under the BRICS Health Working Group,
 - ◆ Two new priority areas under India's Chairship:
 - BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyle and
 - Promotion of Mental Health and Wellness.

1st BRICS Academic Research Forum

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi, 17-18 April, 2026
- ❑ **Organised by:** Observer Research Foundation (ORF), in partnership with Research and Information System for Developing Countries.

BRICS-MENA meeting on West Asia Conflict

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi, India, 24 April, 2026.
- ❑ India as the BRICS 2026 Chair, convened this inaugural meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys to address the escalating U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict.
- ❑ BRICS-MENA is a specialized consultative platform within BRICS to coordinate regional security and diplomacy between member states and MENA stakeholders.
- ❑ **MENA= Middle East North Africa**
- ❑ The MENA delegation features key regional stakeholders in addition to the BRICS members from the area (Iran, Egypt, UAE, and Saudi Arabia).
 - ◆ **Gulf:** Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq.
 - ◆ **Levant:** Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria.
 - ◆ **North Africa:** Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Libya

Events/Conferences/Meetings

14th MC of WTO

- ❑ **Host:** Yaoundé, Cameroon, 26–30 March 2026. (2nd MC in Africa)
- ❑ **Chaired by:** Luc Magloire Mbarga Atangana, Cameroon's Minister of Trade.
- ❑ The Indian delegation was led by Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry.



Key Decisions Adopted at MC14

- ❑ **Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations:** Ministers agreed to continue negotiations on fisheries subsidies to develop comprehensive disciplines by the MC15.
 - ◆ The 2022 Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies Agreement entered into force.
- ❑ **Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD)**
 - ◆ IFD is aimed at attracting foreign direct investment to drive growth, productivity gains, job creation, and integration into global supply chains.
 - ◆ It is open to all WTO members to join.
 - ◆ A proposal to incorporate the IFD Agreement into Annex 4 of the WTO Agreement failed to materialise despite support from 129 of 166 WTO member countries.
 - ◆ India opposed the incorporation of IFD as it may erode the WTO's functional limits and consensus-based decision-making.
- ❑ **Small Economies:** Ministers agreed to improve integration of small economies into the global trading system.
- ❑ **Special & Differential Treatment (S&DT):** Enhancing the implementation of S&DT provisions in:

- ◆ Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS)

- ◆ Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

- ❑ **E-Commerce Moratorium:** Due to the lack of consensus, the e-commerce moratorium, in place since 1998, has expired for the first time in 26 years.

- ◆ The moratorium has been renewed biennially at successive Ministerial Conferences. Its expiry on March 31, 2026, allows countries to impose tariffs on digital trade.

- ❑ **Public Stockholding (PSH) programme:** no decision on this issue

- ◆ The PSH programme is a policy tool under which the government procures crops like rice and wheat from farmers at a minimum support price (MSP), stores and distributes foodgrains to the poor.

- ❑ **TRIPS Safeguard:** The safeguard against non-violation complaints under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) agreement also lapsed.

- ❑ Critical issues such as reviving the stalled appellate function of the WTO's dispute settlement system have been postponed.

- ❑ Partenariat pour le Coton (PPC) initiative: a new phase of this initiative was launched for the cotton-to-textile value chain in Africa

Partnership for Healthy Cities (PHC) Summit 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Rio de Janeiro, 30 March - 2 April 2026.
- ❑ **Participants:** Included health officials, urban planners, and global experts from 55 cities.
- ❑ **Primary Focus:** Prevention strategies for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and injuries.

- ❑ The initiative is supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) and Vital Strategies.

Convention on Migratory Species COP 15

- ❑ **Venue:** Campo Grande, Brazil, 23-29 March, 2026. (First time in Brazil)
- ❑ **Theme:** "Connecting Nature to Sustain Life"
- ❑ **Key Outcomes**
 - ◆ Over 40 migratory species were added to CMS Appendices.
 - ◆ A new global initiative was launched to curb illegal and unsustainable exploitation of migratory species.

About the Convention on the conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals

- ❑ Established in 1979 in Bonn, Germany, it is also referred to as the Bonn Convention.
- ❑ **Member:** 133 Countries (including India).
- ❑ **Secretariat:** Bonn, Germany.
- ❑ It meets once every 3 years.
- ❑ **Aim:** To conserve migratory animals and their habitats across national habitats and across borders.

5th World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress

- ❑ **Venue:** Hua Hin, Thailand on 27th - 30th April 2026
- ❑ **Organised by:** Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and TBTI Global.
- ❑ **Theme:** "Small-scale fisheries for advancing just harmony, young futures, and regenerative wisdom".
- ❑ **Participation:** 50 countries.
- ❑ **India represented by:** Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Secretary, Department of Fisheries

28th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' meeting

- ❑ **Venue:** Manila, Philippines.
- ❑ **Co-chaired:** P Kumaran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, and Leo M Herrera-Lim, Philippines.

- ❑ The year 2026 marks ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation.

4th India- Africa Forum Summit

- ❑ External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled the logo, theme and website of the IAFS-IV on 23 April 2026 in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi, India, 28- 31 May, 2026
- ❑ **Theme:** IA SPIRIT, (India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation).

1st Global Forum of WHO Collaborating Centres

- ❑ **Venue:** Lyon, France, 7-9 April, 2026,
- ❑ **Hosted by:** Govt of France
- ❑ **Theme:** Collaborating for a Healthier Future.
- ❑ **Participation:** global experts from hundreds of institutions designated as WHO Collaborating Centres (including AIIMS New Delhi) across more than 80 countries and WHO Leadership.
- ❑ One Health Integration: The forum was held alongside the **One Health Summit 2026**.
 - ◆ **Venue:** Lyon (April 5-7) under France's G7 Presidency,
- ❑ One health: Integrated approach linking human, animal and ecosystem health.

9th Indian Ocean Conference

- ❑ **Venue:** Mauritius, 10-12 April, 2026
- ❑ **Organised by:** India Foundation, in association with the Government of Mauritius
- ❑ **Theme:** "Collective Stewardship for Indian Ocean Governance."
- ❑ **Participation:** from more than 40 Countries (India- S. Jaishankar)

Index/ Reports

World Economic Outlook

- ❑ **Released by:** IMF twice a year in April and October.
- ❑ **Key Findings**
 - ◆ India has slipped to the 6th-largest economy in the world in nominal GDP terms.



- ◆ India's GDP is estimated at \$4.15 trillion in 2026, behind the United Kingdom and Japan.
- ◆ **IMF projections**
 - 4th largest economy by 2027
 - 3rd largest economy by 2031
- ◆ Ranking: 1. USA 2. China 3. Germany 4. Japan 5. UK 6. India
- **Basis of the ranking**
 - ◆ The IMF calculates this using 2 key variables:
 - GDP in local currency and
 - The exchange rate against the US dollar.
- Reason for the slip in ranking: Rupee depreciation + base year revision etc.

Food Security Index

- **Released by:** International Institute for Environment and Development(IIED)
- **Assessment on 4 pillars:** Availability, Accessibility, Utilisation and Sustainability. (Scaling system: 1 to 10)
- About 56 billion people (59%) live below the global average score of 6.74.
- India's baseline score in the new Food Security Index is 5.31, significantly below the global average of 6.74.

10th Global Report on Food Crises 2026

- **Published by:** the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations And the World Food Programme with contributions from the Global Network Against Food Crises (GNAFC) and GRFC partners.
 - ◆ Funded by: European Union
- **Key Findings:**
 - ◆ In 2025, ten countries accounted for two-thirds of all people facing high levels of acute food insecurity globally, with Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan alone representing nearly one-third of the total.

- ◆ Top countries with the largest number of people facing high levels of acute food insecurity:
 1. Nigeria 2. Democratic Republic of Congo, 3. Sudan 8. Pakistan
- ◆ In 2025, famine (IPC Phase 5) was confirmed for the first time in two places, Gaza Strip and Sudan.

Report on Land Inequality in India

- **Published by:** World Inequality Lab
- The study is based on data from the Socio-Economic Caste Census covering 650 million people across 2.7 lakh villages.
- **Key Findings:**
 - ◆ The top 10% of rural households own 44% of total land
 - ◆ The top 5% of households own 32% of land, while the top 1% alone own 18% of land, reflecting extreme inequality at the top.
 - ◆ About 46% of rural households are landless
- Kerala has the highest land inequality in terms of Gini coefficient, indicating a highly unequal distribution followed by Bihar, Punjab.
- **Landlessness- Highest-**
 1. Punjab (73%)
 2. Bihar (59%) {Rajasthan= 34%}

23rd Time Magazine 100 Most Influential People List

- The list recognizes people who are shaping global culture, politics, and technology. **Under 6 segments-** Leaders, innovators, artists, titans, Icons and Pioneers.
- Indians & Indian-Origin Personalities on the List
 1. Ranbir Kapoor (Artist),
 2. Vikas Khanna (Innovators),
 3. Sundar Pichai (Titans),
 4. Neal Mohan (Innovators),
 5. Zohran Mamdani (Leaders)

- ❑ **Chinese President Xi Jinping** made a record **14th** appearance on the list (the highest of any individual).
- ❑ US President **Donald Trump** made his **8th** appearance.
- ❑ **Youngest:** Alysa Liu (20 years old), Olympic figure skater.
- ❑ **Oldest:** Dolores Huerta (96 years old), legendary American civil rights activist.

Financing for Sustainable Development Report (FSDR) 2026

- ❑ **Published By:** the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA),
- ❑ It highlights the role of Sevilla Commitment to reverse current trends in financing for development.

About Sevilla Commitment

- ◆ It is a comprehensive framework aimed at closing the USD 4 trillion annual SDG financing gap in developing countries.

Internet Shutdown Report 2025

- ❑ **Published by:** Access Now + #KeepItOn Coalition.
- ❑ **Top Countries:**
 1. Myanmar (95 times)
 2. India (65 times; lowest number recorded since 2017).

"Spotlight on the Top 25 Methane Plumes in 2025: Landfills,"

- ❑ **Published by:** the University of California (UCLA)'s Stop Methane Project.
- ❑ This list shows the top 25 sites in the waste sector with the largest detected and quantified emissions rates worldwide.
- ❑ **Top sites:**
 1. Buenos Aires (Argentina)
 4. Secunderabad, Telangana 12. Mumbai.

Awards

4th Gender Equality Mobilisation Award 2026

- ❑ **Winner:** Guntur Municipal Corporation, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **Presented by:** United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026 Competition

- ❑ It is a vibrant international competition for cheese and dairy products held in Sao Paulo.
- ❑ **Winning Varieties:**
 - ◆ Super Gold: Eleftheria Gulmarg (Brie-Style)
 - ◆ **Gold:** Ladakh's Yak Churpi and Eleftheria Brunost
 - ◆ **Silver:** Eleftheria Kaali Miri.

Goldman Environmental Prize 2026

- ❑ This prize has been given to 6 women leaders, marking the first all women cohort.
- ❑ Also known as **Green Nobel**
- ❑ **2026 Winners and Regions**
 - ◆ Africa: Iroro Tanshi, Nigeria
 - ◆ Asia: Borim Kim, South Korea
 - ◆ Europe: Sarah Finch, UK
 - ◆ Island: Theonila Roka Matbob: Papua New Guinea
 - ◆ North America: Alannah Hurley: USA
 - ◆ South/ Central America: Yuvelis Morales Blanco, Colombia

About

- ◆ Established in 1989 by Richard and Rhoda Goldman.
- ◆ It recognises grassroots environmental heroes from 6 geographic regions
- ◆ Prize money: 2,00,000 \$.
- ◆ Honors grassroots environmental heroes.

Breakthrough Prize 2026

- ❑ Six \$3 Million Prizes Awarded for Outstanding Discoveries in Life Sciences, Fundamental Physics and Mathematics

- ❑ **Total Prize money:** \$18.75 million
- ❑ Often referred to as “Oscar of Science”.
- ❑ Fundamental Physics
 - ◆ **Winner:** Physicist Atanu Nath from Assam
 - For his work on the Muon g-2 experiment at CERN.
 - He is currently an assistant professor of physics at Tihu College in Nalbari District.
- ❑ **Mathematics**
 - ◆ **Winner:** Frank merle
 - ◆ His work has significantly advanced the modern understanding of nonlinear evolution equations – the mathematical descriptions of how waves, fluids, and other dynamic systems change over time.

WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Prizes 2026

- ❑ **News:** Samriddh Gram has been selected as a nominee for this prize Under the Action Line AL C6: Enabling Environment Category.
- ❑ **WSIS Forum 2026:** Scheduled for July 6-10, 2026, in Geneva.

Samriddh Gram:

- ❑ Integrated Phygital Service Delivery Model Enabled by BharatNet,
- ❑ Nodal Ministry: **Department of Telecommunications (DoT).**
- ❑ It establishes Samriddhi Kendras as one-stop community hubs delivering integrated “phygital” services that combine physical infrastructure with digital platforms.

Global Green Icon Award

- ❑ **Winner:** J. Santosh Kumar, former Rajya Sabha MP.
 - ◆ He is the founder of Green India Challenge.
- ❑ **Event:** Given at World Climate Leaders Conclave held in London
- ❑ **Venue:** House of Lords, London, the United Kingdom.

