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# NATIONAL

## **MUNDRA PORT SETS RECORD AS INDIA'S LARGEST AUTOMOBILE EXPORT HUB -**

- Mundra Port has emerged as the India's largest automobile export hub. As the port has set the new national record by shipping the 6,008 cars in a single vessel. The port is operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ) and this achievement highlights the India's growing strength in the automobile exports. The development signals the strong alignment between the manufacturing growth and logistics efficiency.



### **Mundra Port Achieves Historic Export Milestone**

- The record shipment of the 6,008 vehicles in one single vessel marks a significant achievement for the India's logistics and export ecosystem.
- This milestone made possible through the port's advanced Roll-on/Roll-off (RoRo) terminal which allows the vehicles to be driven directly onto ships by ensuring the,
  - Faster loading and unloading
  - Reducing the handling costs
  - Also the efficient large-scale transportation
- The milestone also positions Mundra as the key gateway for India's automobile exports.
- India's Rising Automobile Export Power
- Country's automobile export sector has been witnessing the steady growth. This growth is supported by the,
  - Increased the global demand for Indian-made vehicles
  - Competitive pricing and quality manufacturing of the vehicles
  - And also the expanding trade networks

### **Key export destinations include the regions like the,**

- Africa
- Latin America
- Middle East
- Europe

## **LOK SABHA EXPANSION PLAN: WHAT THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT COULD CHANGE IN INDIA'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE -**

### **What is the New Constitutional Amendment Bill About?**

- The Union government has introduced The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty First Amendment) Bill, 2026 which proposes,
- To increase the strength of the Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 members.
- Also revised the provisions related to delimitation of constituencies.
- And enabling faster implementation of women's reservation as per the bill passed by the Lok Sabha.
- The Bill is expected to be discussed during the special session of the Parliament which was scheduled for April 16-17.



### **Proposed Changes in Lok Sabha Composition**

- This amendment seeks to modify the Article 81 of the Constitution like
- The maximum of 815 members to be elected from States of India. And up to 35 members from Union Territories.
- This expansion shows the India's growing population and also aims to ensure better representation of the citizens.

## **INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM COMPUTER TO BE LAUNCHED IN AMARAVATI: CHANDRABABU NAIDU ANNOUNCES -**

- For the major leap in the advanced technology as the Andhra Pradesh will launch the India's first quantum computer on the April 14, 2026 in Amaravati. It was announced by the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naid and this initiative is part of the state's ambitious Amaravati Quantum Valley project. The program was backed by the strong industry partnerships and the National Quantum Mission. A this it aims to position the India as the global leader in next-generation computing and the innovation.

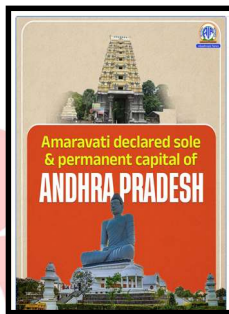


## India's First Quantum Computer

- The launch of the India's first quantum computer is the transformative step in the country's technological journey.
- Unlike the traditional computers this quantum computers use the principles of quantum mechanics to solve high complex problems at un-precedented speeds.
- This initiative will place the Andhra Pradesh as the leader in the emerging technologies and it will strengthens India's position in the global digital economy.

## AMARAVATI AS PERMANENT CAPITAL OF AP -

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, officially designating Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital of Andhra Pradesh, insulating the city's status from future political fluctuations.
- The legislation follows a resolution passed by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, requesting the Union Government to formalise the capital's status.
- Statutory Amendment: The Bill amends Section 5 of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which originally designated Hyderabad as the common capital for a period not exceeding 10 years.
- By incorporating "Amaravati" into the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, it effectively scuttled previous "3-capital" proposals (Visakhapatnam as executive capital, Kurnool as judicial capital, and Amaravati as legislative capital).
- **Retrospective Effect:** Once enacted, the law will recognise Amaravati as the capital with retrospective effect from 2nd June, 2024, the date marking the end of the 10-year common capital period with Telangana.
- **Constitutional Precedent:** This marks the 1st time in the history of independent India that a specific Bill has been brought to Parliament to declare a particular city as the permanent capital of a state.



- **Historical Context:** The Bill resolves the post-2014 bifurcation uncertainty, overriding the K.C. Siva Ramakrishnan Committee's recommendations for decentralized capitals across multiple locations, as well as later state-level policy changes.

## UP ANNOUNCES 21% WAGE HIKE AFTER NOIDA PROTESTS -

- The Uttar Pradesh government has announced an interim increase in minimum wages across categories following violent worker protests in Noida. The move comes amid rising demands for better pay and working conditions, especially after comparisons with higher wages in neighbouring states. The government has also clarified that reports of a uniform ₹20,000 minimum wage are incorrect.



### Details of the interim wage hike

- The state has implemented a graded increase in minimum wages effective from April 1. Unskilled workers in Noida and Ghaziabad will receive up to a 21 per cent hike, raising monthly wages from ₹11,313 to ₹13,690. In municipal areas, wages will increase by around 15 per cent to ₹13,006, while other regions will see a 9 per cent rise to ₹12,356.
- For semi-skilled workers in Noida and Ghaziabad, wages have been revised from ₹12,445 to ₹15,059. Skilled workers will now earn ₹16,668 per month, up from ₹13,940. The increase is being described as an interim measure pending a broader revision.

## DELIMITATION AND WOMEN'S RESERVATION IN LEGISLATURES -

- The Union government has introduced three major Bills: the Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026, the Delimitation Bill, 2026, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, to enable fresh delimitation based on the latest available Census,



expand the Lok Sabha, and operationalise 33% women's reservation in legislatures.

### **What are the Key Provisions of Three Bills to Fast-track the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam?**

- **The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**
- Expanding the Lok Sabha: It amends Article 81 to increase the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha from 550 to 850 members (815 from States and 35 from Union Territories).
- Article 81 dictates the principle of equal representation; the ratio between a state's allocated seats and its population must be roughly the same across all states (with exceptions only for very small states under 6 million).
- **Removing the Delimitation Freeze:** The Bill also amends the marginal heading of Article 82 from "Readjustment after each Census" to "Readjustment of constituencies", and removes the requirement of readjusting the number of Lok Sabha seats in states after every Census.
- Similarly, it makes amendments to the Articles on state Assemblies (Article 170) and reservation for SCs and STs, changing the basis from the 2001 Census to "such Census" that Parliament decides by law to use.
- As of now, Article 81 (2) and (3) freeze the Lok Sabha seats as per the 1971 Census and the Assembly seats as per the 2001 Census, "until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published".
- By decoupling delimitation from the post-2026 Census, the government can now proceed delimitation using data from the 2011 Census.

### **NEW DEPORTATION POLICY FOR ILLEGAL MIGRANTS -**

- **The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has formulated a new comprehensive deportation policy to expedite the identification and deportation of illegal migrants, particularly from Bangladesh and Myanmar.**



### **What are the Key Highlights of the New Deportation Policy?**

- **District-Level Special Task Force:** States must set up a special task force in each district to detect, identify, and deport undocumented migrants.
- They are required to submit a monthly status report on foreigners missing or overstaying their visas.
- **Timelines for Verification:** An upper limit of 90 days has been fixed to verify the antecedents of suspected Bangladeshi or Myanmar nationals, particularly if they claim residency in another State.
- **Operationalising Holding Centres/Camps:** States are mandated to set up holding centres equipped with a 10-foot-high boundary ringed with barbed wires and strict access control to restrict the movement of undocumented migrants awaiting deportation.
- These centres must not be run from jails. Private buildings can be hired if government land is unavailable.
- Basic amenities like separate enclosures for men and women, open spaces, LPG connections, medical dispensaries, and ambulances must be ensured.
- Crucially, members of the same family should not be separated and must be housed together.

### **SACRILEGE BILL 2026: PUNJAB'S NEW LAW ON GURU GRANTH SAHIB DESECRATION -**

- **The Punjab Assembly unanimously passed the 'Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026', aimed at harsher punishment for sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib, including life imprisonment.**
- It proposes to amend the 2008 law enacted under the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party government.



### **About Sacrilege**

- The Bill defines sacrilege as any wilful and deliberate act intended to desecrate the Guru Granth Sahib.
- This includes physical damage, defacing, burning, tearing, or theft of the saroops of Guru Granth Sahib or part, or through words, either spoken or written, signs,



visible representations, or electronic means that are intended to hurt the religious sentiments of those persons professing the Sikh faith.

**Key Features**

- **Punishment:** Anyone committing sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib can face imprisonment of not less than seven years, which may extend to 20 years, along with a fine between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh
- In cases involving criminal conspiracy with the intent to disrupt peace or communal harmony, the punishment ranges from a minimum of ten years to life imprisonment, with fines between ₹5 lakh and ₹25 lakh.
- **Nature of offence:** All offences under the law will be cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.
- Those aiding sacrilege will be treated as equally culpable.
- **Investigation:** The offence shall be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police, as the case may be.

**ANTI-DEFECTION LAW AND MERGER CLAUSE CONSTITUTIONAL VALIDITY -**

- Seven former MPs of the Aam Aadmi Party joined the Bharatiya Janata Party and have cited the “merger” provision under the anti-defection law to avoid disqualification.
- This has raised constitutional questions on whether a legislature party alone can claim a valid merger without the involvement of the original political party.
- The Anti-Defection Law aims to ensure political stability, but the misuse of the “merger” clause has raised serious constitutional concerns about its effectiveness.



**What is the Anti-Defection Law?**

- **About:** The Anti-Defection Law is a set of rules in the Indian Constitution designed to prevent elected politicians (Members of Parliament or State Legislative Assemblies) from switching political parties for personal gain or political maneuvering.

- It was introduced to bring stability to the parliamentary system and stop the infamous "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" culture of the 1960s and 70s, where legislators frequently changed sides, causing governments to collapse.
- Between 1967 and 1972, nearly 2,000 cases of defection occurred, with about 50% of legislators switching parties, some multiple times.
- It was introduced to bring stability to the parliamentary system and stop the infamous "Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram" culture of the 1960s and 70s, where legislators frequently changed sides, causing governments to collapse.
- It was added to the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment Act in 1985, which created the Tenth Schedule.
- The law was strengthened by the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, which omitted the provision related to a "split" (where 1/3rd members could defect) and retained only the "merger" provision.

**MANIPUR ETHNIC CONFLICT AND UAPA POWER EXPANSION -**

- The Home Department of Manipur issued a notification implementing Section 43A of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967. This directive allows lower-ranked law enforcement officers to conduct arrests, searches, and seizures across the state.
- The move has faced strong opposition from rights groups, citing risks of misuse in a volatile region where peace remains fragile despite administrative and security efforts.