United States National Book Critics Circle award

- ❑ Each year these awards are given for the finest books published in English under Six categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Poetry, and Criticism.
- ❑ **Autobiography:** Mother Mary Comes to Me, Arundhati Roy.
- ❑ **Fiction:** We Do Not Part by Han Kang, South Korean Nobel laureate.

Miscellaneous

Punatsangchhu II Hydroelectric Project

- ❑ **News:** India and Bhutan signed Tariff Protocol of Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project.
 - ◆ This agreement was signed on Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal’s visit to Bhutan.
- ❑ It is a 1020 MW Run of the river hydroelectric project.
- ❑ **Location:** Wangdue Phodrang district (Bhutan) on the right bank of the Punatsangchhu River.
- ❑ **Funding:** It is funded by the Government of India with 30% grant and 70% loan at 10% interest, repayable in 30 installments.

- ❑ 7th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) Meeting between India and Bhutan
 - ◆ Venue: Munnar, Kerala, 20-21 April 2026
 - ◆ Co Chaired by: Yogendra Garg, India and Sonam Jamtsho, Bhutan.

India-US Trade Facilitation Portal

- ❑ **Launched by:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and the Ambassador of India to the US, Vinay Kwatra.
- ❑ **Aim:** work toward the ambitious "Mission 500," which aims to double bilateral trade to \$500 billion by 2030.
- ❑ **Note:** Tom Suozzi has recently been appointed as the Vice-Chair of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. The Caucus is chaired by Ro Khanna.

Cannes Film Festival

- ❑ **Venue:** 12-13 May.
- ❑ Nepali feature film "Elephants in the Fog" became the first Nepali film to be selected in the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival.
- ❑ Two Marathi films, "Jeev (The Creature)" and "April May 99", have been selected for the Marché du (Market) Film section.

Shikshapatri

- ❑ The Shikshapatri, one of the most significant and rare Hindu scriptures, is currently on a nationwide UK tour launched by the Bodleian Libraries at the University of Oxford.
- ❑ Composed in 1826 by **Sahajanand Swami** at Vadtal in Gujarat, the Shikshapatri means "a letter of teachings."

USA/ Israel- Iran War



Iran- USA Peace Talk

- ❑ **Venue:** Islamabad, Pakistan, on 11 and 12 April 2026.
 - ◆ It is the first high-level 21-hour-long marathon peace talks between the USA and Iran since the 1979 revolution.
- ❑ **Delegations:**
 - ◆ USA: Vice-President J.D. Vance, Steve Witcoff, and Jared Kushner.
 - ◆ Iran: Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf (Head of Delegation).
- ❑ The USA's 15-point and Iran's 10-point proposals set the framework for the negotiation process to start.
- ❑ **Outcome:** The talks failed due to several unresolved issues, including Iran's nuclear program, its control over the Strait of Hormuz, and Israeli strikes on Lebanon.



Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative

- ❑ The UK and France lead this multinational mission to protect freedom of navigation

and called a meeting on April 17, 2026 in Paris.

➤ **The US is not part of this.**

- ❑ **Chaired by:** French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer.
- ❑ **Participation:** Nearly 40 countries including India,
- ❑ **Aim:** To ensure safe navigation, protect energy supply chains, and maintain maritime security amid rising Middle East tensions

10-day ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon

- ❑ Announced by Donald Trump.
- ❑ It came into effect from April 17, 2026.
- ❑ Leaders involved: Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Places in News

- ❑ Habshan gas facilities, UAE; this facility is linked to the port of Fujairah by a crude oil pipeline, allowing Abu Dhabi exports to bypass the strait of Hormuz.
- ❑ Oman- port of Salalah

Iran

- ❑ Asaluyeh- Iran's largest Petro chemical facility
- ❑ Qeshm Island (Iran)- Largest island in the Persian Gulf.

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)

- ❑ The Union Cabinet has approved the creation of a domestic maritime insurance pool with a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore.
- ❑ **Aim:**
 - ◆ Insulating India's maritime trade from global volatility.
 - ◆ The move is expected to significantly reduce dependence on foreign underwriters and ensure uninterrupted risk coverage for Indian shipping.



- ❑ **Coverage**
 - ◆ The pool will extend insurance protection to Indian-flagged and Indian-controlled vessels carrying cargo between international ports and India in both directions.
 - ◆ It will cover the physical structure of ships under hull and machinery insurance, protect goods in transit through cargo insurance, and address third-party liabilities such as crew injury and environmental damage under protection and indemnity (P&I) coverage.
 - ◆ It will also provide war risk insurance for vessels operating in conflict zones and high-risk maritime corridors.
- ❑ India has approved the first withdrawal of 30 bn \$ under SAARC Currency Swap Framework with which country? - **Maldives.**
- ❑ India and Russia have operationalised the **Indo-Russian** Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (**RELOS**) **Pact.**
 - ◆ RELOS is not a permanent basing agreement (remain in effect for 5 years and can be extended)
- ❑ Denmark has announced the establishment of the first Danish Chamber of Commerce in India. The initiative aims to support Danish companies operating in India or those considering business opportunities here.

RELIEF Scheme

- ❑ **Egypt and Jordan** have been added to the list of eligible countries for shipments meant for delivery or transshipment, under the relevant provisions of the RELIEF framework.
 - ◆ It covers consignments meant for delivery or trans-shipment to countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Israel and Yemen.
- ❑ Who has launched the 'Water Forward' initiative for water security for 1 billion people? **World Bank**
- ❑ Recently which city has been included in the UN's '20 cities Towards Zero Waste' initiative? **Varkala, Kerala**
- ❑ Recently, what position has India achieved in issuing internationally recognised certificates of compliance under the Nagoya Protocol?

1st (56% of whole world's certificate)

- ❑ The 15-nation UN Security Council voted on the resolution proposed by Bahrain on reopening the strait of Hormuz, which got 11 votes in favour, two against and two abstentions.
 - ◆ Russia and China voted against the resolution.

One Liner

- ❑ The **UK Parliament** has passed the Tobacco and Vapes Bill, which introduces a "**generational ban**" making it illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after January 1, 2009.
- ❑ Recently which port secured the top position in cargo handling in FY26 in the country?

1. Deendayal Port, Gujarat 2. Paradip Port
- ❑ Recently, which Indian FMCG company has crossed 1 trillion rupees in turnover in FY26? **AMUL**
- ❑ Recently, which country has introduced the world's 1st 10G internet network? **UAE**
- ❑ Deep Jariwala has been chosen for the UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Quantum Devices, a highly respected position in the U.S.

❑ Recently, which country became India's top trading partner in FY 2025-26 surpassing the USA? **China (151.1 Billion USD- trade deficit- \$112 bn)**

❑ The sculpture of **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** was unveiled in **Malawi, Africa**, on April 19 bringing together geography, culture, and heritage. It was made by the famous Indian sculptor Mr Naresh Kumar Kumawat.

❑ United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) Adopts First-Ever Resolution Recognizing the Link Between Plastic Pollution, Ocean Protection and the Right to a Healthy Environment

❑ Who is the President of UNGA, who recently visited India and met MEA S Jaishankar in New Delhi? **Annalena Baerbock**

❑ Recently, who has been inducted into the international Hall of Fame of the US Army War College?

Upendra Dwivedi (3rd Indian)

❑ **1st India - Japan AI Strategic Dialogue** was held at which place? **Mumbai, Maharashtra**

◆ The Dialogue was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Cyber Diplomacy), Ministry of External Affairs, Amit Shukla and Deputy Assistant Minister for Cyber Security of Japanese Foreign Affairs Ministry, Hanada Takahiro.

❑ Recently Carlos Alcaraj has been appointed as global brand ambassador by which Indian IT company? **Infosys**

❑ Recently, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar attended the G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in which country?

Abbaye des-vaux-de-carney, France.

❑ Recently, Sun Pharma company has announced to acquire **Organon company** from New Jersey, USA. By acquiring this company, Sun Pharma will become a top 25 pharmaceutical company and a top 10 global player in bio-similars in the world.

❑ Recently, India's **KABIL Company** received environmental clearance for five lithium blocks from which country?



Argentina.

❑ Who led the Indian delegation for the recent round (20-23 April) in Washington D.C. of India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement talks held in Washington?

Chief Negotiator Darpan Jain

❑ Deakin University (Australia) and the Telangana Government's AI innovation hub, Aikam, signed an MoU in Hyderabad to boost applied AI, establishing the Aikam-Deakin Hub for Research in Intelligent Technology & Innovation (Aikam-DHRITI).

❑ The Spring Meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank were held in **Washington D.C.**

❑ MEA S Jaishankar participated in the AZEC Plus meeting convened by Japan to discuss supply chain disruptions in the energy markets.

❑ As per Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (**SIPRI**) India emerged as the world's **fifth-largest military spender** in 2025, (defence expenditure = \$92.1 billion).

◆ Top Spenders: 1. USA 2. China 3. Russia 4. Germany

❑ In April 2026 India dispatched humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan (Recently hit by Earthquake) and Burkina Faso.

Person in News

Person	Why in the News?	Remarks
Min Aung Hlaing	Myanmar's President	Former Myanmar Junta Chief
Ismail Omar Guelleh (IOG)	President of Djibouti	Re-elected for 6th term
Nizar Amedi	Iraq's New President	He is Kurdish.
To Lam	Vietnam's New President	Communist Party
Kim Jong-un	President of North Korea	Re-elected
Ruman Radev	Secure decisive victory in Bulgaria's Presidential election.	Party- Progressive Bulgaria
Cheng Li-wun	Taiwan opposition leader	She is the Kuomintang's (KMT) first leader to visit China in a decade.
Peter Magyar	PM of Hungary	Belonged to Tisza Party, Replaced Victor Orban (16 years in Power)
Nyam-Osoryn Uchral	Mongolia's new PM	
Denis Manturov	First Deputy PM of Russia	Visited India recently.
Periasamy Kumaran	Appointed as India's next High Commissioner to the UK	He will replace Vikram Doraiswami (now appointed as Ambassador to China). Kumaran is a 1992 batch IFS officer
Pranay Verma	Appointed as India's ambassador to Belgium and the EU	Previously served as India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh
Dinesh H. Trivedi	Appointed as next Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh	Former Union Minister of Railways.
Alexander Leonav, Russian Scientist	Died recently.	He was a key figure behind Brahmos.
Lt. Gen. Susan Coyle	First woman army chief of Australia	
Sayani Gupta, Bollywood Actress	2026 Person of the Year	Awarded by the Harvard South Asian Association.
John Ternus	Replace Tim Cook as CEO of Apple from September 1.	Tim Cook will become executive chairman of Apple's board of Directors.
Nabil Fahmy	New Secretary General of the Arab League	He is from Egypt.
Sadio Camara	Recently died	Mali's Defence Minister
Vasu Shroff, Businessman	Recently died in Dubai	Widely known as Dubai's textile King

Space Technology

Vikram-1

- Why in the News? Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy flagged off Skyroot's Vikram-1 rocket from the Max-Q Campus, sending it on its way to Sriharikota.
 - ◆ Manufacturer: Skyroot Aerospace
 - ◆ Max-Q Campus: Located at the GMR Aerospace Park, Shamshabad (Hyderabad).
- Its historic launch is expected in June 2026.
- It is India's first privately developed orbital rocket.

Features:

- **Naming:** Named after the scientist Vikram Sarabhai.
- It is a four-stage rocket.
- Length: Approximately 75 feet long.
- Capacity: Capable of carrying satellites weighing up to 300 kilograms into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- It is highly agile and extremely competitive within the satellite launch market.

Space Biotechnology: India's New Achievements in Space

- **Why in the News?** Indian scientists, under the aegis of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), have successfully tested indigenous microalgae and cyanobacteria on the International Space Station (ISS).
- **Experiment:** To study the growth and functional efficiency of these microorganisms within the microgravity and high-CO₂ environment of space.
- **Key Components:**
 - ◆ Microalgae: *Chlorella sorokiniana*, *Parachlorella kessleri*, *Desmorhynchococcus globosus*.

- ◆ Cyanobacteria: *Spirulina* and *Synechococcus* (for nitrogen/urea recycling).

Benefits:

- ◆ Life Support: Production of oxygen and absorption of CO₂ for astronauts.
- ◆ Superfood: Availability of fresh nutrients and protein-rich dietary supplements directly in space.
- ◆ Waste Management: Development of Biological Life Support Systems (BLSS) by recycling urea and nitrogen.
- ◆ Industrial Development: The development of 'robust' species on Earth for biofuel production and carbon capture.

YUVIKA Program A Flight for Youth in Space Science

- **Why in the News?** Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh discussed its success in the Rajya Sabha.
- **Full Name:** 'Yuva Vaigyanik Karyakram' (YUVIKA)
- **Initiated:** In 2019 by ISRO
- **Target Group:** Students of Class 9
- **Objective:** To foster an interest in space science at an early stage.
- **Nature:** A one-month residential program conducted during the summer vacations.
- **Selection Process and Inclusivity**
 - ◆ **Regional Representation:** Selection of 10 students from each state and 8 students from each Union Territory.
 - ◆ **Rural Preference:** Students from schools at the Panchayat level are accorded a 15% preference during selection.
 - ◆ **Basis of Selection:** Quizzes, participation in science fairs, Olympiad scores, and extracurricular activities.