**What are the Key Provisions of UAPA, 1967 Notification in Manipur?**

- **Empowerment of Lower-Ranked Officers:** The notification allows officers not below the rank of Head Constable or Havildar in civil and armed police to exercise wide anti-terror powers, citing heavy First Information Report (FIR) workload and a shortage of senior officers during ongoing unrest.
- Under UAPA, such powers are usually limited to senior officers like Deputy Superintendent of Police

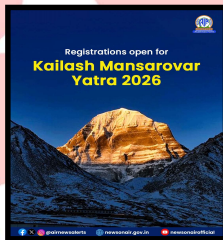


(DSP) or Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) as a safeguard due to the law’s stringent nature.

- **Appointment of "Designated Authority":** The state's Secretary (Home) is appointed as the official “designated authority” to oversee actions against offenses related to unlawful and anti-national activities under this provision.
- **The "Reason to Believe" Standard:** Empowered officials can make arrests or conduct searches merely if they have a "reason to believe" that a UAPA-related offense has been committed or may be committed.
- This also applies to cases involving the suspected possession of evidence or property linked to unlawful activities.

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ANNOUNCES KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA 2026 -**

- The Government of India have officially announced that the 2026 Kailash Mansarovar Yatra will take place from the June to August. It will marks the another important step to restoring cross-border pilgrimage sites. It is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs in the coordination with China and this yatra will proceed through the two key routes Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim. It will offering the devotees the chance to undertake one of the most sacred journeys in the Asia.



**Routes for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026**

1. Lipulekh Pass Route (Uttarakhand)
  - The Lipulekh Pass route is the traditional and more physically demanding route. The pilgrims trek via the Himalayan terrain and making it ideal for those seeking the spiritually intense and adventurous experience.
2. Nathu La Pass Route (Sikkim)
  - The Nathu La Pass route offers the comparatively easier journey with the most of the travel done by vehicles. It is also suitable for elderly pilgrims or those who are unable to undertake long treks.

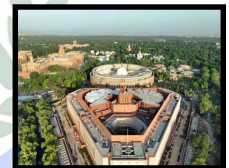
**Batch Details and Participation**

- This yatra will be conducted in the structured manner to ensure the safety and smooth coordination.
- 20 batches in total
- Each batch will have the total 50 pilgrims
- 10 batches via Lipulekh Pass
- 10 batches via Nathu La Pass
- This means around the 1,000 pilgrims will participate in the 2026 yatra.

**OM BIRLA RECONSTITUTES PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES FOR 2026–27: FULL DETAILS - List Of Committees and Their Chairpersons**

1. Committee of Estimates

- The committee of Estimates comprise the 30 members from the Lok Sabha and it will be chaired by the Sanjay Jaiswal. The main functions of this committee to examine how the government funds are allocated and spent.



2. Public Accounts Committee

- The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) is one of the most influential financial committees in the India’s parliamentary system. For upcoming cycle it will be headed by the K. C. Venugopal.

3. Committee on Public Undertakings

- This committee will chaired by the Baijayant Panda and it consists of 15 Lok Sabha members and 7 Rajya Sabha members. This committee reviews the functioning and the performance of public sector undertakings (PSUs) of government and also ensures that these enterprises will operate efficiently and work in line with national objectives.

4. Committee on Welfare of SCs and ST

- The Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be chaired by the Faggan Singh Kulaste. This committee includes the 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha. This



committee main focus on to the safeguarding the rights and welfare of SC and ST communities.

### Understanding Parliamentary Committees

- A Parliamentary committee is a committee of the Members of Parliament (MPs) who are elected or appointed from amongst the members of the house or nominated by the Speaker or Chairman. This concept of Parliamentary committees was originated in the British Parliament. These committees have to operate under the direction of the Speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha. This committees have to present their findings and recommendations to the respective houses.

### Constitutional Backing For The Committees

- The Parliamentary committees are functions under the Article of 105 and 118 of the Indian Constitution.
- **Article 105:** Powers, privileges, etc., of the houses of Parliament and of the members and committees thereof.
- **Article 118:** Each House of Parliament may make rules for regulations, subject to the provisions of this constitution, its procedure and the conduct of its business.
- This committees are classified as per their working nature.
- Standing committees. Ad hoc committees.

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# INTERNATIONAL

## INDIA HOSTS BRICS TALKS AMID IRAN-UAE TENSIONS -

• India is preparing to host a crucial BRICS engagement that will bring Iran and the United Arab Emirates together for direct discussions amid ongoing tensions in West Asia. The meeting comes at a sensitive time, as regional instability continues to impact global energy markets and geopolitical alignments. With expanded BRICS membership including key Gulf nations, the platform has become central to addressing complex regional disputes.



### First Direct Engagement Since Conflict

• The meeting will mark the first face-to-face interaction between Iran and the UAE since the escalation of the West Asia conflict. Differences between the two countries had earlier prevented BRICS from issuing a unified statement on the crisis. Their participation signals a renewed attempt to reopen diplomatic channels within a multilateral framework and reduce friction through dialogue.

## HOW MANY NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN INDIA -

• Nuclear Energy plays an important role in India's electricity production. It is one of the major sources of power after thermal, hydro and renewable energy. But the centers where this nuclear energy is produced are termed as Nuclear Power Plants. Now the question is how many nuclear power plants are there in India, did you know the answer of this question? Let's know the answer of this question with other useful information about nuclear power plants.

### Nuclear Power in India

• India currently has 22 nuclear reactors working across 7 states. These reactors together produce about 6780 Megawatt (MWe) of electricity.

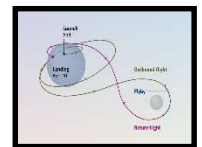
S. No.	Name	Location	Capacity	Year
1.	Kakrapar Atomic Power Station	Gujarat	440	1993
2.	(Kalpakkam) Madras Atomic Power Station	Tamil Nadu	440	1984
3.	Narora Atomic Power Station	Uttar Pradesh	440	1991
4.	Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant	Karnataka	880	2000
5.	Rajasthan Atomic Power Station	Rajasthan	1,180	1973
6.	Tarapur Atomic Power Station	Maharashtra	1,400	1969
7.	Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant	Tamil Nadu	2,000	2013

### Most of these reactors are of two types:

- Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) – 18 reactors
- Light Water Reactors (LWRs) – 4 reactors
- All these plants are operated by the Nuclear Power Corporations of India (NPCIL), which is controlled by the Government of India.

## ARTEMIS II MISSION -

• NASA's Artemis II mission was launched on 1st April, 2026, as a vital crewed test flight to re-establish human presence beyond low-Earth orbit for the first time in over 5 decades.



### What is Artemis II Mission?

- **About:** NASA's Artemis II is the first crewed mission of the Artemis program and the first time humans will travel to the vicinity of the Moon since the Apollo 17 mission in 1972. This 10-day lunar flyby mission will carry 4 astronauts aboard the Orion spacecraft to validate deep-space life support systems.
- **Crew Profile:** The four-person crew includes several "firsts" for deep-space exploration:
- **Reid Wiseman (Commander):** A NASA veteran and former Chief of the Astronaut Office.
- **Victor Glover (Pilot):** First person of color to travel beyond low-Earth orbit.



- **Christina Koch (Mission Specialist):** First woman to travel to the Moon's vicinity.
- **Jeremy Hansen (Mission Specialist):** A Canadian Space Agency (CSA) astronaut, he will be the first non-American to leave Earth's orbit.
- **Trajectory:** The crew will not land on the Moon. Instead, they will perform a "lunar flyby" using a free-return trajectory. They will fly approximately 7,400 km beyond the far side of the Moon before using lunar gravity to "slingshot" back toward Earth.

### AUSTRALIA NAMES FIRST FEMALE ARMY CHIEF IN HISTORIC MOVE -

- Australia has announced a landmark shift in its military leadership by appointing Lieutenant General Susan Coyle as the first woman to head the Australian Army in its 125-year history. The decision forms part of a broader leadership reshuffle within the country's defence forces and reflects ongoing efforts to modernise and diversify the military. The appointment, effective from July 2026, has been widely described as a defining moment for gender representation in Australia's armed forces.



### Historic Appointment and Leadership Transition

- Lieutenant General Susan Coyle will replace Lieutenant General Simon Stuart as Chief of Army. Currently serving as Chief of Joint Capabilities, Coyle brings decades of operational and strategic experience. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described the move as "historic," emphasising its symbolic and institutional importance. Defence Minister Richard Marles highlighted that her appointment would inspire future generations of women to pursue military careers.

### INDIA SLAMS CHINA'S RENAMING OF ARUNACHAL PLACES -

- India has strongly rejected China's latest move to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh, terming it a "mischievous attempt" and asserting that such actions cannot change ground realities. The Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that Arunachal Pradesh "was, is, and will

always remain" an integral part of India, firmly dismissing Beijing's claims.



### Firm Response from India

- India categorically opposed China's efforts to assign new names to locations within its territory. The government emphasised that such attempts are based on fabricated claims and do not carry any legitimacy. It also underlined that altering names cannot impact sovereignty or territorial integrity.

### Arunachal Pradesh in India-China Dispute

- Arunachal Pradesh remains a key point of contention in the India-China boundary dispute. China refers to the region as "Zangnan" or South Tibet, a claim India has consistently rejected. For India, Arunachal Pradesh is a constitutionally recognised state, making any external assertion over it unacceptable.

### PM MODI HOLDS TALKS WITH SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT LEE -

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to hold extensive bilateral talks with South Korean President Lee Jae Myung in New Delhi on 20 April 2026, aimed at strengthening strategic, economic, and technological cooperation between the two nations. President Lee's three-day State Visit to India marks his first official trip to the country and is expected to further deepen the India-South Korea Special Strategic Partnership built on shared democratic values and longstanding civilisational ties.



**Strategic Sectors Take Centre Stage**

- The discussions between the two leaders will focus on critical sectors such as shipbuilding, trade, investment, semiconductors, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and other emerging technologies.
- With both nations seeking stronger supply chain resilience and industrial cooperation, shipbuilding and semiconductor partnerships are likely to receive special attention. South Korea's expertise in advanced manufacturing and India's growing industrial base make this partnership strategically significant.

**US ANTI-DUMPING DUTY HITS INDIAN SOLAR EXPORTS -**

- The United States has imposed a steep preliminary anti-dumping duty of 123.04 per cent on solar cell and module imports from India, creating major challenges for Indian solar manufacturers. When combined with earlier countervailing duties, the total tariff burden rises beyond 234 per cent. This move is part of a broader US strategy to protect domestic solar manufacturing and reduce dependence on cheaper imported products from Asia.

**What the US Has Announced**

- The US Department of Commerce announced on April 23, 2026, that Indian solar cells and modules were being sold in the American market at prices below their fair value. This practice is called dumping. As a result, a preliminary anti-dumping duty of 123.04 per cent has been imposed. Similar investigations also covered Indonesia and Laos, which received duties of 35.17 per cent and 22.46 per cent respectively.
- The investigation began after a petition was filed in July 2025 by the Alliance for American Solar Manufacturing and Trade, representing domestic solar companies such as First Solar and Qcells.