- ❑ Till now, a total of 1,320 students have benefited from YUVIKA.
- ❑ Currently, the program is being conducted across seven major centers, including the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota), Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (Thiruvananthapuram), and Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad).
 - ◆ To further enhance capacity, two additional centers are being added in Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan).

Gaganyaan Mission

- ❑ **Why in the news?** ISRO successfully completed the second Integrated Air-Drop Test (IADT-02) for the Gaganyaan mission.
- ❑ **Test Site:** Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- ❑ In this test, a dummy crew module weighing 4.8 tons was dropped from an altitude of three kilometers using a Chinook helicopter.
- ❑ After module was released a system consisting of 10 parachutes was deployed.
- ❑ Three uncrewed missions will be launched prior to the final human mission.
- ❑ **Budget:** Rs.10,000 crore.
- ❑ **First Crewed Flight:** In the first quarter of 2027.
- ❑ **First Successful Test:** August 24, 2025, at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

Mission Mitra

- ❑ On April 4, four selected Indian astronauts commenced high-altitude training in Ladakh under 'Mission Mitra'.
- ❑ **Full Name:** Mapping of Inter-operable Traits and Response Assessment.
- ❑ **Organizers:** ISRO and the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM) of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- ❑ **Objective:** To assess human capabilities under challenging conditions.
 - ◆ To evaluate human performance in extreme environments.

- ❑ This mission involves Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, P. Balakrishnan Nair, and other astronauts.

Roman Space Telescope

- ❑ **Why in the news?** The final assembly of NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope has been completed, and it is being prepared for launch in 2026.
- ❑ **Features**
 - ◆ It will collect data 1,000 times faster than the Hubble Telescope.
 - ◆ It could open new avenues for understanding dark energy, galaxy formation, and distant planetary systems.
 - ◆ This mission is designed to scan vast regions of the sky in visible light, yielding data on a scale never before achieved.

Rosalind Franklin Rover Mission

- ❑ **Why in the News?** SpaceX will send Europe's Rosalind Franklin rover to Mars in 2028 using its Falcon Heavy rocket.
- ❑ This mission is part of the European Space Agency (ESA)-led ExoMars program.
- ❑ **Objective:** To search for signs of past or present life on Mars.

Artemis II

- ❑ The Artemis II flight was the first crewed test flight in the series of Artemis missions.
- ❑ **Launch:** April 1, 2026, by the Space Launch System rocket.
- ❑ **Successful Return :** Splashed down in the Pacific Ocean near the Southern California coast on April 10, 2026.
- ❑ This was the first crewed lunar mission since 1972.
- ❑ **Objective:** To test the systems of the Orion spacecraft in lunar orbit.
- ❑ **Crew:** Included American astronauts Wiseman, Victor Glover, and Christina Koch, as well as Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen.

- ❑ **Record:** The four astronauts set a new record for the farthest distance human have ever travelled from earth, reaching a peak of approx distance of 252,756 miles (406,771 kilometers).
- ❑ **Specialized Technology:** This mission utilized a new Universal Waste Management System (a “space toilet”) costing between \$20 million and \$30 million.
- ❑ NASA Associate Administrator Amit Kshatriya played a pivotal role in this endeavor.

- ◆ **Height:** Approximately 29 storey
- ◆ **Booster Name:** “Never Tell Me the Odds”
- ◆ Inspired by Han Solo’s dialogue in the film Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back.
- ◆ This booster had previously been used in the NG-2 mission (November) and was preserved for reuse.

Defence Technology

INS Trikand

- ❑ **Why in the News?** Arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, on April 03, 2026.
- ❑ It is a Guided Missile Frigate of the Indian Navy.
- ❑ This visit includes professional interactions and joint training exercises with the Tanzanian Navy.
- ❑ A cultural evening was also organized on board the ship.
- ❑ This port call aligns with India’s ‘MAHASAGAR’ vision.

INS SUNAYNA

- ❑ **Why in the News?** Embarked on its historic voyage from Mumbai as the ‘Indian Ocean Ship’ (IOS SAGAR).
- ❑ It was flagged off by the Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, and the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi.
- ❑ This mission involves naval personnel from 16 friendly nations alongside India.
- ❑ **Mission Phases and Itinerary:**
 1. **Harbour Phase (March 16–29, 2026):** Professional exchanges and coordination training were completed in Mumbai.
 2. **Sea Phase (May 2–20, 2026):** Operational deployment in the South-Eastern Indian Ocean.
- ❑ During this period, IOS SAGAR will make port calls at Colombo (Sri Lanka), Phuket (Thailand), Jakarta (Indonesia), Singapore, Chittagong (Bangladesh), Yangon (Myanmar), and Malé (Maldives), concluding its deployment in Kochi, India.
- ❑ It is a Saryu-class Offshore Patrol Vessel of the Indian Navy.

The Artemis Mission

- ❑ It is a “human space exploration program” under the Artemis Accords of 2020.
- ❑ Operator: NASA
- ❑ Members: 60+ (India joined in 2023)
- ❑ Objective: To return astronauts to the lunar surface by 2028.
 - ◆ **Artemis I (2022):** An uncrewed mission; successful test of the SLS rocket and the Orion spacecraft.
 - ◆ **Artemis II (2026):** The first crewed mission; a flyby around the Moon (no landing).
 - ◆ **Artemis III (2027):** A lander/technical test mission in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
 - ◆ **Artemis IV (2028):** First time astronauts will land on the Moon.
 - ◆ **Artemis V (2028):** The second landing, focusing on scientific research and the establishment of a lunar base.
- ❑ **Other Missions for Lunar Exploration:**
 - ◆ India: Chandrayaan
 - ◆ China: Chang’e 6
 - ◆ Japan: Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) Mission

Blue Origin’s New Glenn Rocket

- ❑ **Why is it in the news?** The first successful landing of the New Glenn rocket’s reusable booster has been completed.
- ❑ This achievement marks a significant advancement in the field of reusable launch technology.
- ❑ **Features:**
 - ◆ **Rocket Type:** Heavy-lift launch vehicle

INS Aridhaman

- ❑ India has inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Aridhaman, into the Navy.
- ❑ INS Aridhaman belongs to India's Arihant-class of submarines.

INS Kondiny

- ❑ Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth formally flagged off the vessel at Mumbai Port on March 2.
- ❑ **Historic Voyage:** This ship marks its first international voyage to Oman and symbolizes a historic return across the Arabian Sea.
- ❑ **Construction Style:** It is uniquely constructed using the traditional stitching method, with a design based on paintings found in the 8th-century Ajanta Caves.

Indigenous Stealth Frigate 'Dunagiri' (Yard 3023)

- ❑ Handed over to the Navy in Kolkata on March 30.
- ❑ **Construction:** Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.
- ❑ **Key Feature:** This is the fifth warship under Project 17A and the second vessel of the Nilgiri-class.
- ❑ It represents the modern avatar of the old Leander-class INS Dunagiri.
- ❑ **Technology:** It is equipped with advanced weapons and sensors compared to Project 17 vessels.
- ❑ It incorporates 75% indigenous technology.

INS 'Agray'

- ❑ **Why in the News:** INS 'Agray' was inducted into the Indian Navy on March 30 to enhance anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
- ❑ **Class:** It is the fourth vessel in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare warships.
- ❑ **Capability:** Measuring 77 meters in length, this warship is propelled by waterjets.

- ❑ It will carry forward the legacy of the old INS Agray, which was decommissioned in 2017.

Yard 1260 'Shachi'

- ❑ Shachi' is the first vessel in the series of Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV).
- ❑ **Launch:** Launched on March 31 at M/s GSL.
- ❑ **Construction:** Jointly undertaken by GRSE Kolkata and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL).
- ❑ **Naming:** Its name is inspired by mythology.

Malvan

- ❑ **Why in the News?** The Indian Navy received its second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), Malvan.
- ❑ **Construction:** Built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- ❑ **Naming:** Named after the historic coastal town of Malvan, this vessel embodies the rich maritime heritage associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- ❑ **Features:**
 - ◆ Complies with the Indian Navy's classification rules.
 - ◆ Carries forward the legacy of its predecessor, INS Malvan, which served in the Navy until 2003.
 - ◆ Dimensions: 80 meters in length, with a displacement of over 100 tons.
 - ◆ The vessel is equipped with waterjet propulsion and advanced systems, including torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, modern radar, and sonar.

Survey Vessel 'Sanshodhak'

- ❑ **Why in the News?** Formally handed over to the Indian Navy on March 30, 2026.
- ❑ **Construction:** Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE).
- ❑ **Features:**
 - ◆ This is the fourth and final survey vessel constructed under the Survey Vessel Large (SVL) project.

- ◆ Over 80% indigenous content has been utilized in this ship.
- ◆ It is equipped with modern systems to conduct hydrographic surveys in both coastal and deep-sea environments.
- ◆ Dimensions: It has a displacement of 3,400 tons and a length of 110 meters.
- ◆ Key technologies onboard include Digital Side Scan Sonar, a DGPS positioning system, and a real-time data processing unit.
- **Its predecessor vessels are** Sandhayak, Nirdeshak, and Ikshak.

INS Nireekshak

- It is a Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of the Indian Navy.
- **Why in the news?** It arrived at the Port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on April 21, 2026.
- It participated in the fourth edition of the bilateral diving exercise, IN-SLN DIVEX-2026, scheduled from April 21 to April 27, 2026.
- As part of India's humanitarian assistance initiatives, and under the Government of India's 'Aarogya Maitri' initiative, the ship presented two 'Maitri Bhishma Cubes' (India Health Initiative Cooperation, Interest, and Friendship) to Sri Lankan authorities.
- These state-of-the-art portable medical units are capable of handling 200 emergency cases and are designed to provide rapid response.
- They are equipped with the necessary medicines and surgical instruments required for basic medical procedures.
- With the objective of further strengthening maritime security cooperation, the Indian Navy will also hand over 50,000 rounds of 9mm ammunition to the Sri Lankan Navy.

INS Dhruv

- **Why in the news?** INS Dhruv has been deployed in the Arabian Sea.
- It is India's first dedicated nuclear missile tracking and ocean surveillance vessel.

- Construction: Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- Collaboration: DRDO and the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)
- **Functions:**
 1. Monitoring of ballistic missiles and strategic weapons
 2. Supporting the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system
 3. Gathering Electronic Intelligence (ELINT)
 4. Ocean surveillance and submarine detection
 5. Providing strategic intelligence during missile tests
- Operation: Jointly operated since 2021 by the Indian Navy, the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Specifications:**
 - ◆ **Displacement Capacity:** 15,000 tonnes
 - ◆ **Propulsion:** Powered by two diesel engines arranged in a CODAD configuration
 - ◆ **Speed:** Capable of reaching a maximum speed of 21 knots

Indian Defence Exports

- Growth (FY 2024-25 to FY 2025-26): 62.66%
- Total Defence Exports: From Rs. 23,622 Crore to Rs. 38,424 Crore
 - ◆ Contribution of DPSUs: From Rs. 8,389 Crore to Rs. 21,071 Crore (Growth: 151%)
 - ◆ Contribution of the Private Sector: From Rs.15,233 Crore to Rs.17,353 Crore (Growth: 14%)

'Prahaar' Light Machine Gun (LMG)

- **Why in the News?** Adani Defence and Aerospace has handed over the first batch of the indigenously manufactured 'Prahaar' LMG to the Indian Army.
- Manufacturing: Jointly undertaken by Adani Defence and Aerospace and Israel Weapon Industries.

Biotechnology

BioE 3 Policy

- ❑ **Why in the News?** India's bio-economy achieved its target of \$150 billion two years ahead of schedule (in 2023).
- ❑ By the end of 2024, the value of the Indian bio-economy reached \$165.7 billion.
- ❑ A network of 94 bio-incubators has been established across 25 states/Union Territories of India.
- ❑ **Objective:** To transform India into a global bio-manufacturing hub.
- ❑ Six thematic areas of national importance have been identified for implementation –
 - ◆ Bio-based chemicals, biopolymers, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), and enzymes.
 - ◆ Smart proteins and functional foods.
 - ◆ Precision bio-therapeutics.
 - ◆ Climate-resilient agriculture.
 - ◆ Carbon capture and utilization.
 - ◆ Marine and space research.
- ❑ **Goal:** To establish state-of-the-art shared facilities – termed 'Mulankur Bio-enablers' (including Bio-Artificial Intelligence hubs, Bio-foundries, and Bio-manufacturing hubs) – across the country under the PPP model.

TAK-003 (Qdenga)

- ❑ A tetravalent dengue vaccine developed by the Japanese company Takeda; it is India's first dengue vaccine.
- ❑ It has been approved by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) under the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for individuals aged 4 to 60 years.

CALM-Brain

- ❑ **Development:** Developed by researchers at the Rohini Nilekani Centre for Brain and Mind (CBM) – established in partnership between the National Institute of Mental

Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) and the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS-TIFR).

- ❑ It is a first-of-its-kind open-source database that compiles detailed information on brain structure and functionality in the context of psychiatric disorders.

Sports Genomics Program

- ❑ Gujarat has launched India's first Sports Genomics Program.
- ❑ **Objective:** To understand athletes' genetic strengths, endurance, speed, and recovery potential by analyzing their DNA.
- ❑ **Goal:** To collect approximately 10,000 genetic samples over 5 years (2,000 samples per year).
 - ◆ To create a 'Gujarat Athlete Genome Database'.
- ❑ **Main Focus:** Preparing athletes for the 2030 Commonwealth Games.
- ❑ **Implementation:** By the Gujarat Biotechnology Research Centre, in collaboration with state sports officials.

'Otarmani': The First Gene Therapy for Genetic Deafness

- ❑ The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has granted approval under the 'National Priority Voucher Program'.
- ❑ **Development:** By Regeneron Pharmaceuticals.
- ❑ This therapy is approved for the treatment of a specific type of hearing loss caused by mutations in the OTOF gene.
- ❑ This gene codes for a protein called Otoferlin.

Quantum Technology

National Quantum Mission: India Sets a New Record for 1,000 km Secure Communication Capability

- ❑ India has successfully demonstrated a secure quantum communication network spanning 1,000 kilometers, making it one of the longest networks in the world.

- ❑ This achievement has been realized in less than two years since the launch of the Quantum Mission in October 2024 – far exceeding the original target of reaching 2,000 kilometers over an eight-year period.
- ❑ Technology Development: QNu Labs (an Indian startup)
- ❑ This network will significantly strengthen secure communication for the Armed Forces (Defense), banks (financial systems), and other critical national infrastructure.
- ❑ **Significance:**
This technology is designed to operate in challenging environments – including underwater and underground settings – making it useful for both civilian and strategic purposes.
- ❑ Government Initiatives:
The government is currently providing support to 17 quantum startups (up from a previous count of 8), including the addition of 9 new deep-tech ventures.

Nuclear Technology

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)

- ❑ **Location:** Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu)
- ❑ Why is it in the news? India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) successfully achieved "First Criticality" (the initiation of a controlled nuclear fission chain reaction) on April 6, 2026.
- ❑ **Criticality State:** This refers to the state in which a nuclear reactor achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction. It marks a crucial milestone preceding full-scale power generation.
- ❑ **Technology Development and Design:** Developed and designed indigenously by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR).
- ❑ **Construction and Operation:** Executed by the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).
- ❑ **Capacity:** 500 MW
- ❑ **Key Features:**
 1. The core of the PFBR is surrounded by a blanket of Uranium-238

2. **Fuel:** Unlike conventional thermal reactors, the PFBR utilizes Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.
 3. **Coolant:** Utilizes liquid sodium as a coolant.
 4. **Neutrons:** Fast neutrons convert fertile Uranium-238 into fissile Plutonium-239, enabling the reactor to produce more fuel than it consumes. The reactor is ultimately designed to utilize the Thorium-232 present in its blanket.
 5. Through conversion, Thorium-232 will be transformed into Uranium-233, which will serve as the fuel for the third stage of India's nuclear energy program.
 6. This entire process is based on a "closed fuel cycle," wherein spent fuel is recycled for reuse.
- ❑ With this achievement, India will become the second country in the world (after Russia) to commercially operate a Fast Breeder Reactor.
 - ❑ India's three-stage nuclear plan is as follows:
 - ◆ In the first stage, electricity is generated from uranium, and plutonium is produced.
 - ◆ In the second stage, additional fuel is generated through Fast Breeder Reactors.
 - ◆ In the third stage, long-term energy generation will be carried out using thorium.
 - ❑ **Currently, India's nuclear power capacity stands at: 8.78 GW.**
 - ❑ **Electricity generation in 2024-25:** 56,681 Million Units.
 - ❑ **Outlook:** Plans are in place to increase this capacity to 22.38 GW in the coming years.

Robotics

AVATAAR Drone:

- ❑ It is India's first amphibious surveillance drone.
- ❑ **AVATAAR** = Amphibious Vehicle for Autonomous Tactical Aerial & Aquatic Reconnaissance.
- ❑ **Developed by:** AquaAirX Autonomous Systems, a Bengaluru startup.
- ❑ **Key Features and Technical Specifications:**
 - ◆ **Dual Operation:** It is adept at both flying in the air and diving underwater.
 - ◆ **Rapid Transition:** It can transition from air to water, and from water to air, within just a few seconds.
 - ◆ **Construction:** Built with a carbon fiber body, making it lightweight and durable.
 - ◆ **Payload Capacity:** It can carry a payload of approximately 10 kilograms.
 - ◆ **Sensors and Technology:** It features Multi-beam Imaging Sonar (Technology Readiness Level-6) and an acoustic modem for underwater communication.
 - ◆ **TRL-6:** Its functional prototype has been tested under real-world conditions (Technology Readiness Level-6).

Electronics

Construction work for 10 semiconductor units is currently underway under the India Semiconductor Mission.

- ❑ Semiconductor units are being established at the following locations:
 1. Micron Technology Inc. - Gujarat
 2. Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) - Gujarat
 3. CG Power and Industrial Solutions Limited - Gujarat
 4. Kaynes Technology India Limited (KTIL) - Gujarat

5. Tata Electronics Private Limited (TEPL) - Assam
6. Vama Sundari Investments (Delhi) Private Limited (VSPIL) - Uttar Pradesh
7. SICSem Private Limited - Odisha
8. 3D Glass Solutions Inc. (3DGS) - Odisha
9. Continental Device India Private Limited (CDIL) - Punjab
10. Advanced System in Package Technologies Private Limited (ASIP) - Andhra Pradesh

Development of Temperature-Controlled Nanomaterials for Future Electronics

- ❑ **What is the research?** Researchers have discovered a method to create advanced materials by directing small organic molecules, which could be utilized in future electronic devices.
- ❑ **The Research:** Conducted by scientists from the Bengaluru-based Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR).
- ❑ **The Element:** The team studied a molecule called Naphthalene Diimide (NDI), which possesses the unique ability to self-organize in water.
- ❑ **Key Features:**
 - ◆ These molecules utilize 'supermolecular self-assembly,' meaning they naturally come together through non-covalent interactions to form ordered structures.
 - ◆ At room temperature, these molecules form small, circular structures known as nanodiscs. These nanodiscs possess a special property that allows them to interact with polarized light in a unique way (known as chiro-optical activity).

- ◆ Upon heating, the nanodiscs reorganize into two-dimensional nanosheets and lose their ability to interact with specific wavelengths of light.
- Conclusion: Nanodiscs are excellent conductors of electricity; however, upon transforming into nanosheets, this conductivity decreases by approximately seven-fold.
- This discovery demonstrates that the electrical and optical properties of materials can be precisely controlled simply by altering the temperature.
- Significance: This ability to 'tune' materials makes them ideal for the development of next-generation smart technologies, sensors, and bio-electronic interfaces.

Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) Facility

- **Inauguration:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the facility belonging to Micron Semiconductor India (formerly Kens Semicon) in Sanand, Gujarat.
- Commercial operations have also commenced at this plant.
- **Cost:** Rs. 3,300 crore
- **Production Capacity:** 6.3 million units per day

India's First Alkaline Battery Plant

- **Location:** Jammu (established by Eveready Industries India Ltd.)
- **Inauguration:** Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir
- **Cost:** Rs. 200 crore
- **Capacity:**
 - ◆ **Annual Production Capacity:** Approximately 360 million alkaline batteries
 - ◆ Installed Capacity: 456 million units

India's First Anode Material Plant

- **Location:** Mahistikry, Hooghly, West Bengal
- **Manufacturer:** Himadri Specialty Chemical
- **Capacity:** 200 MTPA (Metric Tonnes Per Annum)
- **Application:** Used in the manufacturing of Lithium-ion batteries (EV batteries)

India's First Advanced 3D Semiconductor Packaging Unit

- **Location:** Info Valley, Bhubaneswar

Artificial Intelligence

'Nyay Setu' AI Chatbot and its Mascot 'Dishika'

- **Unveiling:** At the DISHA program, by Vice President Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan and the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.
- **Organizer:** The Department of Justice, at Vigyan Bhawan.
- **Developed by:** The Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD).
- Nyay Setu is a voice-first, multimodal, multilingual AI-powered legal assistant.
- It is designed to assist citizens in understanding legal procedures, rights, and next steps through simple voice and text interactions in multiple Indian languages.
- **'Dishika':** Serves as a friendly digital interface that guides users through legal queries, enhancing accessibility, trust, and engagement – particularly for first-time users navigating the justice system.

Formation of the AI Regulation and Economic Group

- This is a high-level inter-ministerial body.
- **Formed by:** The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- It will serve as India's central institutional mechanism for AI regulatory policy development and coordination.

'Abhay' AI Chatbot

- **Launch:** By the Chief Justice of India (CJI), Surya Kant, on the occasion of the 22nd D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture organized by the CBI.
- **Function:** It will assist citizens in verifying the authenticity of official information and in dealing with digital arrest scams.

Mythos AI

- ❑ Anthropic has decided not to publicly release its 'Mythos' AI model due to its advanced cyber-hacking capabilities.
- ❑ This model is capable of breaking through decades-old secure code.
- ❑ Under 'Project Glass Wing,' it has been provided with limited access to select companies.
- ❑ The RBI has expressed concerns regarding this matter.

Project Glass Wing

- ❑ Announcement: April 8, 2026, by the AI company Anthropic.
- ❑ This is a collaborative effort involving some of the world's largest companies (such as AWS, Google, and Microsoft).
- ❑ Objective: To utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to detect cybersecurity vulnerabilities that are extremely difficult for human engineers to identify.

For students in grades 3 through 8, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) – starting from the 2026-27 academic session – has:

- ❑ Launched a curriculum focused on Computational Thinking (CT) and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Project Maven

- ❑ A major Artificial Intelligence (AI) initiative by the U.S. Department of Defense (the Pentagon), which primarily employs computer vision to analyze drone footage and other data within the battlefield environment.
- ❑ **Objective:** To automatically identify and track objects (such as vehicles, people, and weapons) by analyzing drone video, satellite imagery, and other surveillance data.
- ❑ **Technology:** It primarily utilizes 'Deep Convolutional Neural Networks,' which process data in real-time.

Key Exercises

Exercise Cyclone-IV

- ❑ **Venue:** Anas, Egypt.
- ❑ **Participants:** A bilateral joint special forces military exercise between India and Egypt.

Exercise Dweep Shakti

- ❑ This is a tri-service joint military exercise.
- ❑ **Organized by:** Conducted under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- ❑ **Participants:** Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- ❑ **Objective:** To ensure the rapid deployment of forces to defend remote island territories against maritime threats.

7th Joint Military Exercise 'Dustlik'

- ❑ **Venue:** Namangan, Uzbekistan.
- ❑ **Participants:** India and Uzbekistan.

Conferences

Border Roads Organisation's 'Chetak' Project Celebrates 47th Raising Day

- ❑ **Date & Location:** April 4, 2026, in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Established:** April 4, 1980.
- ❑ **Motto:** 'Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas'
- ❑ This project has played a pivotal role in the development and maintenance of infrastructure across the northern regions of Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat.

Health Innovation Acceleration Hackathon

- ❑ **Launched:** April 2, 2026, jointly by 'India AI' and the 'Central Drugs Standard Control Organization' (CDSCO) in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Ministry:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- ❑ This initiative falls under the 'India AI Application Development Initiative.'

- ❑ Phase-1: Tool Development – Data anonymization, intelligent document summarization, and automated report generation from handwritten notes.
- ❑ Phase-2: Integration and Refinement – Enhancing models using real-world datasets from the CDSCO and integrating them with the SUGAM and MD Online portals.

Naval Investiture Ceremony

- ❑ Venue: Mumbai
- ❑ During the ceremony, individual awards presented included 2 Yudh Seva Medals, 12 Nau Sena Medals (Gallantry), 8 Nau Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), and 18 Vishisht Seva Medals.
 1. The following awards were presented to the wife of the late Deepak Kumar:
 - ◆ ‘Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak’ (Highest Life-Saving Medal)
 - ◆ ‘Lieutenant V.K. Jain Memorial Medal’ for outstanding research
 - ◆ ‘Captain Ravi Dhir Memorial Gold Medal’ for promoting flight safety
 2. ‘Unit Citations’ were awarded to sea-based operational units and shore establishments for their outstanding service during the preceding year.
 3. The ‘CNS Rolling Trophy’ was awarded for ‘Best Green Practices’ in both industrial and non-industrial categories.

Workshop on AI-Powered Drug Discovery

- ❑ Venue: CSIR-Human Resource Development Centre (CSIR-HRDC), Ghaziabad
- ❑ Theme: ‘AI-Powered Drug Discovery: Advanced Tools, Techniques, and Applications’

Bhashini Operational/Service Workshop on Pali Language Preservation and Digital AI Model Development

- ❑ **Date:** April 10, 2026, at the University of Delhi
- ❑ **Organized by:** The Digital India Bhashini Division under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- ❑ **In Collaboration with:** The Centre for Advanced Studies in Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi
- ❑ **Significance:** A significant step towards strengthening the preservation of minority languages through AI-based innovation.