**RAJNATH SINGH TO ATTEND SCO DEFENCE MEET -**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on April 27–28 to participate in the Defence Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The high-level gathering is expected to focus on regional security challenges, terrorism, extremism, and the changing geopolitical environment across Eurasia and Asia.

**India to Lead Delegation at Key Security Forum**

- Rajnath Singh will head the Indian delegation at the meeting, which will include defence ministers from all SCO member states. The forum serves as an important platform for strategic dialogue among member countries, especially at a time of growing uncertainty in global politics. India is expected to underline its commitment to regional peace, stability, and collective security.

**FRANCE SETS 2050 DEADLINE TO END FOSSIL FUELS -**

- France has unveiled a detailed national roadmap to phase out fossil fuels by 2050, becoming one of the first countries to set clear deadlines for ending the use of coal, oil and gas. The announcement was made at the International Conference on the Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels in Santa Marta, Colombia. The plan aims to provide a structured pathway for climate action while reinforcing France's long-term goal of carbon neutrality.

**Clear Timelines for Coal, Oil and Gas**

- Under the roadmap, France will phase out coal by 2030, oil by 2045 and gas by 2050 for energy purposes. Officials described the plan as a comprehensive framework that brings together existing climate and energy targets into a single document with clear deadlines.
- France's envoy Benoit Faraco stated that very few countries have set such direct timelines for all fossil fuels, making the roadmap significant in global climate diplomacy.



# SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

## ARTEMIS II SURPASSES APOLLO 13 DISTANCE RECORD -

• NASA's Artemis II Mission has set a new record for the farthest distance travelled by humans in space, surpassing the Apollo 13 milestone of 1970.



• The crew travelled beyond 248,655 miles from Earth, reaching a maximum distance of about 252,756 miles.

### Artemis II Mission

- **About:** Artemis II is NASA's first crewed lunar mission since Apollo 17 (1972) and the 1st human flight under the Artemis programme, aimed at advancing human space exploration.
- **Collaboration:** The mission includes four astronauts, three from NASA and one from the Canadian Space Agency, on board the Orion spacecraft.
- **Mission Type:** Launched on 1st April, using the Space Launch System (SLS), the spacecraft follows a free-return lunar flyby trajectory around the Moon.
- **Key Events:** The mission includes a close lunar approach (~4,067 miles), observation of the Moon's far side, a solar eclipse, and a planned communication blackout.
- **Significance:** Data collected (images, telemetry, observations) will support future Artemis missions, including crewed lunar landings, and contribute to establishing a sustained human presence on the Moon.

## RECENTLY, THE INDIGENOUSLY DEVELOPED PROTOTYPE FAST BREEDER REACTOR (PFBR) AT KALPAKKAM, TAMIL NADU, ATTAINED CRITICALITY, MARKING PROGRESS IN INDIA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAMME -

• Criticality is the stage when a nuclear reactor achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction, indicating that the reactor core is functioning as designed and can proceed toward power generation.



## India's 3-Stage Nuclear Programme

- **About:** India's nuclear programme is designed to utilise its limited uranium and abundant thorium resources through a sequential three-stage approach: PHWRs → Fast Breeder Reactors → Thorium-based reactors.
- **Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs):** They use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water as coolant and moderator. They form the backbone of India's current nuclear power capacity (8,180 MWe) and represent the first stage of the programme.
- India aims to produce 22,400 MWe of nuclear power by 2032 and expand PHWR capacity through fleet-mode construction.
- **Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR):** A Fast Breeder Reactor produces more fuel than it consumes by converting fertile material (like U-238) into fissile material (like plutonium). It uses MOX fuel and plays a critical role in expanding nuclear fuel availability.
- FBRs act as a bridge between uranium-based reactors and thorium-based reactors by generating plutonium and enabling the production of U-233, which is essential for the third stage.
- India's prototype 500 MWe FBR at Kalpakkam is in advanced commissioning. Plans include six more FBRs of 600 MWe each, along with a dedicated fuel cycle facility.
- Once operational, India will be only the second country after Russia to run a commercial FBR, while many countries have discontinued such programmes due to safety concerns.

## NASA MARKS HISTORIC MILESTONE WITH SUCCESSFUL ARTEMIS II CREW RETURN -

• NASA successfully completed the Artemis II mission with the safe splashdown of the Orion spacecraft on April 11, 2026. The spacecraft was landed in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California and it brings back the four



astronauts after a 10 day journey around the Moon. This mission marks the first crewed lunar mission in last 5 decades and indicates the beginning of the new era in human spaceflight. The astronauts travelled overall around 1.12 million km.

### Record-Breaking Distance and Mission Highlights

- During the Artemis II mission the Orion spacecraft have reached the maximum distance of 406,778 km from Earth and it surpassing even the known Apollo 13 record by over the 6,600 km.
- By the way the mission did not include the Moon landing but it followed the carefully designed trajectory that allowed astronauts to,
- Travel deeper into the space than previous missions
- Also to Test spacecraft systems in real conditions
- And prepare for future human landings on the Moon
- The total journey covered under this mission is 694,481 miles (1.12 million km) which is demonstrating the capability for the long-duration deep space travel.

### Meet the Artemis II Crew: Pioneers of Deep Space Return

- The Artemis II mission have carried international crew which highlighting the global collaboration in space exploration. The astronauts included,
- Reid Wiseman
- Victor Glover
- Christina Koch
- Jeremy Hansen

## ANDHRA PRADESH CM CHANDRABABU NAIDU LAUNCHES AQRF TO BOOST INDIA'S QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM -

- Honorable Chief Minister of the Andhra Pradesh N. Chandrababu Naidu has launched the Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility (AQRF) on the 14th April, 2026 which is the country's first indigenously built open access quantum computing platform. This initiative is aims to build the sovereign quantum hardware ecosystem and to accelerate the domestic innovation. It is developed



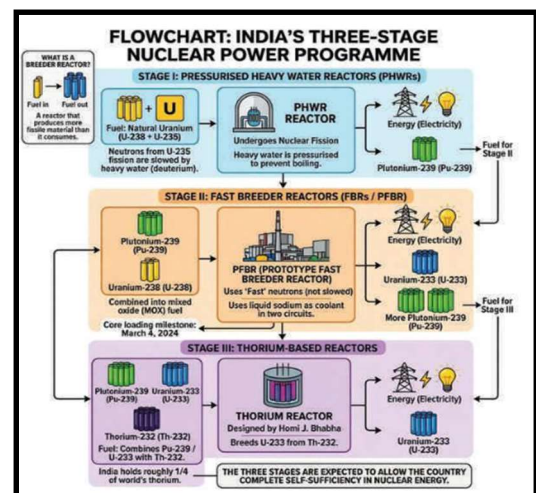
with the strong collaboration among the top scientific institutions and this facility is expected to position India as the global leader in quantum technology.

### What is Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility (AQRF)?

- The AQRF is the cutting-edge facility which is designed to support the quantum computing research, testing and manufacturing in India.
- It also includes the Amaravati 1S and Amaravati 1Q which are the India's first indigenously developed quantum computers.
- It is built under the Amaravati Quantum Valley initiative.
- And main thing it was designed, assembled and tested entirely within India.
- This AQRF makes the landmark achievement as it focus to in India's journey towards the Atmanirbhar Bharat.

### PROTOTYPE FAST BREEDER REACTOR -

- India marked a defining milestone in its clean energy journey as the indigenously designed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, successfully attained its first criticality (the initiation of a sustained nuclear chain reaction).
- With this achievement, India has officially entered the vital second stage of its three-stage nuclear power programme, a vision originally conceived by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha.



**What is the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)?**

- **About:** The PFBR is a 500 MWe (Megawatt electrical) advanced nuclear reactor. It was technologically developed by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) and built by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI).
- **Understanding Criticality:** Criticality is the point at which a sustained and controlled nuclear fission chain reaction begins.
- Neutrons produced by fission equal those lost, resulting in a stable power output, marking the transition from the construction phase to the operational power-generation phase.
- **Global Standing:** Once fully commercialized, India will become only the second country in the world (after Russia) to successfully operate a commercial fast breeder reactor, as countries like Japan, France, and the US shut down their programs due to technical complexities.
- **Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR):** A FBR is a highly efficient nuclear reactor that uses fast neutrons to generate more fissile material (fuel) than it consumes.
- **Fuel Used:** Unlike conventional thermal reactors that use natural uranium, the PFBR uses Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel. This fissile material is recovered by reprocessing spent fuel from Stage 1 Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs).
- **The "Breeding" Mechanism:** The reactor core is surrounded by a "blanket" of depleted Uranium-238. When fast neutrons hit this fertile U-238 blanket, it transmutes into fissile Plutonium-239, allowing the reactor to produce more fuel than it burns.
- **Bridge to Thorium:** The PFBR is specifically designed to eventually incorporate Thorium-232 into its blanket. Through transmutation, this will breed Uranium-233, the fuel required to power Stage 3.
- **Closed Fuel Cycle:** The spent fuel generated by the PFBR is reprocessed and recycled back into the reactor, dramatically reducing nuclear waste.

**WHAT IS MISSION MITRA? ISRO'S NEW EXPERIMENT FOR GAGANYAAN - Mission Mitra Begins in Ladakh**

- Mission Mitra is currently ongoing in the high-altitude region of Ladakh.
- Ladakh is known for harsh climate, low oxygen levels and isolation.
- These conditions are similar look like as the challenges faced in space.
- This program has been conducted by the ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) in the collaboration with research teams and experts.
- Those four selected astronauts are participating in this mission after they are undergoing acclimatization in Leh.

**What is Mission Mitra and Why It Matters**

- Mission Mitra's full form is the Mapping of Interoperable Traits & Reliability Assessment and it is designed for to simulate space like conditions on Earth.
- As compare to traditional astronaut training this mission will focuses on the psychological resilience under the stress and also the team coordination in the isolated environments.
- The goal is to prepare the astronauts for real-life challenges in the space where the isolation, communication delays and limited resources can impact performance of the mission.

**HAL AND GE AEROSPACE SIGN KEY DEAL TO CO-DEVELOP ADVANCED JET ENGINES FOR INDIA -****HAL-GE F414 Deal: Key Highlights**

- The agreement focuses on to the co-production of the F414 jet engines and which are widely used in the advanced fighter aircraft.
- This deal includes the transfer of critical manufacturing technology to India.
- It is the also the first such collaboration between the two companies.
- The final commercial contract is expected to follow soon.
- The engines will empower the India's upcoming indigenous fighter jets.



- This partnership also reflects the deeper strategic alignment between the India and the United States in defense and also the advanced technology sectors.

### Why the F414 Engine Deal Matters for India

- The F414 engines which is developed by the GE Aerospace have been used by the US Navy for over three decades.
- The proven reliability makes them ideal for the India's future combat aircraft programs.
- India has also the long-term aim to reduce dependence onto the imported defense equipment.
- This deal also supports the 'Make in India' initiative by enabling the domestic manufacturing with high-performance jet engines.

### INDIA'S NEW AI TOOL 'ABHAY' IS HERE TO PROTECT YOU FROM ONLINE SCAMS -

- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has introduced the AI-powered chatbot named 'Abhay'. This platform will help citizens to verify official notices and avoid falling victim to the digital scams. The initiative comes at that time where the digital arrest frauds cases are increasing and the scammers impersonate themselves as the officials to extort money. This chatbot will be officially launched by the Honorable Chief Justice of Supreme Court Surya Kant and marks the significant advancement in the use of the artificial intelligence for public safety and the cybercrime prevention.



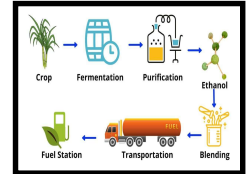
### What is the 'Abhay' AI Chatbot?

- The 'Abhay' chatbot is the digital tool which is developed by the CBI to allow the individuals to verify the authenticity of notices which are allegedly issued by the agency.
- This system is designed to help the citizens which instantly check whether a notice is genuine or fake, prevent panic caused by the fraudulent communications and reduce the risk of the financial exploitation.

- This chatbot addresses the growing concern where the fraudsters misuse the name of law enforcement agencies to create a fear and manipulate victims.

### INDIA'S ETHANOL BLENDING PROGRAMME AND THE PATH TO E100 -

- The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways advocated for India to move towards 100% ethanol blending (E100) in the near future to achieve energy self-reliance and insulate the country from global oil supply shocks.



### What is India's Ethanol Blending Programme?

- **Ethanol:** Ethanol (ethyl alcohol) is a biofuel naturally produced by the fermentation of sugars by yeasts or via petrochemical processes.
- In India, it is primarily derived from sugarcane molasses, but increasingly from maize, surplus rice, and damaged foodgrains.
- Ethanol is classified into 1G, 2G, and 3G based on the type of feedstock used and the production technology.
- **Blending:** It involves mixing ethanol with motor fuel (petrol) to reduce the consumption of imported crude oil and curb carbon emissions.
- E10 and E20 petrol blended with 10%, 20% ethanol respectively, with higher blends reducing crude oil use and emissions.
- E100 means using pure ethanol as fuel, instead of mixing it with petrol.
- While E10 works in most vehicles, E20 requires compatible engines with a slight efficiency loss, and E100 needs flex-fuel vehicles that can run on varying ethanol blends.
- These vehicles use corrosion-resistant components, modified engines, and advanced sensors, and while countries like Brazil have widely adopted them, India is still at an early stage.



**ISRO OPENS GAGANYAAN ASTRONAUT SELECTION TO CIVILIANS -**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing to select a second batch of astronauts for the Gaganyaan mission, expanding eligibility beyond Indian Air Force test pilots. For the first time, civilians from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) backgrounds may be included as India strengthens its long-term human spaceflight programme.

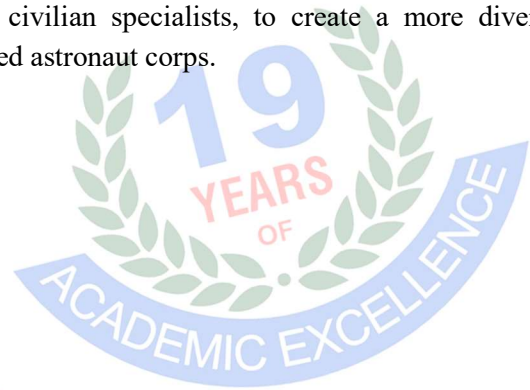
**Second Astronaut Batch for Gaganyaan**

- The first batch of four astronauts was selected in 2020 only from Indian Air Force test pilots. They later underwent advanced training in Russia under Roscosmos, including survival drills, zero-gravity simulations and spacecraft operations. Now, ISRO plans a second astronaut group to support future missions.

**Civilians from STEM Fields Included**

- Unlike the first round, the new selection is expected to include civilian professionals from STEM backgrounds along with military personnel. ISRO is considering a team of around 10 astronauts, including six military pilots and four civilian specialists, to create a more diverse and skilled astronaut corps.

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## ECONOMY & FINANCE

### **INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2025 -**

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2025, introducing 12 key amendments to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC) aimed at maximizing stakeholder value, enforcing strict resolution timelines, and aligning Indian law with global best practices like cross-border insolvency.



### **What are the Key Provisions of the IBC (Amendment) Bill, 2025?**

- **New Resolution Models:** The Bill replaces the fast-track process with a creditor-initiated insolvency framework featuring an out-of-court settlement option and a "debtor-in-possession, creditor-in-control" model to maintain business continuity.
- **Strict Timelines:** It sets a timeline of 180 days for completion of liquidation, extendable up to 90 days. Admissions of insolvency applications must occur within 14 days once a default is established.
- The Adjudicating Authority must approve or reject resolution plans within 30 days, and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) appeals must be decided within 3 months.
- **Compressed Process:** The new out-of-court initiation mechanism has a compressed 150-day timeline to expedite the recovery process.
- **Cross-Border and Group Insolvency:** The Bill provides an enabling framework for cross-border insolvency and group insolvency, crucial for promoting international investor confidence and handling complex corporate structures.
- **Deterrents for Litigation:** To curb delays caused by extensive litigation, penalties ranging from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 crore will be imposed on individuals initiating frivolous or vexatious proceedings.
- **Protection of Workmen:** Under the IBC hierarchy, workmen's dues are given high priority, placed

on par with secured creditors and ranked above unsecured financial creditors and government dues.

- **Post-Resolution Success:** Market capitalization of resolved firms reportedly grew from Rs 2.8 lakh crore to Rs 9 lakh crore within 5 years, demonstrating the long-term efficacy of the framework.

### **INDIA FOREX RESERVES FALL BY \$30.5 BILLION IN MARCH 2026: REASONS AND IMPACT -**

#### **Forex Reserves Fall March 2026**

- The total forex reserves of the country had dropped to \$688.05 billion for the week which was ending March 27. And it was down from the \$728.5 billion in the late February 2026 where it has peaked the numbers.
- The decline was mainly driven by the RBI's intervention in the forex market to control rupee volatility and along with that 4% of the depreciation of the rupee against the US dollar in March. Also the global uncertainties are linked to rising the geopolitical tensions.
- To fight against this challenges the central bank of India had sold the dollars to support the rupee and this led to the reduction in the reserves.



#### **Breakdown of the Decline in Forex Components**

- The decline in forex reserves was not uniform across all the components.
- **Foreign Currency Assets (FCA):** Declined by the \$6.62 billion
- **Gold Reserves:** Fell around the \$3.66 billion
- **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs):** Increased slightly to the \$18.64 billion
- **IMF Reserve Position:** Marginally declined to the \$4.81 billion



**PM MUDRA YOJANA MARKS 11 YEARS OF SUPPORTING SMALL AND MICRO ENTREPRENEURS -**

- India is celebrating 11 successful years of the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY), a major government scheme that has helped millions of small entrepreneurs start and grow their businesses. Launched on April 8, 2015, by Narendra Modi, the scheme focuses on providing easy, collateral-free loans to people who were earlier unable to access formal banking services.

**What is Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana?**

- The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana is a government initiative that provides loans of up to Rs.20 lakh to small and micro businesses. It mainly supports non-corporate and non-farm sectors such as small shops, service providers and rural businesses.
- The main aim of the scheme is “Fund the Unfunded”, meaning to help those who were earlier ignored by banks and financial institutions.
- Importance of MSMEs in India
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises plays a very important role in India’s economy. They:
- Create jobs for millions of people
- Support big industries
- Help in balanced development of cities and villages
- Meet both local and global market demands

**RBI MPC MEETING 2026, KEPT REPO RATES UNCHANGED AT 5.25% -**

- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India, in its 60th meeting held from April 6 to 8, 2026, decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25%. The meeting was chaired by Sanjay Malhotra and reflects a cautious approach amid global uncertainties and domestic resilience.

**Key Policy Decisions**

- **Repo Rate:** Unchanged at 5.25%

- **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF):** 5.00%
- **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate:** 5.50%
- **Policy Stance:** Neutral
- The MPC unanimously voted to maintain the current rates, emphasizing a “wait and watch” approach due to evolving global and domestic conditions.
- Growth Outlook for India

**The Indian economy continues to show strong resilience:**

- **GDP Growth (2025-26):** Estimated at 7.6%
- **GDP Projection (2026-27):** 6.9%

**IMF RAISES INDIA GROWTH FORECAST TO 6.5% FOR FY27, CITING STRONG DOMESTIC PERFORMANCE -**

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) have raised the growth forecast for the FY27 to 6.5%. This revision indicates the strong domestic performance and steady economic performance. The IMF has also issued the warning that rising geopolitical tensions in the West Asia could disrupt the global markets and push up the oil prices and it will create inflationary pressure on the economy which may affect the growth in the near future.

**India’s Positive Growth Outlook**

- As per the latest IMF’s assessment it highlights that India set to continue to be remain as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world.
- The upward revision in the growth is largely supported by the strong domestic demand, improved trade conditions and the consistent economic performance.
- For the FY25 India’s growth has been revised significantly higher to the 7.6% which have indicated the better than expected performance across the multiple sectors.
- This strong base have carried forward into the FY26 and FY27 where growth is to be stabilized at 6.5%.



## CABINET APPROVES EMERGENCY CREDIT LINE GUARANTEE SCHEME 5.0 -

- The Union Cabinet has approved Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme 5.0, which belongs to the family of credit guarantee measures used in India for liquidity support to eligible borrowers. The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme, or ECLGS, was first introduced in 2020 as a pandemic-era measure for collateral-free additional credit to stressed businesses.



### Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme

- The Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme is a government-backed credit guarantee framework for lending institutions. It was designed to provide additional working capital support through guaranteed loans to eligible entities, including micro, small and medium enterprises, and certain other borrower categories notified under the scheme.

### Key Features of ECLGS

- The scheme uses a sovereign guarantee mechanism to reduce lender risk on sanctioned credit.
- The scheme has been linked to collateral-free or partially collateral-free lending in its earlier versions.
- The scheme has been implemented through banks and other eligible financial institutions.
- The scheme has been extended in multiple versions since its launch in 2020.

## RBI LAUNCHES MISSION SAKSHAM FOR COOPERATIVE BANKS -

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched Mission SAKSHAM, a nationwide capacity-building programme for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), aimed at improving governance, resilience and professional standards across the sector. The initiative reflects the RBI's broader push to modernise cooperative banking while preserving its community-focused structure. It is designed as a mission-mode exercise covering nearly 1.40 lakh participants



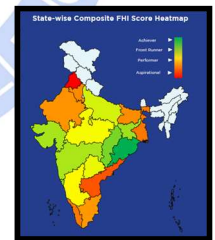
across India through both physical and digital training modules.

### Purpose of Mission SAKSHAM

- Mission SAKSHAM seeks to strengthen managerial and operational capabilities within UCBs. The focus is on improving governance standards, compliance culture and institutional resilience. RBI stated that the programme is intended to build stronger and more professionally managed cooperative banks that can meet modern banking standards.
- The word "SAKSHAM" means capable, reflecting the objective of making cooperative banks more efficient and future-ready in a changing financial environment.