Tri-Service Seminar ‘Ran Samvad’

- ❑ **Dates:** April 9-10, 2026, at the Air Force Training Command, Bengaluru
- ❑ **Theme:** ‘Multi-Domain Operations: An imperative for addressing conventional and irregular threats’.
- ❑ **Theme for Ran Samvad 2027:** ‘High-Intensity Operations in a Transparent and Contested Battlefield: Challenges of Force Employment and Force Protection’

Scientific Conference on the Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu
- ❑ **Organized by:** The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), in collaboration with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

Biennial Army Commanders’ Conference

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi
- ❑ **Note:** The Indian Army has declared the year 2026 as the ‘Year of Networking and Data Centricity’.

World Border Security Congress 2026

- ❑ **Dates:** April 14-16, 2026, in Vienna, Austria
- ❑ **India’s Representation:** Led by Additional Director General Anand Prakash Badola

'Ayush Chintan Shivir 2026'

- ❑ **Venue:** New Delhi
- ❑ **Inauguration:** By Shri Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Ayush and Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.

'CERT-In Samvad 2026'

- ❑ **Venue:** BITS Pilani's K.K. Birla Goa Campus (April 27-29, 2026)

- ❑ **Organizer:** BITS Pilani, Goa (in collaboration)
- ❑ **Theme:** "Securing Digital Bharat through Future- Ready audits: Adapting, Assuring, Advancing"
- ❑ **Objective:** To strengthen India's cybersecurity audit ecosystem.

Key Agreements

Key Agreements (Between Whom)	Objective/Details
❖ Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the establishment and operation of a dedicated indigenous testing center for the testing, performance evaluation, and certification of Full Body Scanners (FBS) and other security screening equipment utilized at Indian airports.
❖ NTPC Limited and Électricité de France (EDF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To jointly explore opportunities for the development of nuclear energy projects in India.• This is a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).
❖ Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This agreement pertains to the production of Ammonium Nitrate from coal at Lakhanpur, Odisha.
❖ Government of Meghalaya and Starlink India	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To promote satellite internet services.• Meghalaya has become the third Indian state to formally partner with Starlink; the first two states are Maharashtra and Gujarat.
❖ Ministry of Defence, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the procurement of Trawl Assemblies for T-72/T-90 tanks at a cost of approximately ₹975 crore.
❖ Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To collaborate in the fields of advanced technologies, digital transformation, and capacity building.• The objective of this collaboration is to foster joint projects, technical solutions, and skill development in the domains of Artificial Intelligence, 5G, Cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.
❖ European Space Agency (ESA) - ISRO Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regarding joint calibration, validation activities, and scientific studies for Earth Observation missions.
❖ Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) and indigenous navigation company 'MapmyIndia'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under this initiative, residents will now be able to access accurate information on the 'MapmyIndia' (Maples) app to locate their nearest authorized Aadhaar centers.

Miscellaneous

First Textile Recovery Facility (TRF)

- ❑ **Location:** Belapur, Navi Mumbai; established by the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC).
- ❑ This represents a unique initiative aimed at transforming textile waste into useful resources.
- ❑ Under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0, this initiative is not only reducing waste but also creating new employment opportunities for the public.

Mehar Baba Competition-3

- ❑ **Organizer:** Indian Air Force.
- ❑ **Registration:** Commences on April 27, 2026.
- ❑ **Theme:** Collaborative Drone-based Surveillance Radar.
- ❑ **Objective:** To encourage innovation in advanced drone and radar technologies.
- ❑ Meritorious participants will receive development funding from the Indian Air Force, and the top three winners will be conferred with awards.

Important One-Liners

- ❑ **BIRAC & BioNEST Incubation Center:** Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysuru, Karnataka.
- ❑ **Kalari:** A renowned cheese product from Udhampur (J&K), currently being developed by the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) as a sustainable and market-ready delicacy.
- ❑ **'Large Cavitation Tunnel':** Foundation stone laid at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL) – a premier DRDO laboratory – in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ **TB Research:** Scientists at the Bose Institute (Kolkata) have identified a fundamental flaw in the 'Universal Sigma Cycle' model of bacteria.
 - ◆ **Sigma Factor:** The research revealed that, in TB bacteria, the Sigma factor

remains firmly bound to the enzyme during transcription, rather than dissociating from it.

- ❑ **State Bio-E3 Cell':** Established in Sikkim and Assam.
 - ◆ Under the BioE3 policy, 10% of the budget has been reserved for the North-Eastern states.
- ❑ **'India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group':** Held in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique.
- ❑ An industrial-scale plant for demonstrating radiation-based technology in the cotton textile printing and dyeing industry was established in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❑ **New Vice Chief of Army Staff:** Sanjay Seth.
- ❑ A public health initiative project titled "Stress Management for Police Personnel through Ayurvedic Practices" was launched during the pandemic by the All India Institute of Ayurveda, New Delhi.
- ❑ The convocation ceremony for the 81st Staff Course of the Defence Services Staff College was held in Wellington, Tamil Nadu.
- ❑ **Microsoft and Chandigarh University jointly established a "Skill Centre: AI For Everyone"** at the university's campus in Punjab (Mohali).
- ❑ **India's first Quantum Computing Testbed:** Amravati, Andhra Pradesh.
- ❑ Inauguration of a Robotic Orthopedic Surgical System and a Maternity Operation Theatre at the Delhi Cantonment General Hospital.
- ❑ Inauguration of a Planetarium and Science Centre, the Nirmal Munda Parivesh Path, a Tribal Museum, and an Integrated Command and Control Centre in Rourkela, Odisha.
- ❑ Taking a historic step to promote safe and trusted Artificial Intelligence in the country, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) officially announced the formation of the 'Technology and Policy Expert Committee' (TPEC).
- ❑ **'Bhashini' Operations/Service Workshop on 'Gurmukhi Language Preservation and Digital AI Model Development':** Held on

- April 17, 2026, at SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi.
- ❑ The IndiaAI Mission has announced the selection of how many cutting-edge Indian AI startups for the second batch of the 'IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Program' – an international initiative developed in partnership with Station F (Paris) and HEC Paris? – 10
 - ❑ The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived at Casablanca – a major port in Morocco – on April 15, 2026. This visit forms part of its ongoing oceanic mission under the banner 'Lokayan 26'.
 - ❑ Approval granted for a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited
Dholera, Gujarat.
 - ❑ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has developed and operationalized a wide range of space-based applications designed to benefit all sections of society, including for the welfare of the Scheduled Caste community.
 - ❑ ISRO launched 13 satellites over the past three years, while its commercial arm, NSIL, successfully launched 49 foreign satellites. Through these launches, India has earned foreign exchange amounting to 120 million US dollars and 80 million Euros.
 - ❑ The revenue of India's IT ecosystem exceeded 280 billion US dollars in the financial year 2024-25, with exports standing at 225 billion US dollars.
 - ❑ The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organized the 10th National Summit on 'Best and Replicable Practices and Innovations in Public Health Systems' in Chandigarh from April 30 to May 1, 2026.
 - ❑ **INS Kalpeni**
 - ◆ Why in the news? – Due to its visit to 'Gan' Island, located in the Addu Atoll of the Maldives.
 - ◆ This visit underscores the 'deeply friendly relations' shared with the Maldives.
 - ❑ IIT Kharagpur launched the 'Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence,' which will promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven innovation within India's mining sector.
 - ❑ Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award in the fields of Medicine and Diabetes at the National Medical Conference held in Chennai.
 - ❑ The first edition of the biennial Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 was held –
at the Naval Bhawan in New Delhi.

The World's First Vikramaditya Vedic Clock Installed in Kashi



The glory of the Indian system of timekeeping has emerged on the sacred soil of Kashi. The world's first "Vikramaditya Vedic Clock" was installed at the Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi. This 700-kg, technology-driven device displays time based on the ancient Indian Panchang, with a day starting at sunrise and divided into 30 muhurtas. The clock displays tithi, nakshatra, and planetary positions. This representation of time, divided into 30 Muhurats (auspicious time units) spanning from sunrise to sunset, exemplifies the profound scientific vision of our ancient sages. It will mark every single moment within this 30-Muhurat cycle, for it serves not merely as a measure of time but as a profound embodiment of our culture.

Khelo India Tribal Games

- ❑ **Venue:** Held in Raipur, Jagdalpur, and Surguja (Chhattisgarh), March 25 to April 6, 2026
- ❑ **Mascot:** 'Morveer' – a symbol of tribal pride, identity, and valor.
 - ◆ 'Mor' signifies 'our own,' while 'Veer' symbolizes bravery and strength.
- ❑ **Sports Included :**
 - ◆ **Major Sports (7 medal categories):** Athletics, Football, Hockey, Weightlifting, Archery, Swimming, and Wrestling.
 - ◆ **Demonstration Sports:** Mallakhamb and Kabaddi.
- ❑ **Results:**

Location/ State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals
1. Karnataka	23	8	7	(38)
2. Odisha	21	15	21	(57)
3. Jharkhand	16	8	11	(35)
9. Chhattisgarh	3	10	6	(19)
22. Rajasthan	0	3	2	(5)

- **Rajasthan's Performance:** Under Coach Ajay Sharma, the wrestlers performed well
 1. Amit Kumar Meena: Silver medal in the 125 kg weight category.
 2. Rakesh Kumar Meena: Silver medal (65kg).
 3. Dinesh Solanki: Silver medal in the (60 kg) .
 4. Balkesh Kumari Meena: Bronze medal in the Women's category (68 kg).
- Jagdish Kumar: Won a bronze medal in the 200-meter Athletics event.
- ❑ **Outstanding Male Athlete:** Swimmer Manikant L. (Karnataka) – won eight gold and one silver medal.
- ❑ **Outstanding Female Athlete:** Anjali Munda (Odisha) – won five gold medals in Swimming.

8th SAFF U-20 Championship 2026

- ❑ **Dates:** March 23 to April 3, 2026.

- ❑ **Host Country:** Maldives

- ❑ **Venue:** National Football Stadium (Galolhu Rasmee Dhandu Stadium), Malé
- ❑ **Final Match:** India v/s Bangladesh
 - ◆ The match ended 0-0 in regulation time.
 - ◆ Penalty Shootout: Bangladesh defeated India by 4-3 to win their second title.
- ❑ **Most Valuable Player:** Omang Dodum (India) won the award for the tournament's best player.
- ❑ **Golden Boot:** Omang Dodum (India) scored 3 goals (Jointly with Mohamed Ilan Imran of the Maldives).

ISSF Junior World Cup 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Cairo, Egypt, April 20-27
- ❑ A 71-member Indian contingent participated.
- ❑ **Results:** India secured the topped spot by winning 16 medals (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze).
- ❑ **Gold Medalists:**
 - ◆ **Shiva Narwal:** Men's 10m Air Pistol
 - ◆ **Prachi Gaikwad:** Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
 - ◆ **Vanshika Chaudhary:** Women's 10m Air Pistol
 - ◆ **Vanshika Chaudhary & Chirag Sharma:** 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team
 - ◆ **Divyanshu Dewangan and Shambhavi Kshirsagar:** 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team (with a World Record)

World Archery Para Series - 2026:

- ❑ **Venue:** Bangkok (Thailand) from March 30 to April 4, 2026.

- ❑ **First Place:** India (Total 13 medals: 7 Gold, 3 Silver, and 3 Bronze).
- ❑ **Second Place:** Indonesia (6 medals).
- ❑ **Third Place:** Thailand (5 medals).

S.No.	Indian Winners / Athletes	Event (Category)	Medal	Defeated Opponent / Opposing Team (Country)
1.	Payal Nag	Women's Compound (Individual)	Gold	Sheetal Devi (India)
2.	Toman Kumar	Men's Compound (Individual)	Gold	Jonathan Milne (Australia)
3.	Bhavna	Women's Recurve (Individual)	Gold	Patharaporn Pattaveo (Thailand)
4.	Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag	Women's Compound Team	Gold	Zhanat Aitimova and Aizada Saidan (Kazakhstan)
5.	Toman Kumar and Shyam Sundar Swami	Men's Compound Team	Gold	Chinese Taipei Team
6.	Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar	Compound Mixed Team	Gold	Ferelly Teodora and Arif Firmansyah (Indonesia)
7.	Vijay Sundi and Harvinder Singh	Men's Recurve Team	Gold	Chinese Taipei Team
8.	Shyam Sundar Swami (Bikaner)	Men's Compound (Individual)	Bronze	Rakesh Kumar (India)

UEFA Youth League

- ❑ An esteemed European football competition organized exclusively for players in the Under-19 (U-19) age category.
- ❑ **Winner:** Real Madrid
- ❑ **Runner-up:** Club Brugge

FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 (Men)

- ❑ **Venue:** March 28 - April 16, 2026, Peyia (Cyprus)
- ❑ **Winner:** Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan)
- ❑ **Achievement:** Sindarov made history by winning the tournament with one round to spare (Score: 10/14).
- ❑ He will now face the reigning World Champion, D. Gukesh, in the 'World Chess Championship'.
- ❑ **Runner-up:** Anish Giri (Netherlands)

FIDE World Rapid Under-12 Girls Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Serbia
- ❑ **Winner:** A.S. Sharvanika (Tamil Nadu)

- ◆ This marks her second consecutive World Rapid Championship victory.

- ❑ **Runner-up:** Ema Jaksa (Slovenia)

Porsche Tennis Grand Prix

- ❑ **Event:** A major women's tennis tournament held in Stuttgart, Germany.
- ❑ **Singles:** Elena Rybakina (Kazakhstan) (Winner) v/s. Karolína Muchová (Czech Republic).
 - ◆ Rybakina became the Stuttgart Open champion for the second consecutive time.
- ❑ **Doubles:** Nicole Melichar-Martinez (USA) and Liudmila Samsonova (Russia) (Winners) vs. Jelena Ostapenko (Latvia) and Zhang Shuai (China).

ITTF Men's and Women's World Cup 2026

- ❑ **Duration:** March 30 - April 5, 2026.
- ❑ **Venue:** Galaxy Arena, Macau (China).
- ❑ **Competition:** International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) World Cup.

Player	Winners	Runners-up	Score	Key Facts
Men's Singles	Wang Chuqin (China)	Sora Matsushima (Japan)	4-3	This is Wang Chuqin's first World Cup title.
Women's Singles	Sun Yingsha (China)	Wang Manyu (China)	4-1	Third consecutive title.
She ranked 47th in the Women's Singles World Rankings.	Manika Batra	Lily Zhang (USA)	3-2	The only Indian to win a match in the tournament.

Asian Boxing Championships

- ❑ **Venue:** Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; held from March 28 to April 11, 2026.
- ❑ **Medal Tally and Rankings:** Total Medals: India won the highest number of medals in the tournament, securing a total of 16 medals (5 Gold, 3 Silver, and 8 Bronze).

- ◆ **Rankings:** Based on the number of gold medals, India finished second in the medal tally. Kazakhstan secured the first position with 6 gold medals.
- ◆ **Dominance of the Women's Team:** By winning 10 medals (4 Gold, 2 Silver, and 4 Bronze), the Indian women boxers achieved the top global ranking in the women's category.

Major Winners (Gold Medal)

Boxer's Name	Weight Category	Key Achievements
Vishwanath Suresh	Men 50 kg	Secured India's first men's Asian title in five years by defeating Japan's Daichi Iwai 5-0 in the final.
Meenakshi Hooda	Women 48 kg	Won the gold medal by defeating a Mongolian boxer 5-0.
Preeti Pawar	Women 54 kg	Registered a sensational victory by defeating three-time World Champion Huang Hsiao-wen 5-0.
Priya Ghanghas	Women 60 kg	Became the champion by defeating North Korea's Won Ungyong 3-0.
Arundhati Choudhary (Kota)	Women 70 kg	Won the gold medal by defeating Kazakhstan's Bakit Sedish 4-1.

Seikokai Cup National Karate Championship 2026

- ❑ **Venue:** Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- ❑ **Drishti Tiwari:**
 - ◆ **Silver Medal:** In the Under-35 kg 'Kumite' category.
 - ◆ **Bronze Medal:** In the 'Kata' category.

National Shooting Ball Championship

- ❑ **Venue:** Munshibagh, Alwar, Rajasthan.
- ❑ **Organizers:** Shooting Ball Federation of India (SBFI) and Rajasthan Shooting Association.
- ❑ **Women:** Winner: Uttar Pradesh; Runner-up: Delhi.

- ❑ **Men: Winner:** Maharashtra; Runner-up: Punjab.

6th Asian Beach Games: 2026

- ❑ **Host City:** Sanya, Hainan Province, China.
- ❑ **Duration:** April 22 - April 30, 2026.
- ❑ **Motto:** "See Ya In Sanya!"
- ❑ **Mascot:** Yaya – an 'Eld's Deer' symbolizing unity.
- ❑ **Indian Medal Tally:** India secured the 6th position in the medal table- [6 medals= 3 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze].
 - ◆ Beach Kabaddi: Total 2 medals (1 Gold, 1 Silver).

- ◆ **Women's Team:** Gold Medal - (Captain: Ritu Sheoran). Displaying magnificent form, the Indian women defeated Sri Lanka 47-31 in the final. This marks India's sixth consecutive gold medal.
- ◆ **Men's Team:** Silver Medal (Captain: Brijendra Singh Chaudhary) - (Gold Medal: Iran)
- ◆ **Pride of Rajasthan:** Kabaddi Team Players
 - **Women's Team:** Manpreet Kaur - Rajasthan Police
 - **Men's Team:** Brijendra Singh Chaudhary, Jitendra Yadav, Jai Bhagwan
- **Beach Wrestling - Total 4 Medals**
 - ◆ **Pushpa Yadav (Gold):** 60 kg Women's Category
 - ◆ **Priya Malik (Gold):** +70 kg Women's Category
 - ◆ **Siddharth (Silver):** 70 kg Men's Category
 - ◆ **Jaspreet Kaur (Bronze):** 70 kg Women's Category

10th World Junior Wushu Championships 2026: Tianjin (China)

- **Venue:** Tianjin, China (March 2026)
- **Indian Medal Tally:** 3 Gold + 2 Silver + 4 Bronze = Total 9 Medals
- **Gold Medalists**
 1. Thongam Upendra: 45 kg (Junior Boys' Category)
 2. Nongmeithem Pamheiba: 52 kg (Junior Boys' Category)
 3. Loitongbam Victor: 52 kg (Youth Boys' Category)
- **Silver Medalists**
 1. Yuvraj: 48 kg (Youth Category)
 2. Konthoujam Devikarani Devi: Taijiquan Event
- **Bronze Medalists**
 1. Gautam Mankas: 48 kg (Junior Category)
 2. Anu: 48 kg (Youth Category)
 3. Rajkumari Lanchenbi Chanu: (Sanda/ Taolu Category)
 4. Konthoujam Devikarani Devi: Taijiquan

5th Open Central Asian Handball Championship 2026

- **Duration:** March 31 to April 5, 2026.
- **Venue:** Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- **Organizer:** Central Asian Handball Federation (CAHF)
- **Medal Tally: Results -**
 - ◆ Gold: Uzbekistan
 - ◆ Silver: Kazakhstan
 - ◆ **Bronze: India**
- **Pride of Rajasthan: The Indian Team's 'Four Stars'**
 - 1) Lokendra Singh Rathore (Dausa): 'Left Wing'
 - 2) Mansingh Shekhawat (Jaipur): 'Right Back'
 - 3) Ashlesh Panwar (Jaipur): 'Right Wing'
 - 4) Veerbhadra Singh (Banswara): 'Center Back'

ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol 2026

- **Venue:** Granada, Spain, April 05 - 13, 2026
- **Top Countries:** 1. China (8 Gold, 3 Silver, 2 Bronze = 13), 2. Germany (1 Gold, 1 Silver = 2), 3. India (1 Gold)
- **Winners:** Palak Gulia and Mukesh Nelavalli won the Gold Medal (487.7 points - New Record)
- **Event:** 10m Pistol Mixed Team Event
- They defeated Qianxun Yao and Kai Hu (China).

16th Hockey India Sub-Junior Women's National Championship 2026

- **Event:** Held from April 1 to 12, 2026, at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- **Organizer:** Hockey India
- **Final:** Jharkhand (Winners) vs. Madhya Pradesh
- **Rankings:**
 1. Jharkhand
 2. Madhya Pradesh
 3. Odisha

Miscellaneous

Laureus World Sports Awards

- ❑ **Ceremony:** Hosted in the Spanish capital Madrid by tennis legend Novak Djokovic and freestyle skier Eileen Gu.
- ❑ **World Sportsman of the Year:** Carlos Alcaraz
- ❑ **World Sportswoman of the Year:** Aryna Sabalenka
- ❑ **Team of the Year:** Paris Saint-Germain
- ❑ **Young Sportsperson of the Year:** Lamine Yamal (Barcelona and Spain player)
- ❑ **World Breakthrough of the Year Award:** Formula One champion Lando Norris
- ❑ **World Sporting Inspiration Award:** Toni Kroos (Germany)
- ❑ **Lifetime Achievement Award:** retired gymnast Nadia Comaneci
- ❑ **World Action Sportsperson Award:** American snowboarder Chloe Kim
- ❑ **World's Best Sportsperson with a Disability Award:** Gabriel Araújo (Brazil)

8th Hockey India Annual Awards 2025

- ❑ **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award:** Zafar Iqbal (He made a significant contribution to the Indian team winning the gold medal during the 1980 Moscow Olympics.) (Rs. 30 Lakhs)
- ❑ **Balbir Singh Sr. Award (Player of the Year):**
 - ◆ **Men:** Hardik Singh (Rs. 25 Lakhs)
 - ◆ **Women:** Navneet Kaur (Rs. 25 Lakhs)
- ❑ **Baljit Singh Award (Best Goalkeeper):** Bichu Devi Kharibam (Rs. 5 Lakhs)

Global Anti-Doping Intelligence and Investigations Network (GAIIN) Summit

- ❑ **Event:** Held on April 16, 2026, in New Delhi.
- ❑ **Organizer:** National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).

- ❑ **WADA President:** Witold Banka.
- ❑ **Legal Framework:** Through the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022, and the latest amendments introduced in 2025, India's legislative framework is now fully compliant with global WADA standards.

- World Athletics has placed India in the category of a 'High-Risk Country' regarding doping cases.
- The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) Board has moved the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) back from 'Category B' to 'Category A' under 'Rule 15' of the World Athletics Anti-Doping Rules.
- Between 2022 and 2025, India consistently ranked among the top two nations globally in terms of Anti-Doping Rule Violations (ADRVs): recording 30 ADRV cases in 2025 (ranking first worldwide).




'Nari Shakti Vandan Run'

- ❑ **Chief Organizer:** 17-18 April 2026 Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.
- ❑ **Objective:** To promote women-led development and strengthen citizen participation in building a 'Viksit Bharat'
- ❑ **Campaign Theme:** Nari Shakti Vandan
- ❑ **Details:** This run was organized across 7 major cities of India as part of a two-day program:
 - ◆ 17 April: Jaipur and Patna
 - ◆ 18 April: Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Indore, and Cuttack

Famous Personalities

<p>Oscar Schmidt</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Legendary Brazilian basketball player passes away at the age of 68 due to a brain tumor. ◆ Regarded as one of the greatest scorers in basketball history (inducted into the 'Hall of Fame' in 2013). ◆ Olympic Record: Participated in 5 consecutive Olympic Games (1980–1996). ◆ World Record: Held the unofficial world record of 49,737 points in basketball, which was broken by LeBron James in 2024. ◆ Nickname: Known in the sporting world as the 'Holy Hand'.
<p>Sanju Samson</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ International Cricket Council (ICC) : Men's Player of the Month for March. ◆ This marks the first time Sanju Samson has been honored with this prestigious award. ◆ Outstanding Performance Statistics: Scored 275 runs across three crucial T20 International matches. ◆ He maintained an average of 137 and a strike rate of around 199.
<p>Jannik Sinner</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Won the 2026 Monte-Carlo Masters title. ◆ Venue: Played on 'Court Rainier III' in Roquebrune-Cap-Martin, France (near Monaco). ◆ Final: Defeated Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets, 7-6(5), 6-3. ◆ Ranking Change: Sinner returned to the World No. 1 spot for the first time since November 2025.
<p>Ayush Shetty (Badminton)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Won a silver medal at the Badminton 'Asia Championships 2026'. ◆ Record: Ayush secured a silver medal for India in the Men's Singles category at this championship – a feat achieved after 61 years. ◆ Final: In the final held in Ningbo, China, he suffered a defeat against China's Shi Yuqi with a score of 8-21, 10-21. ◆ Major Victory: Prior to reaching the final, Ayush pulled off a major upset by defeating the defending champion and world-renowned player, Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.
<p>Indian Grandmaster R. Vaishali</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Winner of the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026. ◆ Venue: Nicosia, Cyprus (April–May 2026). ◆ Decisive Victory: Secured the title by defeating Russia's Kateryna Lagno in the final (14th) round. ◆ Total Score: Scored 8.5 points in the 14-round 'double round-robin' format. ◆ Key Highlight: Also defeated the world-renowned player Alexandra Goryachkina (Russia). ◆ Second Indian: Became only the second Indian woman player – after Koneru Humpy – to win the Candidates Tournament. ◆ Record: Vaishali and her brother, R. Praggnanandhaa, constitute the world's first brother-sister duo to achieve success at the level of the Candidates Tournament.