## REVENUE DEFICIT STATES AND CHALLENGE OF FISCAL STABILITY -

- The Ministry of Finance's Monthly Economic Review (April 2026) has highlighted that States with revenue deficits and high debt burdens may face fiscal stress, limited flexibility in responding to shocks, and risk violating the 'golden rule' of fiscal financing.



### What are the Key Highlights of India's Fiscal Outlook?

- Central Resilience:** The Union government maintains a cautious fiscal path supported by conservative tax buoyancy assumptions (0.8) and the newly created Economic Stabilisation Fund, which provides a buffer against external shocks without derailing fiscal deficit targets.
- State-Level Revenue Deficits:** Out of 18 large states, 9 are in revenue deficit, including Himachal Pradesh (-2.4%), Punjab (-2.2%), Kerala (-2.1%), Andhra Pradesh (-1.1%), Rajasthan (-1.1%), Haryana (-0.9%), Karnataka (-0.7%), Maharashtra (-0.7%), and Chhattisgarh (-0.3%).
- Interest Payment Burdens:** High debt servicing limits "degrees of freedom" for stressed states; Punjab faces the highest stress, spending 22.8% of its revenue receipts on interest payments.



- Fiscal Deficit Breach vs. Deliberate Investment: While 13 states budget a fiscal deficit at or above 3% of GSDP, some cases like Odisha (3.5% fiscal deficit but 3% revenue surplus) represent deliberate capital outlay (6.5% of GSDP) rather than fiscal stress.
- Revenue Surplus Leaders: 8 states projected revenue surpluses, notably Odisha (3%), Jharkhand (2.5%), Uttar Pradesh (1.6%), Goa (1.3%), Gujarat (0.8%), Uttarakhand (0.6%), Telangana (0.3%), and Bihar (0.1%).
- 16th Finance Commission (FC) Impact: FY 2026-27 is the first year of the 16th Finance Commission period, introducing risks related to changes in devolution shares and the absence of Revenue Deficit Grants.

### **RESERVE BANK OF INDIA SAYS 98.47% OF ₹2,000 NOTES RETURNED TO BANKING SYSTEM -**

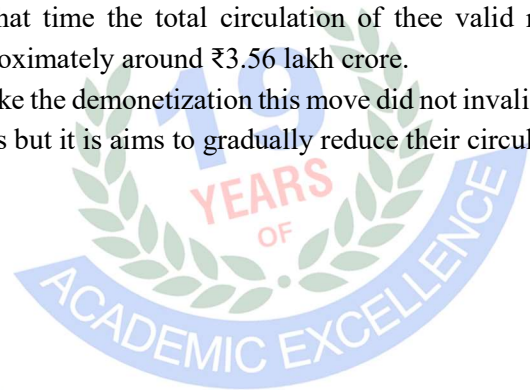
- The Reserve Bank of India have announced that 98.47% of ₹2,000 Indian currency notes have been returned to the

central banking system. ₹2,000 denominations notes were withdraw by the RBI three years ago. It marks the significant milestone in the India's currency management process and it reflects the smooth transition from the valid notes.



### **Background of Withdrawal of ₹2,000 Notes in 2023**

- The RBI have announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes from circulation on 19th May, 2023. This decision comes from the central bank of India for its currency management strategy.
- At that time the total circulation of these valid notes is approximately around ₹3.56 lakh crore.
- Unlike the demonetization this move did not invalidate the notes but it aims to gradually reduce their circulation.



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# IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

## INDIA COMMEMORATES JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE DAY, HONORING VICTIMS OF 1919 TRAGEDY -

- Every year on the 13th April India remembers the innocent victims of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. This was one of the most tragic incident in the India's history. This massacre was took place in 1919 in Amritsar and it stands as the powerful reminder of the brutality of British colonial rule and the sacrifices made for the India's independence. Every year this day brings the attention to the incident which transformed the Indian freedom struggle in to the mass movement.



### Background of Rowlatt Act and Rising Nationalism

- The massacre did not occur in the isolation. It was the result of the growing unrest against oppressive colonial policies mainly the Rowlatt Act which have allowed detention without trial.
- In response to this act the widespread protests happened across the India and it was led by Mahatma Gandhi through his call for Satyagraha. In the Punjab region the situation became tense as they have gathered to protest against this colonial law.
- The arrest of leaders like Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal further inflamed public anger and set the stage for the tragic events of April 13.

## EASTER SUNDAY 2026: MEANING, HISTORY & WHY THIS FESTIVAL SYMBOLIZES HOPE AND NEW BEGINNINGS -

### When is Easter Sunday 2026

- Unlike fixed the date the festival Easter follows a lunar-based calculation.
- Easter Sunday is observed on to the the first Sunday after the full moon. Which following the spring equinox which is around March 21.



- This system connects Easter with the seasonal cycles and also links it to historically to the Jewish festival of Passover.
- In 2026 Easter falls on April 5th and making it a relatively later celebration in the calendar.

### History of Easter: Origins of the Celebration

- The origins of Easter trace back to nearly 2,000 years to events in Jerusalem where the Jesus Christ was crucified. As per the Christian belief he rose from the dead on the third day.
- Early Christians began the gathering every Sunday to remember this event. Over the time Easter evolved into an annual festival and by the 4th century various church leaders have formalized the method for determining the date.
- The festival gradually became the main part of celebration of the Christian calendar and it also representing faith and salvation.

## APRIL 14 UNITES AMBEDKAR JAYANTI AND BAISAKHI IN ANTI-CASTE REFLECTION -

- April 14, 2026, marks both Ambedkar Jayanti and the Sikh festival of Baisakhi, bringing renewed focus on the shared anti-caste ideals of B. R. Ambedkar and Guru Nanak. While both traditions emphasise equality and dignity, the historical and social realities surrounding caste remain complex and layered.



### Guru Nanak's teachings against caste

- Guru Nanak, born in 1469, laid the foundation of Sikhism on principles of equality, fraternity, and devotion to one God. Emerging in a period marked by social divisions and caste oppression, his teachings challenged entrenched hierarchies. Influenced by the Bhakti tradition and saints like Kabir, Guru Nanak emphasised the unity of humanity and rejected caste-based discrimination in both thought and practice.



**FOLLOWING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE (30TH MARCH), THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP) FOOD WASTE INDEX 2024 HIGHLIGHTS THAT INDIA WASTES 78–80 MILLION TONNES OF FOOD ANNUALLY, EXPOSING A STARK PARADOX OF WIDESPREAD HUNGER ALONGSIDE MASSIVE FOOD WASTAGE -**

**What is the Scale of Food Waste in India?**

- **India’s Global Standing:** The world wastes roughly 1.05 billion tonnes of food annually. Households account for 60% of this waste, food services for 28%, and retail for 12%.
- India ranks 2nd globally in food waste (with 78-80 million tonnes of post-harvest crop and food worth Rs 1.55 lakh crore wasted annually), trailing only behind China (108 million tonnes of food per year).
- In comparison, the US wastes 24.7 million tonnes, while Japan, guided by its zero-waste 'mottainai' culture, wastes just 5.2 million tonnes.
- **Per Capita Discard:** The per capita household food waste in India is 55 kg annually, which is relatively lower than the US (73 kg) and Germany (75 kg), but highly alarming given India's domestic hunger crisis.
- **Economic Value:** The economic valuation of this wasted food is estimated at Rs 1.55 lakh crore, severely draining resources and impacting farmer incomes.
- **Dual Crisis:** India wastes millions of tonnes of food each year, yet nearly 194 million people remain undernourished, revealing a deep structural gap between food production and equitable access.
- The Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2020–2021) reported that the wheat and rice lost in transit over the past four years could have fed 82.30 million people for one month.
- This is reflected in India’s ranking of 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2023, highlighting widespread food insecurity.



**INDIA OBSERVES NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES DAY ON APRIL 21 TO HONOUR PUBLIC SERVANTS -**

- National Civil Services Day 2026 is observed on the April 21st every year to honor the dedication and hard work of the civil servants of the India. This day recognizes their crucial role in maintaining the governance, implementing policies and ensuring smooth functioning of the administrative system. From the rural development to law and order civil servants act as the backbone of the country’s progress. This occasion also reminds us the officials responsibility towards the citizens and encourages excellence in the public service.



**Why April 21 is Celebrated as Civil Services Day**

- The origin of this day can be traced back to year 1947 when the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the newly appointed civil servants and famously called them the ‘Steel Frame of India.’
- This powerful phrase has highlighted the importance of the bureaucracy to maintain the unity and stability in a newly independent nation.
- To commemorate this historic moment the Government of India has officially started celebrating the Civil Services Day in 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan.

**WORLD BOOK DAY 2026: UNESCO INITIATIVE -**

- World Book and Copyright Day 2026 is observed on 23rd April around the world every year. This day celebrates the power of books, authors and reading culture. The day was established by the UNESCO and it highlights how the books connect cultures, preserve knowledge and inspire generations. It also raises awareness about the copyright laws which protect the authors rights. This occasion also promotes the education, creativity and global conversation through the written word.

**Why Is World Book Day Celebrated on 23 April?**

- The 23rd April holds the special significance in the literary history. It is associated with the death anniversaries of some of the greatest writers in the world.



- Miguel de Cervantes (Spain)
- William Shakespeare (England)
- Inca Garcilaso de la Vega (Peru)

**NATIONAL PANCHAYATI RAJ DAY 2026 -**

- India celebrated National Panchayati Raj Day (NPRD) on 24th April 2026, commemorating the enactment of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which granted constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), marking 33 years of this defining milestone in India’s democratic journey.



**What is the National Panchayati Raj Day?**

- **Historical Background:** The day commemorates the institutionalization of the Panchayati Raj system in India through the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.
- The Act came into force on 24th April 1993, marking a defining moment in the history of decentralized political power in India.
- **First Celebration:** The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in 2010 under the leadership of then-Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- **Objective:** To assess the progress of rural decentralization, interact with Gram Panchayat representatives, and recognize their outstanding contributions to rural development.
- **Theme for NPRD 2026:** The theme, “Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas” (Empowered Panchayats, Holistic Development), focuses on localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strengthening digital governance through e-Gram Swaraj to achieve the vision of “Viksit Bharat” by 2047.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY 2026 -**

- International Labour Day is the global event observed in the over 80 countries and it is often marked as the public holiday. It is associated with workers rights movements and the demand for the fair labour standards.



- The day also continues to highlight the key issues such as social justice, equality and the dignity of labour and making it highly relevant even in the modern economies shaped by automation and digital work.

**History of May Day: From Protest to Global Movement**

- The origins of Labour Day can be trace back to the historic Haymarket Affair in the United States.
- In the year 1886 the workers in Chicago went on to the strike demanding an 8-hour workday. The protest have turned out the violent and drawing the global attention to labour rights.
- In the year 1889 this international socialist movement declared May 1 as Labour Day to honor these workers.

**INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY 2026 (MAY DAY) -**

- Every year, the 1st of May is observed globally as International Workers' Day, commonly known as May Day or Labour Day. It is a day dedicated to honoring the historic struggles, sacrifices, and subsequent gains made by the labor movement and workers worldwide.
- **May Day:** Traces its origins to the Haymarket Affair at Haymarket Square in Chicago, where a peaceful workers’ rally demanding an eight-hour workday turned violent after a bomb was thrown, amid the harsh conditions of the Industrial Revolution, when workers were often forced to labor 10–16 hours in unsafe environments.
- In 1889, the Second International declared 1st May as International Workers’ Day to honor the Haymarket Martyrs, symbolizing the global struggle for fair working hours based on the principle of 8 hours for work, 8 hours for rest, and 8 hours for personal life.
- The International Labour Organization theme for May Day 2026 is “Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment” highlights rising workplace stress, burnout, and mental health issues, urging governments and employers to prioritize psychosocial risk management alongside physical well-being.
- **First Celebration in India:** May Day was first formally observed in India on 1st May 1923, in Madras (Chennai).



# AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

## RAJA RAVI VARMA PAINTING BREAKS RECORDS AND BECAME MOST EXPENSIVE EVER IN INDIA -

- History created by for the Indian Art as the Yashoda and Krishna by the Raja Ravi Varma has become the most expensive painting which was ever sold in India. This masterpiece of the painting grabbed the record-breaking ₹167.20 crore at an auction in Mumbai and with this it has set the new benchmark for Indian artworks worldwide. This sale not just highlights of Varma' work but also showcasing the recognition of India's rich artistic heritage.



### 'Yashoda and Krishna' Creates History at Auction

- The iconic 'Yashoda and Krishna' painting which was created in the 1890s and it was sold for ₹167.20 crore (around USD 17.98 million).
- And it has making the costliest modern Indian artwork which have ever auctioned.
- This painting record has surpassed the previous benchmark which was set by works of the M F Husain whose paintings had earlier dominated the high-value auctions.
- The sale of this showcase the increasing demand and value of the Indian classical and the modern art in global markets.

## FORMER DELHI HC JUDGE YASHWANT VARMA TENDERS RESIGNATION TO THE PRESIDENT MURMU -

- The former Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Varma has resigned from his post after the submitting his resignation to Honorable President of India Droupadi Murmu with the immediate effect. The resignation of the former judge Mr. Verma comes after the controversy linked to the alleged recovery of the burnt cash at his official residence in Delhi. Under the Articles 124 and 218 the judges of the Supreme Court



and High Courts can be removed by the President on grounds of "proven misbehaviour" or "incapacity".

### Timeline of Justice Verma Case

- The controversy was began on the 14th of March 2025 when a fire broke out the Justice Varma's residence in Delhi and burnt cash was found and some questions were raised suddenly after the incident.
- The in-house inquiry was initiated under then the Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and the three-member panel investigated during that time.
- After reviewing the report the CJI have asked Justice Varma to resign or to face impeachment but when the no immediate resignation was followed the matter was escalated to the President and Prime Minister.
- In the August 2025 Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have formally initiated the removal proceedings under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 and the committee was formed to examine the charges.
- Although Justice Varma was transferred to the Allahabad High Court and he was relieved of the judicial work.
- The Supreme Court later refused to stop the inquiry and stated that proper legal procedures were to be followed and no fundamental rights were violated.

## END OF AN ERA: 'LION OF LADAKH' COL SONAM WANGCHUK NO MORE -

- India's one of the bravest soldier Colonel Sonam Wangchuk (Retd) was passed away on the 10th of April at the age of 61 in Leh. He was known as the "Lion of Ladakh" and he was decorated war hero and recipient of the prestigious Maha Vir Chakra which is India's second-highest wartime gallantry award. With his passing marks the end of the end of an era which is defined by courage, leadership and the service to the nation.



### A Hero of the Kargil War

- During the Kargil War Colonel Wangchuk. then a Major in the Indian Army and led a mission in the Batalik sector.



- On the May 30 1999, he commanded the troops of the Ladakh Scouts across the treacherous heights of Chorbat La which is located at an altitude of nearly 18,000 feet.
- Despite the extreme weather conditions and lack of artillery support his team had successfully engaged with enemy forces.
- With his leadership resulted in one of the earliest victory for India during that war conflict and it have boost morale and set the stage for further operations.

### **SAMRAT CHOUDHARY SWORN IN AS THE NEW CM OF THE BIHAR -**

- Samrat Choudhary sworn in as the New Chief minister of the Bihar and created the history by becoming the first CM from BJP. He taken the oath after the Nitish Kumar has resigned from the post. The oath-taking ceremony was held in the Patna and it was attended by the several senior leaders of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). Also the two other leaders from the Janta Dal United has sworn in as the Deputy CM post.

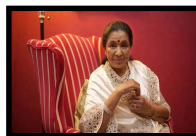


### **New Deputy Chief Ministers of State**

- Alongside with the Samrat Choudhary two senior from JD(U) leaders
- Bijendra Prasad Yadav
- Vijay Kumar Choudhary
- have taken the oath as the Deputy Chief Ministers .
- This indicates that the NDA alliance remains strong despite the leadership change at the higher level.

### **ASHA BHOSLE NO MORE: ICONIC VOICE OF INDIAN CINEMA LEAVES BEHIND UNMATCHED MUSICAL HERITAGE -**

- Legendary Iconic and Sound of the Nation Mrs. Asha Bhosle Ji passed away on the 12th of April, 2026 in the Mumbai at the age of 92 in the Breach Candy Hospital because of the to multiple organ failure and she was admitted in the hospital a day earlier because of the chest infection. Her passing marks the end of the era for her incredible musical journey



with over the 8 decades and left with a great legacy in the Indian cinema and music industry.

### **Journey From Humble Beginnings to Musical Greatness**

- At the young age of the 10 years Asha Bhosle Ji began her singing career and made her debut in the Marathi film in 1943. She entered into the Hindi cinema industry with early songs in the late 1940s but her breakthrough came in the film Naya Daur (1957).
- At that time when legends like Lata Mangeshkar, Shamshad Begum and Geeta Dutt have dominated the industry. Asha Ji carved her own identity with the versatility and the experimentation.
- Her journey also reflects the determination as she rise from the shadows of the some of the established names and to become one of the most recorded voices in music history.

### **RAGHU RAI, INDIA'S ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHER, DIES AT 83 -**

- Raghu Rai, one of India's most celebrated photographers and among the finest visual chroniclers of independent India, has passed away at the age of 83. His family announced his death on Sunday, describing him as "our beloved". Rai's work documented some of the most defining moments in India's modern history, preserving national memory through powerful visual storytelling.



### **From Partition to Photography**

- Born in a village in present-day Pakistan's Punjab province before the 1947 Partition, Raghu Rai was originally trained as a construction engineer. His journey into photography began after being inspired by his photographer brother. His first published photograph, featuring a donkey looking directly into the camera, appeared in The Times of London and marked the beginning of a remarkable career.
- He later entered photojournalism and worked with some of India's leading media houses during the 1960s and 1970s before choosing to work independently.



# PROGRAMMES, SCHEMES AND INITIATIVES

**INDIA'S FISCAL DEFICIT REACHED RS 12.52 TRILLION BY THE END OF FEBRUARY 2026, ACCOUNTING FOR 80.4% OF THE ANNUAL BUDGETARY TARGET. IT IS NOTABLY LOWER THAN THE 85.8% RECORDED DURING THE SAME PERIOD IN 2024-25 -**

- For the full 2025-26 fiscal year, the Centre has set a fiscal deficit target of 4.4% of the GDP, amounting to an absolute value of Rs 15.58 trillion.
- These monthly accounts were compiled and released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), which functions under the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.



### Fiscal Deficit

- **About:** Fiscal Deficit is the difference between a government's total expenditure and its total revenue (excluding borrowings). It represents the total borrowing requirement of the government.
- **Equation:** It is calculated as the Total Expenditure minus (Revenue Receipts + Non-debt Capital Receipts), effectively showing the gap the government must fill through borrowing.
- Expenditure accounts for both Revenue Expenditure (recurring costs like salaries and interest) and Capital Expenditure (productive investments in infrastructure like roads and bridges).
- Revenue includes Tax and Non-tax revenue (dividends/fees) and Non-debt Capital Receipts (disinvestment proceeds and loan recoveries).

### BRO'S PROJECT CHETAK TURNS 47: HOW IT STRENGTHENED INDIA'S BORDER INFRASTRUCTURE -

- The Project Chetak by the Border Roads Organization celebrated the 47th Raising Day in Bikaner. This project highlighting the long-standing contribution to India's border infrastructure. This project was established in 1980 and it has played a strategic role in developing and

maintaining roads in the strategically important border areas of western India. Over the years it has significantly improved the connectivity near border regions, and also strengthened both national security and regional growth.



### What is Project Chetak and Its Importance?

- The Project Chetak is one of the major infrastructure initiatives under the Border Roads Organization (BRO).
- Its functioning primarily lies in the western sector of India.
- It has played the vital role to developing strategic road networks near international border with Pakistan and will be supporting the defense movement and logistics. It also improving connectivity in remote desert regions across the Rajasthan, Punjab and northern Gujarat.
- Over the past 47 years it has made the significant contributions to the infrastructure development. Along with that it has strengthened the border accessibility and enhanced overall regional connectivity.

### CABINET EXTENDS PMGSY-III TILL MARCH 2028 -

- The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III) beyond March 2025 till March 2028, reinforcing the government's focus on rural connectivity and infrastructure development. Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the decision aims to ensure the completion of key road and bridge projects that connect villages with agricultural markets, schools and hospitals. The revised total outlay of the scheme has been increased to Rs 83,977 crore from the earlier Rs 80,250 crore.



### Key approvals under PMGSY-III

- The Cabinet has extended the timeline till March 2028 for completion of roads and bridges in plain areas and roads



in hilly regions. For bridges in hilly areas, the deadline has been further extended till March 2029. Projects sanctioned before 31 March 2025 but not yet awarded can now be taken up for tendering and execution. This step is expected to remove delays and improve project implementation.

**CONSTITUTION (131ST AMENDMENT) BILL 2026: KEY PROVISIONS, DEFEAT REASONS & IMPLICATIONS**

- The defeat of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha has reignited debate on women’s reservation in Parliament. While the principle commands broad support, the episode highlights that constitutional reform in India requires consensus, credibility, and careful institutional design.



**Need for the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026**

- **Restore Equal Representation:** Realign seats with population to uphold “one person, one vote, one value” after decades of freeze.
- **Correct Delimitation Distortions:** Address unequal constituencies and voter imbalance caused by delayed delimitation since 1971 (extended by 42nd & 84th Amendments).
- **Enable Women’s Reservation:** Facilitate timely operationalisation of 33% reservation in legislatures.
- **Ensure Flexibility in Delimitation:** Empower Parliament to decide timing and census base, reducing procedural delays.
- **Expand Lok Sabha Capacity:** Increase seats to match population growth and improve representational adequacy.