<p>Ritwik Gupta (Table Tennis)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Won the Under-17 Boys' National Title at the 87th Inter-State Junior and Youth National Table Tennis Championships. ◆ Record: Became the first player from Jammu and Kashmir to win a national title in this category. ◆ Venue: New Multipurpose Hall, Dehradun (Uttarakhand) ◆ Final: Defeated Sarthak Arya of Odisha (4-3). ◆ Organizer: 'Ultimate Table Tennis', under the aegis of the Table Tennis Federation of India.
<p>Sabastian Sawe: Kenya</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Became the world's first athlete to complete a competitive marathon (42.195 km) in under two hours at the "London Marathon 2026." ◆ New World Record: Secured victory with a finishing time of 1 hour, 59 minutes, and 30 seconds. ◆ Record Broken: Surpassed the record held by the late Kenyan runner Kelvin Kiptum (02 hours, 35 seconds; 2023).
<p>Sawan Barwal</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Sawan Barwal set a new national record in the marathon (42.195 km). ◆ Competition: Rotterdam Marathon, Netherlands (April 2026) ◆ New Record: 2:11:58 ◆ Record Broken: Broke the 48-year-old record held by the legendary Indian athlete Shivnath Singh. ◆ Shivnath Singh's Record: 2:12:00 (Set in Jalandhar in 1978.)
<p>S.S. Thabita, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Won a bronze medal at the 2026 Asian Track Cycling Championships. ◆ Event: Women's Junior 1 km Time Trial ◆ Venue: Philippines
<p>Karate player Manushree Saxena (Jaipur)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ At an event held in Jaipur, Public health Engineering Dept. (PHED) and ground water Minister Kanhaiyalal Chaudhary honored him for these exceptional achievements. ◆ Exceptional Achievements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Set a record by achieving a 'First Degree Black Belt' in Karate at the age of just 4. ✓ Replicated his success by obtaining a 'Second Degree Black Belt' at the age of 8.
<p>Smriti Mandhana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He has set a new record for scoring the most runs for India in T20 International cricket matches (a total of 4,244 runs in 155 innings).
<p>Carlos Alcaraz</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Infosys has appointed seven-time Grand Slam champion Carlos Alcaraz as its global brand ambassador.
<p>Shako Bentineidis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Georgia's Shako Bentineidis has been appointed as the new coach of the Indian men's freestyle wrestling team.
<p>PV Sindhu</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Two-time Olympic medalist and Indian shuttler PV Sindhu has commenced her tenure as a member of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) Council. ◆ She was elected to the BWF Council in December 2025 (2026–2029 term).
<p>Yagiz Kaan Erdogmus</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ At the age of just 14 years, 10 months, and 13 days, he became the youngest chess player ever to cross the 2700 mark in live ratings.

India's 95th Chess Grandmaster: Aronyak Ghosh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He hails from Kolkata, West Bengal. ◆ In April 2026, he secured his final GM (Grandmaster) title at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026. ◆ He is 22 years old.
Takhellambam Inunganbi (Manipur)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ At the 2026 Asian Judo Championships in the city of Ordos, China, Takhellambam Inunganbi won the bronze medal in the women's 70 kg category by defeating Mongolia's Lakhagvadulam Sarantsetseg with an Ippon.
Sourav Kothari 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Earned the distinction of becoming a World Champion for the second consecutive time by winning the IBSF 2026 World Billiards Championship title. ◆ Final: Defeated his compatriot and legendary player, Pankaj Advani. ◆ After trailing by a significant margin at one stage, Sourav turned the match around by executing a magnificent break of 485. ◆ This marks Sourav Kothari's third World Title.
Ishan Singh, Ranchi (Jharkhand) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Achievement: Became the world's youngest swimmer to cross the Palk Strait (at the age of 7). ◆ Distance and Time: Covered the 29-kilometer distance from Talaimannar (Sri Lanka) to Dhanushkodi (Tamil Nadu) in just 9 hours and 50 minutes. ◆ Mission Name: This achievement was accomplished under "Mission Samandar." ◆ Recognition: This world record has been officially recognized by the Universal Records Forum.
Rupa Bayor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Place of Origin: Sippi Village, Upper Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh. ◆ Sporting Discipline: Taekwondo (Category: Recognized Poomsae, Women U-30) ◆ Training: Currently training under the guidance of Coach Abhishek Dubey at the 'Indo-Korean Taekwondo Academy' in Mumbai. ◆ April 2026: Became the first Indian Taekwondo athlete to break into the top 5 of the World Rankings.
Rory McIlroy (Northern Ireland) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Golfer Rory McIlroy claimed the title of the 90th Masters Tournament (2026), held at the Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia (USA). ◆ This marks his second consecutive victory in this tournament. ◆ Venue: April 9–12, 2026; Augusta, Georgia (USA). ◆ Special Honor: The winner was presented with the traditional 'Green Jacket'. ◆ Runner-up: Scottie Scheffler (USA)
Gout Gout: The New 'Storm' of the Sprinting World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Introduction: Gout Gout is an 18-year-old Australian sprinter of South Sudanese origin. ◆ Achievement: Completed the 200-meter race in just 19.67 seconds at the 'Australian National Championships 2026,' held in Sydney. ◆ Records: U20 World Record: Set a new world record in the Under-20 category. ◆ Australian Record: The fastest 200-meter time ever recorded (National Record). ◆ Comparison with Bolt: At the age of 18, Usain Bolt's personal best time was 19.93 seconds (2004).

<p>163rd Wisden Awards 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Established in 1864 in the honor of John Wisden (former English cricketer) ◆ Presented by: Wisden Cricketers' Almanack Publication ◆ Indian players won 7 out of the total 9 major awards. ◆ Best T20 Cricketer: Abhishek Sharma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Record: Scored 859 runs across 21 matches in 2025, at a strike rate of 193. ◆ Leading Women's Player: Deepti Sharma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Record: 'Player of the Tournament' at the 2025 Women's World Cup. ❖ Took the highest number of wickets (22). ◆ Leading Men's Cricketer in the World : Mitchell Starc (Australia) – for the best fast-bowling performance. ◆ Indian cricketers dominate the list of the top five cricketers: Indian captain Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Siraj, and Haseeb Hameed (England).
<p>FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026 (Men)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Event: March 28 – April 16, 2026, Pegeia (Cyprus) ◆ Winner: Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan) ◆ Achievement: Sindarov made history by winning the tournament with one round to spare (Score: 10/14). ◆ He will now play the 'World Chess Championship' against the reigning World Champion, D. Gukesh. ◆ Runner-up: Anish Giri (Netherlands)
<p>Jamie Murray</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The first British tennis player to reach the top of the world doubles rankings has announced his retirement. ◆ Murray won 34 doubles titles, seven of which were Grand Slams – including two mixed doubles titles at Wimbledon, which he won with Jelena Janković in 2007 and Martina Hingis in 2017. ◆ He also won the 2016 Australian and US Open men's doubles titles alongside his Brazilian partner, Bruno Soares.
<p>Gurbax Singh Grewal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Former player of the Indian men's hockey team and Olympian Gurbux Singh Grewal has passed away. ◆ He was a member of India's bronze medal-winning team at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

नई सनसनी // श्रीलंकाई एथलीट ने पिछले साल विश्व एथलेटिक्स चैंपियनशिप में हासिल किया था सातवां स्थान

गेंदबाज से जैवलिन थ्रोअर बने रुमेश, 89.37 सर्वश्रेष्ठ थ्रो

नीरज और नदीम के लिए पेश कर रहे कड़ी चुनौती

पब्लिक न्यूज नेटवर्क

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नई दिल्ली, दो बार के ओलंपिक पदक विजेता भारत के नीरज घोषा और पौरव ओलंपिक 2024 के चैंपियन पब्लिकन के अलाव नदीम के बाद अब एशिया एशिया में जैवलिन थ्रो (पल्लव फेंक) का एक और नया खिलाड़ी उभर रहा है। ये हैं श्रीलंका के रमेश पथिराना जो कि पहले एक तेज गेंदबाज थे और श्रीलंका के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय क्रिकेट खेलना चाहते थे। लेकिन एक प्रतिभा खोज कार्यक्रम में दूसरे स्थान पर रहने के बाद उनका दिल टूट गया और रमेश ने क्रिकेट को जगह जैवलिन थ्रो को अपना लिया।



श्रीलंका में दिग्गज एथलेटिक्स कोच टोनी प्रसन्ना ने जब रमेश को देखा तो उन्होंने इस युवा गेंदबाज को जैवलिन थ्रो में आने को राजी किया। रमेश ने बताया कि कोच टोनी ही थे जिन्होंने मुझे जैवलिन से परिचित कराया। रमेश ने कहा, कोच टोनी हमेशा मुझसे कहते थे कि अगर मैं इस खेल में अगर कभी मेहनत करूं तो मुझे इसका फल जरूर मिलेगा। वे मेरे लिए एक कोच से भी बढ़कर हैं।

इशान से पिछड़ने के बाद छोड़ा क्रिकेट

रमेश 130 किमी प्रतिघंटा की रफ्तार से गेंदबाजी करते थे और उन्हें श्रीलंका का पहला वाइट क्रिकेटर कहा जाता था। अब उन्होंने एक तेज गेंदबाजी प्रतिभा खोज कार्यक्रम में 134 किमी प्रतिघंटा से गेंदबाजी की। लेकिन वे दूसरे स्थान पर रहे। विजेता बने ईशान मरिया जो आज श्रीलंका के लिए खेलते हैं।

कोई अफसोस नहीं

हालांकि रमेश को क्रिकेट छोड़ने का कोई अफसोस नहीं है। वे भारत फेंक में पिछले सीजन दुनिया के नौवें नंबर के एथलीट रहे। उन्होंने श्रीलंका में आयोजित चैंपियन टैंक एंड फील्ड ग्रीट में 89.37 मीटर का भी किया था।

स्लिमगर्शाट एक्शन बना पहचान





रमेश का रन-अप और भी करने का अंदाज पूर्व श्रीलंकाई दिग्गज लसित मरिया जैस था। रमेश जिस हाव से धो करते हैं उसका आंकड़ा है। वह अपना बायां पैर जमीन पर जोर से जमाते हैं ताकि धो अधिक दूरी तक जाए।

89.37 मीटर है भारत फेंक में रमेश का सर्वश्रेष्ठ प्रदर्शन

134 किमी प्रतिघंटा की रफ्तार से गेंद फेंकते थे रमेश

अब 90 मीटर मार्क पार करने पर नजर...

रमेश की बात बात है कि उन्होंने अपने प्रदर्शन में निरंतरता रखी है। 2025 के सीजन में उन्होंने 13 बार 82 मीटर से ज्यादा भी किया था। साथ ही 86.50 मीटर के बाद उनका सर्वश्रेष्ठ 89.37 मीटर आया। रमेश ने कहा, मैं हर दिन अपने बॉक्स पर काम कर रहा हूँ। मेरे लिए निरंतरता सबसे ज्यादा जरूरी है। अब मेरा लक्ष्य 90 मीटर मार्क पार करना है और देश के लिए ओलंपिक स्वर्ण पदक जीतना है।

<p>Sha'Carri Richardson</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An American sprint star has set a new record by winning the women's 120-meter handicap race at the 'Stawell Gift 2026,' held in Victoria, Australia. ◆ Historic Time: Richardson completed the 120-meter race in just 13.15 seconds—the fastest time ever recorded by a woman in the 148-year history of this competition. ◆ Victory from 'Scratch': She became only the third woman to win from the 'scratch' mark (starting from the very back, without any head start). ◆ Prize Money: 40,000 Australian dollars (approximately ₹25 lakhs). ◆ Men's Category Winner: Australia's Olufemi Komolafe claimed the title with a time of 12.03 seconds. ◆ History of the Event: The Stawell Gift is one of the world's oldest and richest professional foot races, having first been held in 1878. It is held annually on Easter Monday in Victoria, Australia. 															
<p>Para Archer Sheetal Devi</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sheetal Devi, a 19-year-old para-archer from Jammu and Kashmir, was selected as the 'Best Para-Archer of the Year 2025' by World Archery. ◆ Sheetal Devi is the first and only archer in the world who shoots without hands (arms), using only her legs and shoulders. ◆ Achievements <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Competition (Venue)</th> <th>Competition</th> <th>Medals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>World Para Archery Championships, Guangzhou, South Korea</td> <td>Women's Compound Individual</td> <td>Gold</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Women's Team Competition</td> <td>Silver</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Mixed Team Competition</td> <td>Bronze</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paris Paralympics, France</td> <td>Mixed Team Competition</td> <td>Bronze</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Competition (Venue)	Competition	Medals	World Para Archery Championships, Guangzhou, South Korea	Women's Compound Individual	Gold		Women's Team Competition	Silver		Mixed Team Competition	Bronze	Paris Paralympics, France	Mixed Team Competition	Bronze
Competition (Venue)	Competition	Medals														
World Para Archery Championships, Guangzhou, South Korea	Women's Compound Individual	Gold														
	Women's Team Competition	Silver														
	Mixed Team Competition	Bronze														
Paris Paralympics, France	Mixed Team Competition	Bronze														
<p>Bodhana Sivanandan</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ An 11-year-old chess player of Indian origin made history by becoming England's number-one female player in the April 2026 'FIDE Rating List'. ◆ She achieved this distinction by surpassing the 26-year-old British champion, Lan Yao. ◆ Historic Rating: In April 2026, Bodhana's FIDE rating reached 2366. ◆ World Ranking: One of the youngest players to enter the list of the top 100 female players (Current Rank: 72nd). 															
<p>Transfer of Para Shooting Administration (ISSF and IPC Agreement)</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Agreement: Between the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) and the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) regarding the transfer of the administration of the sport of Para Shooting. ◆ Current Status: Para Shooting is currently managed by 'World Shooting Para Sport' (WSPS) under the aegis of the IPC. ◆ Objective: To integrate Olympic and Paralympic shooting sports under a single global body (the ISSF) to ensure coordination in administration and development. ◆ Effective: This will come into effect following its approval by the ISSF General Assembly at the end of this year. ◆ Integration Plan (2027–2028): A phased integration process will be implemented to ensure stability. Minimal changes will be made to the competition structure and qualification systems for the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympic Games. ◆ ISSF: International Shooting Sport Federation (Headquarters: Munich, Germany) ◆ IPC: International Paralympic Committee (Headquarters: Bonn, Germany) 															

Asian Federation Awards 2025	Squash (ASF)	◆ By the Asian Squash Federation. This organization is the supreme governing body for the sport of squash in Asia.												
		◆ Objective: These awards are presented to honor players, teams, and coaches who have delivered outstanding performances at the Asian and international levels during the preceding year.												
		<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th>Award</th> <th>Winner</th> <th>Category</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hassan Musa Award (Under-19)</td> <td>Anahat Singh</td> <td>Girls Player of the year 2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dato Alex Lee Award</td> <td>Abhay Singh</td> <td>Best Male Player</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asian Squash Federation Team Award</td> <td>Indian Men's Team</td> <td>Best Men's Team</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Award	Winner	Category	Hassan Musa Award (Under-19)	Anahat Singh	Girls Player of the year 2025	Dato Alex Lee Award	Abhay Singh	Best Male Player	Asian Squash Federation Team Award	Indian Men's Team	Best Men's Team
		Award	Winner	Category										
Hassan Musa Award (Under-19)	Anahat Singh	Girls Player of the year 2025												
Dato Alex Lee Award	Abhay Singh	Best Male Player												
Asian Squash Federation Team Award	Indian Men's Team	Best Men's Team												

Important One-Liners

- ❑ Starting January 4, 2027, a new 3×15 scoring system will be implemented in badminton matches.
 - ◆ Change in Scoring: A game will now consist of just 15 points, rather than the current 21 points. Players will be required to play 'best-of-three' games of 15 points each.
- ❑ India has officially submitted an expression of interest to host the 2038 Asian Games (Asiad) in Ahmadabad (Gujrat).
 - ◆ Note: India has already secured the hosting rights for the 2030 Commonwealth Games. Additionally, India has also submitted a bid to host the 2036 Olympic Games.
- ❑ Bayern Munich won their 35th Bundesliga title by defeating VfB Stuttgart by a margin of two goals.
- ❑ Which sports federation was inducted as the 40th member of the 'International World Games Association' (IWGA) during the IWGA's Annual General Meeting (attended by CEO Joachim Gossow) held at the Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland?

The International Chess Federation (FIDE)

- ❑ Recently, the BCCI extended the tenure of which former cricketer as the Chairman of the Selection Committee for one year (keeping in mind the long-term strategic preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup)?

Ajit Agarkar

- ❑ Which global sports body recently amended its regulations to allow 'female athletes from Afghanistan' (who have been sidelined since the Taliban's return to power in 2021) to participate in international competitions?

FIFA (President: Gianni Infantino)

- ❑ Which football club recently set a record by winning the 'AFC Champions League Elite' (King Abdullah Sport Club Stadium Jeddah Saudi Arabia) title for the second consecutive time, successfully retaining their championship?

- ◆ Al-Ahli (Saudi Arabia)
- ◆ Runner-up: Machida Zelvia (Japan)

06

Important Days

Date	Day	Theme/ Remarks
1 April	Utkal Divas / Odisha Day	Formation: 1 April 1936.
	RBI Foundation Day	Establishment: 1 April 1935. Act: RBI Act, 1934 Commission: Hilton Young Commission (1926)
2 April	World Autism Awareness Day	Theme: "Autism and Humanity- Every life has value"
5 April	National Maritime Day	Theme: "Maritime India- Empowering Progress"
6 April	International Day of Sport for Development and Peace	Theme: "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers"
7 April	World Health Day	Theme: "Together for health. Stand with Science"
10 April	World Homoeopathy Day	Theme: "Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health"
11 April	National Safe Motherhood Day	Theme: "Equity in Maternal Healthcare: Leaving no mother behind"
	World Parkinson's Day	Theme: "Bridge the Care Gap"
12 April	International Day of Human Space Flight	Yuri Gagarin became the first human to fly in space on 12 April 1961.
13 April	Siachen Day	To commemorate the launch of Operation Meghdoot
16 April	World Voice Day	Theme: "Caring for Our Voices"
17 April	World Haemophilia Day	Theme: "Diagnosis: First Step to Care"
18 April	World Heritage Day / International Day for Monuments and Sites	Theme: "Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters"
19 April	World Liver Day	Theme: "Solid habit, strong liver"
21 April	18th Civil Service Day	Theme: "Viksit Bharat: Citizen Centric Governance and Development at the Last Mile".
	World Creativity and Innovation Day	Theme: "Harnessing Creativity for Global Progress"
22 April	World Earth Day	Global theme- "Our Power, Our Planet"
	World Book and Copyright Day	Rabat, Morocco is the UNESCO World Book Capital for 2026. It is the 26th World Book Capital.

24 April	National Panchayati Raj Day	Theme: 'Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas'.
	National Day of Netherland	Aka King's Day
25 April	World Malaria Day	Theme: "Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must"
	International Sculpture Day	
26 April	World Intellectual Property Day	Theme: "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovation"
27 April	International Design Day	Theme: "The Space in between"
28 April	World Day for Safety and Health at Work	Theme: "Good psychological working environment: A pathway to thriving workers and strong organisations."
29 April	International Dance Day	
30 April	Ayushman Bharat Day	Ayushman Bharat Scheme was launched on 30 April 2018.

07

Important Books

Books	Author	Remark
Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament	Sudha Murty	Vice President C.P. Rashakrishnan released this book.
The road well travelled	R.K. Raghvan	Former CBI Director
The Curious and the Classified	General MM Naravane	He was 28th Chief of Army Staff.
"Mahatma: A Great Communicator	Dr Dhiraj Kakadia	Released by: Manshuk Mandaviya
We, the People of India: Decoding a Nation's symbols	T.M. Krishna	

Topper's Talk

Navneet Mukesh Sharma



Rank - 03
(RAS-2024)

Father	- Mukesh Kumar Sharma
Mother	- Meenakshi Sharma
10 th	- Zinc Vidyalaya, Hurda (9.6 CGPA)
12 th	- Zinc Vidyalaya, Hurda (94.2%)
Graduation	- Jaipur National University (77.76%)

Question: Congratulations on your achievement in the Civil Services Examination!

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Thank you very much.

Question: Please tell us about your family and educational background. What role did they play in your preparation?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: I hail from a town called Gulabpura. It is often said that people coming from small towns or villages do not tend to dream big – and to a large extent, this is true.

My father, Mr. Mukesh Kumar Sharma, is a Grade III teacher. From childhood, he instilled in me the importance of discipline and maintained a similar atmosphere at home; as a result, I faced no difficulties regarding time management or maintaining discipline during my preparation phase.

My mother, Mrs. Meenakshi Sharma, is a homemaker – and also my teacher. She taught me up unto the 8th grade and continued to support my studies thereafter. My mother is my true inspiration; from her, I learned how to face struggles with a smile and how to prioritize others' needs over my own. My sister, Neha Sharma – whom I affectionately refer to as my "Little Mother" – encouraged me to set ambitious goals for myself.

Additionally, I am deeply grateful to my friends: Lakshya Bhardwaj, Anuj Pandda, Hariom Gurjar, and Bhavya Trivedi. I completed my Class 12 education at Zinc Vidyalaya, followed by a B.Sc. + B.Ed. (PTET) degree from Jaipur National University, Jaipur.

Question: When did you begin preparing for the RAS examination, and in your opinion, how much time is sufficient to prepare for this exam?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: I began my preparation on July 27, 2022, by enrolling in a recorded online batch offered by Springboard Academy. I secured the 87th rank in my first attempt and achieved the 3rd rank in my second attempt.

In my view, one can successfully clear the RAS examination through two to three years of dedicated

hard work. although, during this period, I was also selected in several other examinations – such as the Patwari exam (49th rank), the High Court LDC exam, and the REET exam. However, for all these examinations, my preparation for the RAS exam served as the foundation. As the saying goes, "If you aim for the stars, you will (at the very least) land on the moon."

Question: What study materials did you use during your preparation?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: During my preparation, I studied the classroom content (notes) provided by Springboard Academy. Additionally, I kept myself updated by reading newspapers. I made a continuous effort to learn how to write effective answers by studying the answer sheets of previous toppers. Springboard's test series also played a significant role in my preparation, helping me in value addition.

Question: Was joining the Civil Services your goal right from the beginning, and who were your sources of inspiration for preparing for the Civil Services Examination?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Initially, my goal was to secure a government job and become a teacher. However, my friends – Lakshya Bhardwaj and Anuj Pandda – guided me toward the administrative services, and I am deeply grateful to them.

My source of inspiration was a quote by Mr. Upendra Sharma (RAS 2016): "If you become an RAS officer, your parents' lifespan will increase by 5 to 10 years." This sentiment became the primary reason – my "why" – for entering this field.

Question: What is the utility of a monthly current affairs magazine for the RAS examination?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: For the RAS examination, I relied on Springboard's Current Affairs magazine, which helped me score 131 marks in the RAS Preliminary Examination 2024. Furthermore, during the RAS Mains examination, I encountered numerous current affairs questions derived from the "Mains

Magnifier" material; this helped me secure an additional 15–20 marks and it also saved my time.

Question: What is the role of coaching in the Civil Services Examination? Is it possible to achieve success in this exam solely through self-study?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Coaching provides an average aspirant with proper guidance and continuity—starting right from the basics—thereby making studying easier. In situations fraught with confusion, coaching proves to be a milestone in comprehending study material and delving into the depths of a subject. While achieving success through self-study may take some time, coaching acts as a spring in your life—much like Springboard Academy did in my life.

Question: What criteria should one consider when selecting an institute for coaching? Did you prepare from any coaching institute?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: I believe that a coaching program should be aligned with the RPSC pattern and should serve to motivate the student at every step of their journey. I completed my foundation course through Springboard's recorded batches.

Question: What was your medium in the examination? What is the role of the medium in achieving success in the Civil Services?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: My medium for the examination was English. I firmly believe that the precise presentation of our answers is what truly matters, rather than the language itself. In the RAS examination, the choice of medium makes no difference, nor does one's handwriting have any significant bearing on the outcome.

Question: What suggestions would you offer for improving writing skill for the Mains Examination?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: To strengthen one's answer-writing skills, one should consistently dedicate 40–50 minutes specifically to practicing answer writing. During this time, one should strive to practice answering analytical questions as extensively as possible.

Make it a habit to review the answer sheets of toppers—even UPSC toppers' copies—should be studied. For subjects such as Ethics, you may also use ChatGPT; however, this should be done solely for the purpose of extra points after you have already written your initial answer.

Question: What is the role of short notes in the Preliminary and Main examinations?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: All toppers recommend making short notes; however, I studied using detailed, comprehensive notes. I simply highlighted the key headings within those very notes and, in the final stages of preparation, studied only those highlighted sections.

Question: Could you describe the role of mock interviews, and what was your experience like during your actual interview at the Rajasthan Public

Service Commission?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: In my previous attempt (interview), I scored 43 marks, whereas this time I secured 60 marks. Mock interviews played a significant role in this improvement, and my background in 'public speaking' also proved to be extremely helpful.

Question: Could you tell us about the contribution of teachers to your success?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: The greatest contribution to my success came from Dilip Sir, who introduced a unique concept of studying: "Drink Study, Eat Study, Sleep Study."

Additionally, Rajveer Sir's revision strategy was immensely helpful to me. Digvijay Sir provided new perspectives and dimensions regarding answer writing. At Springboard Academy, Navin Sir was a member of the non-teaching staff, yet his support and assistance made many aspects of my preparation much easier.

Question: What role did your friends play during your preparation?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Whatever I am today, I owe it to my friends. Healthy competition can exist among friends, and it was precisely this positive competitive spirit that led to the success of our entire group of friends. In this regard, I would like to make a special mention of Hariom Gurjar, who consistently made every task easier for me.

Question: What are your thoughts on having a 'Plan B'?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: I did not have a 'Plan B' because this was my very first attempt. I believe that having a 'Plan B' right from the beginning can, to some extent, dilute one's dedication. One might consider a 'Plan B' after two attempts; however, at the initial stage of preparation, I am not an advocate of having one.

Question: As an officer, what changes would you strive to bring about?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: In addition to the effective implementation of government schemes, I will discharge the duties falling within my jurisdiction with positive energy.

Question: What is the mantra behind your success?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Studying with consistency, and having unwavering faith in my study material (Springboard's class notes) as well as in my teachers.

Question: How did you manage your time during your preparation?

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: With the positive support of friends, family assistance, and regular study, time management naturally falls into place. (Drink study, Eat study, Sleep study)

Question: We wish you a bright future as an administrative officer!

Navneet Mukesh Sharma: Thank you very much.