**INDIA’S NEW ONLINE GAMING RULES KICK IN FROM MAY 1, 2026 -**

- To regulate the rapidly growing the online gaming sector India has introduced new rules to focusing on the user safety and the responsible gaming. These are to e notified on the ay 1st, 2026 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information



Technology. It is also part of the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act 2025 (PROGA) and will create the safer, transparent and accountable gaming system.

**Formation of Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)**

- The major feature of the new rules is the to creation of the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI).

**Structure of OGAI**

- It will be headed by a senior official (Additional Secretary level)
- Includes representatives from,
  - Ministry of Home Affairs
  - Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
  - Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
  - Department of Financial Services
  - Department of Legal Affairs

**INDIA’S ATAL PENSION YOJANA HITS RECORD 9 CRORE ENROLMENTS -**

- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has reached the historic milestone by achieving the 9 crore total gross enrolments in scheme as of the 21st April, 2026. This achievement showcases the scheme’s growing popularity and specially among the workers in the unorganized sector. Importantly in the financial year 2025-26 alone recorded over the 1.35 crore new subscribers and make it the highest ever annual enrolment since the inception of the scheme.

**Record Enrollments in FY 2025026**

- The remarkable rise in the enrolments under the APY is not just accidental. It is the result of the coordinated efforts by the multiple institutions which includes the banks, postal networks and government agencies.
- Several other factors have contributed to this growth,
- As the extensive outreach campaigns across rural and semi-urban areas.
- Active participation of the public and private banks along with regional rural banks (rrbs)
- It also got support from the Department of Posts to reaching remote populations
- Also the continuous awareness drives and multilingual communication initiatives



**LADAKH TO GET FIVE NEW DISTRICTS, BOOSTING DECENTRALISED GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT -**

- Ladakh is set to witness the creation of the five new districts and it marks the step towards the decentralized governance model and the regional development. The announcement was made by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena who have approved the Centre's notification to expand the Union Territory's district count from two to the seven.

**Five New Districts Announced in Ladakh**

- The Union Territory of Ladakh will now have the total seven districts instead of the existing two which are earlier Leh and Kargil.
- Newly Created Districts.
- Nubra
- Sham
- Changthang
- Zaskar
- Drass
- This expansion will fulfill the long-standing demand of the local residents for the better administrative representation.

**MAHARASHTRA APPROVES AI POLICY 2026 -**

- The Maharashtra Cabinet has approved the Artificial Intelligence Policy 2026 with a planned investment of ₹10,000 crore to strengthen the state's AI ecosystem. The policy aims to promote innovation, create jobs, support industries and position Maharashtra as a leading artificial intelligence hub in India.

**Major Investment and Job Creation**

- The policy targets the creation of 1.5 lakh employment opportunities across sectors linked to artificial intelligence. Electronics, Information Technology and Artificial Intelligence Minister Ashish Shelar said the main objective is large-scale employment generation and

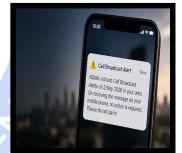
stronger economic growth through technology-driven development.

**AI Excellence Centres and Innovation Cities**

- Under the policy, the state will establish six AI Excellence Centres and five AI Innovation Cities. These centres will focus on research, skill development, startup support and industry collaboration. The innovation cities are expected to attract investments and strengthen Maharashtra's digital economy.

**RECEIVED NDMA ALERT? INDIA TESTS NEW CELL BROADCAST EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM -****What Is the Cell Broadcast Alert System?**

- The Cell Broadcast Alert System is the modern technology in which it sends the emergency messages directly to the all mobile phones in a particular area at the same time. As compare to the regular SMS it does not depend on the individual phone numbers. This system also works efficiently despite the networks are crowded.
- In the simple terms it means that this alert messages can reach the people faster and without any delay, even during the high-pressure situations like disasters. This alert system will be the reliable tool for emergency communication.

**E20 PETROL INDIA 2026: NATIONWIDE ROLLOUT FROM APRIL 1 -****E20 Petrol Becomes Standard in India: What Has Changed**

- The central government has made the E20 fuel the standard petrol across all states and Union Territories In India.
- The direction has been given to the oil marketing company of India to ensure uniform fuel quality across the nation and also to follow the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. And after this supply that E20 fuel consistently nationwide. With this introduction it is compliment the India's long-term ethanol blending program.



**What Is E20 Fuel?**

- E20 petrol is a blend of the
- 80% petrol
- 20% ethanol which is known as the bio-fuel.
- That Ethanol is produced from the different agricultural sources like the,
- Sugarcane
- Maize
- Other grains

**ECONOMIC CORRIDOR BETWEEN DELHI AND DEHRADUN INAUGURATED BY PM MODI: A NEW ERA FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT -****Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor: A Major Infrastructure Achievement**

- This newly inaugurated Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor is the world class expressway which is designed to enhance the regional connectivity and economic activity.
- The project showcase the country's growing focus on the modern infrastructure development as the foundation for the long-term growth.
- This corridor connects the key cities across Uttarakhand and its nearby regions and makes the travel smoother and more efficient.
- It is not just the road project but it is also the multi-dimensional development initiative.

**WHAT IS VANTARA UNIVERSITY? INDIA'S FIRST GLOBAL WILDLIFE INSTITUTION EXPLAINED -**

- Vantara has announced the launch of Vantara University in the Jamnagar, Gujarat. It will be founded under the vision of Anant Ambani and the institution is set to become the world's first integrated global university which dedicated to the wildlife and veterinary sciences. It will be designed as a modern-day Gurukul and it aims to position India as the



global leader in conservation, animal welfare and veterinary education.

**World's First Integrated Wildlife & Veterinary Sciences University**

- Vantara University stand out as the unique academic initiative which is combining multiple disciplines under one ecosystem is focused on wildlife and conservation.
- The university aims to,
- Train the future professionals in wildlife medicine and conservation
- Also to integrate the scientific research with real-world field experience
- And to promote ethical and compassionate animal care

**LADAKH TO GET INDIA'S FIRST PETROGLYPH CONSERVATION PARK TO SAFEGUARD CULTURAL HERITAGE -**

- India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park is set to be developed at the Sindhu Ghat in Ladakh. The foundation stone was laid on the April 18th, 2026 and the event coinciding with



World Heritage Day and it was laid by Vinai Kumar Saxena. This initiative aims to protect the centuries-old rock carvings which is known as petroglyphs. As they are under threat from the environmental factors and human activities and marks the significant step to preserving the India's ancient cultural legacy.

**India's First Petroglyph Conservation Park**

- The proposed Petroglyph Conservation Park will serve as the dedicated space to conserve and display the prehistoric rock carvings which are found across Ladakh. These carvings are etched onto the rocks thousands of years ago and they provide the valuable insights into early human life, culture and beliefs.

**This park will,**

- Protect endangered petroglyphs and relocate the vulnerable artefacts from isolated locations and also create the educational and curated environment for visitors.



- This initiative positions Ladakh as the key centre for the archaeological and cultural heritage conservation in India.

### INDIA SUBMITS UPDATED CLIMATE TARGETS FOR 2031–2035 TO UNFCCC -

- India has submitted the its updated targets for the 2031-2035 to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This new plan focuses on to the reducing emissions, expanding clean energy and increasing the forest cover. This targets were announced after the Cabinet approval in the month of March 2026 and these targets will reflect the India's



growing role to tackling climate change while. The targets are aimed to significantly reduce emissions and boost clean energy. India have come long way with the environmental efforts and it will trying to come closer to 2070 net Zero target.

### What Is India's New NDC (2031-2035)?

- Updated NDC of India reflects the higher level of climate ambition while balancing development needs. These targets are part of the global commitments under the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.

The new goals are focus on three major pillars,

- Emission reduction, Clean energy transition Carbon sequestration.



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## REPORTS & INDICES

### INDIA RANKS 3RD GLOBALLY IN RENEWABLE ENERGY CAPACITY, SAYS IRENA -

#### India's Renewable Energy Growth 2025 Key Highlights

- Renewable energy capacity of India has seen the sharp rise over the last few years.
- Total installed capacity in 2025 is around 250.5 GW.
- Earlier the capacity in the year 2023 was stood at 175.9 GW.
- In the year 2025 the annual addition has done around 45 GW.
- This growth indicates that India's push toward to achieving the clean energy targets and to reducing the dependence on fossil fuels.



#### Solar Energy Major Contributor the Transition

- Solar energy has been playing the crucial role and it is the biggest contributor to renewable expansion of India.
- Solar capacity addition for the year 2025 was 37 GW. Also the India ranked second after China in the solar energy expansions.
- Across Asia the solar capacity has been grown rapidly and in the last couple of years it is the major contributing factor to the renewable energy.

### NCERT GETS 'DEEMED UNIVERSITY' STATUS: WHAT IT MEANS FOR INDIA'S EDUCATION SYSTEM -

- The Ministry of Education has granted the 'deemed to be university' status to National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). This decision was taken by the recommendation of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and it is placing the NCERT under the distinct category of the institutions. After this status it will be expected to enhance the academic autonomy and will enable it to launch the various



advanced research and doctoral program in the school education.

#### What Does 'Deemed to be University' Status Mean?

- The 'deemed to be university' tag is granted to those institutions which demonstrate the high standards in the teaching and research.
- It also allows them with greater academic freedom compared to the regular institutions.

#### For the NCERT this status means the,

- Authority to design and to offering the PhD and advanced research programs.
- Also the flexibility to introduce the innovative academic courses as per their reach.
- Will strengthened the role in to shaping the education policy and the curriculum development for the good future outcome.
- This move is aimed at to transforming the NCERT into the leading research driven institution in the school education.

### INDIA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE RISES TO 5.1% IN MARCH 2026, HITS FIVE-MONTH HIGH -

#### Unemployment Rate Hits The Five Month High

- As per the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) shows that unemployment rate have increased from the 4.9% in February to 5.1% in March 2026.
- This rise was mainly driven by the urban unemployment which saw the noticeable increase. The trend also indicates that job creation has been slowed specially in cities where the economic activity have often drives the employment opportunities.



#### Urban vs Rural Employment Trends

- By bifurcating the rural and urban data creates the concerning number.
- As the Urban unemployment rate rose to 6.8% in March which up from 6.6%.



- And the Rural unemployment rate increased slightly to 4.3% from 4.2% level.

## STARTUP INDIA'S RECORD GROWTH IN FY 2025-26 -

- Recently, the government reported that over 55,200 startups were recognized in FY 2025-26, the highest ever in a single year since the launch of the Startup India initiative, reflecting strong growth in innovation, funding and employment.
- Total recognized startups have crossed 2.23 lakh, generating over 23.36 lakh direct jobs.
- Startup recognition grew by 51.6%, while employment increased by 36.1% in FY 2025-26.



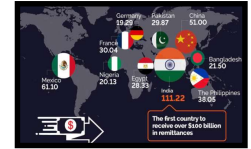
### Startup India Initiative

- **About:** Launched on 16th January 2016, the Startup India Initiative aims to support entrepreneurs, strengthen the startup ecosystem, and shift India from a job-seeking to a job-creating economy.
- A startup is a small, new, or young company founded by entrepreneurs to introduce a new product or service, disrupt an existing market, or even create a new one.
- The Startup India Initiative is implemented by a dedicated Startup India team under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- **Key Objectives:** To nurture innovation, promote entrepreneurship by easing regulations and supporting

founders, enable access to investment, and drive sustainable economic growth with large-scale job creation.

## INDIA AMONG TOP MIGRATION CORRIDORS -

- India remained one of the largest migration corridors in the world in 2024, and remittances to India reached \$134 billion in the same year. Remittances are cross-border personal transfers sent by migrant workers to households in their home countries.



### Migration Corridors

- A migration corridor is a route between a country of origin and a country of destination for migrant workers and other migrants. India has large migration links with the Gulf region, North America, Europe, and parts of Asia.

### Remittances

- Remittances are recorded in balance of payments statistics and are classified as personal transfers in many international datasets. India has ranked among the largest remittance-receiving countries for several years because of its large overseas workforce.



# DEFENCE

## INDIAN NAVY INS ARIDAMAN: FEATURES, ROLE, AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE - What is INS Aridaman

- INS Aridaman is part of the India's Arihant-class submarines which is designed to carry nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.
- After this induction India has now has three operational SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear submarines) at sea for the first time in the naval history.
- This is important because it has strengthened the second-strike capability and also enhanced the strategic deterrence. It will strengthen the India's position as the major naval power in the world.
- The submarine will ensure that India can respond even after the potential nuclear attack.



### Advanced Features of INS Aridaman

- INS Aridaman is the more advanced and the powerful compared to its predecessors.
- It has an approximate displacement of around 7,000-tonne.
- It will be equipped with the more vertical launch system (VLS) tubes.
- Aridaman can carry the K-15 and K-4 nuclear-capable missiles.
- These K-4 missiles have a range of up to 3,500 km.
- The nuclear submarine is powered by advanced nuclear reactors and it will be enabling long underwater endurance.

## WHAT IS GAGANYAAN IADT-02? ISRO CONDUCTS KEY AIR DROP TEST EXPLAINED -

- The second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02) for Gaganyaan mission was successfully conducted at Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on April 10, 2026. This important test is part of preparations for the India's first human spaceflight mission which is Gaganyaan. The

simulated crew module was dropped from the height of about 3 km using a Chinook helicopter and validating the parachute-based landing system and recovery operations.



### Key Highlights of IADT-02 Test

- The IADT-02 test was focused on evaluating the safe descent and the landing capability of the crew module. A 5.7 tonne simulated Crew Module which matching the weight of the module planned for the Gaganyaan G1 uncrewed mission was used in this exercise.
- This module was lifted by the Chinook helicopter of the Indian Air Force and it released over a designated sea drop zone near Sriharikota.
- This ensured real world conditions for testing recovery and descent mechanisms.
- To ensure the safety during descent a complex parachute deployment system was tested.
- The test validated the,
- Deployment of the 10 parachutes of four different types
- Also the precise sequencing of parachute opening
- Controlled reduction in the velocity before splashdown

## DUNAGIRI 5TH SHIP OF PROJECT 17A -

- The Indian Navy has received 'Dunagiri (Yard 3023)' marking a significant leap forward in India's pursuit of Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in advanced warship design and maritime security.
- **Historical Legacy:** The ship is a reincarnation of the original INS Dunagiri (a Leander-class frigate), which served the Indian Navy for 33 years from 1977 to 2010.
- **Indigenous Design & Push:** Designed entirely by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB), the project boasts an indigenous content of 75%.



- This has significantly boosted the domestic defense ecosystem by involving over 200 MSMEs and generating massive direct and indirect employment.
- **Advanced Propulsion Strategy:** The frigate operates on a Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) propulsion plant, driving a Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP) on each shaft, managed by a state-of-the-art Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- **Strategic Combat Capabilities:** It is equipped with a highly potent weapon and sensor suite, including BrahMos Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSM), MFSTAR radar, the MRSAM complex, and specialised rockets and torpedoes for Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW).
- **Project 17A (Nilgiri Class):** 'Dunagiri' is the 5th ship of the Project 17A frigates and the second to be constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata.

from the Indian Air Force. The Uzbekistan side is also represented by approximately 60 personnel drawn from its Army and Air Force, ensuring balanced participation from both countries.

**INDIAN NAVY COMMANDERS CONFERENCE 2026 BEGINS AT NAUSENA BHAWAN, FOCUS ON MARITIME SECURITY -**

- The Indian Navy Commanders Conference 2026 was commenced on the April 14th at the Nausena Bhawan. This conference brings together the top naval leadership to review the operational readiness and future strategies to safeguard the nation. While addressing the conference Dinesh K Tripathi Chief of The Naval Staff have highlighted the Navy's achievements to safeguarding the India's maritime interests and specially amid the global uncertainty.



- Key Focus Areas Of Conference Overview
- The conference will bring together the,
  - The senior naval leadership
  - Also the operational and Area Commanders
  - The representatives from the Naval Headquarters
- The main objective is to review the current operations and to prepare the future strategies to strengthening the India's maritime capabilities.

**INDIA UZBEKISTAN JOINT EXERCISE DUSTLIK 2026 BEGINS -**

- The Indian Army contingent has departed for Uzbekistan to participate in the 7th edition of the joint military exercise DUSTLIK, scheduled from April 12 to April 25, 2026. The exercise will take place at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Namangan, reflecting the growing defence cooperation between India and Uzbekistan.



**About Exercise DUSTLIK**

- Exercise DUSTLIK is an annual bilateral military drill conducted alternately in India and Uzbekistan. The previous edition was held in April 2025 at the Foreign Training Node in Aundh, Pune. The exercise aims to strengthen military ties and improve coordination between the armed forces of both nations.

**Composition of Participating Forces**

- The Indian contingent comprises 60 personnel, including 45 troops from the Indian Army, primarily from a battalion of the MAHAR Regiment, and 15 personnel

**RELOS PACT COMES INTO FORCE: INDIA AND RUSSIA STRENGTHEN MILITARY LOGISTICS COOPERATION -**

- To boost the strategic cooperation in defense India and Russia have operationalized the Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS) in the April 2026. It was originally signed in the February 2025 and this pact allows both countries to access the each other's military bases, ports and airfields along with deploying the troops and assets. This step marks the significant step in strengthening the bilateral defense ties and enhanced the



India's global strategic reach and particularly in the emerging regions like the Arctic.

### **RELOS Pact Operational: Key Features of the Agreement**

- The India-Russia RELOS agreement is designed to provide the mutual logistical support and it operational flexibility to both nations armed forces.

#### **Under the pact,**

- Both the countries can deploy up to the 3,000 military personnel on the each other's territory. Also the access is granted to army bases, naval port and air bases  
Deployment also includes up to 5 warships and 10 fighter aircraft each  
The agreement is valid for five years and also with an option for extension

### **INDIA'S DEFENCE SPENDING RISES TO \$92.1 BILLION, RANKS FIFTH GLOBALLY: SIPRI -**

- India has been emerged as the fifth-largest military spender in the world in the year 2025. This position reveled as per the report released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The country's defense expenditure rose by the 8.9% to \$92.1 billion which is showcasing the growing security needs and modernization efforts. The key factor behind this increase was the India and Pakistan conflict in the May 2025 which involved the advanced warfare technologies like drones, missiles and the combat aircraft.

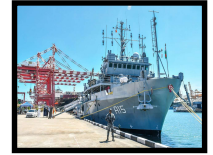


#### **India's Defense Spending Surge in 2025**

- The military expenditure of India has reached to the \$92.1 billion and making India as the 5th largest spender worldwide and overtaking the United Kingdom.
- This accounts for nearly the 3.2% of the global military spending.
- The increase was largely influenced by the India and Pakistan conflict which started in the May 2025 which have required the higher operational readiness and rapid deployment of the advanced military systems.

### **IN-SLN DIVEX 2026 STRENGTHENS MARITIME TIES -**

- India and Sri Lanka have deepened naval cooperation through IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, held in Colombo from 21 to 28 April. The fourth edition of the bilateral diving exercise focused on underwater operations, joint rescue capability and maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.



#### **INS Nireekshak Leads Indian Participation**

- The Indian Navy deployed INS Nireekshak, a Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, for the exercise. Diving teams from both navies took part in harbour and open-sea drills to improve coordination and operational familiarity.

#### **Focus on Deep-Sea Diving Skills**

- The exercise included advanced deep-sea diving and mixed gas diving drills. Divers successfully conducted operations beyond 55 metres, strengthening joint skills in underwater search, rescue and salvage missions.

### **INDIAN ARMY HOSTS EXERCISE PRAGATI IN MEGHALAYA -**

- The Indian Army will host the first edition of the multilateral military exercise 'Pragati' at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya. Military delegations from 11 friendly countries will participate in the exercise, aimed at strengthening defence cooperation and improving operational coordination among regional armies. The initiative reflects India's growing focus on regional security, strategic partnerships and collective preparedness in the Indian Ocean Region.



#### **Purpose of Exercise Pragati**

- Exercise Pragati has been designed to enhance interoperability, mutual trust and defence cooperation among participating nations. It provides a platform for friendly armies to exchange operational experiences, improve coordination and develop joint strategies for emerging security challenges.



- The Indian Army stated that the exercise highlights a shared commitment to collective security and regional stability. Such engagements are important in addressing common threats such as maritime security risks, humanitarian crises and transnational challenges.

**INDIA ADVANCES AMCA, EYES 6TH-GEN FIGHTER COLLABORATION -**

- India is accelerating its defence modernisation efforts with progress on the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme and plans to explore partnerships for sixth-generation fighter



jets. Alongside aviation advancements, developments in missile technology, including the Agni-VI and hypersonic systems, highlight a comprehensive push to strengthen national security capabilities.

**AMCA Programme Gains Momentum**

- The procurement process for the AMCA project is moving forward, with a Request for Proposal (RFP) expected to be issued soon to shortlisted private sector players. The initiative marks a shift towards greater private participation in indigenous fighter aircraft production. The move aims to enhance domestic manufacturing capacity and reduce reliance on imports in the defence sector.

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# SPORTS

## INAUGURAL KHELO INDIA TRIBAL GAMES 2026 CONCLUDES: KARNATAKA EMERGES VICTORIOUS -

• Inaugural edition of Khelo India Tribal Games of 2026 (KITG) concluded on the 4th of April, 2026. As the tournament concludes state of Karnataka has clinched the top position and it is showcasing an outstanding all-round performance by them. As they have clinched the 23 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals. With this Karnataka have dominated the medal tally and sand they have secured the championship title. this tournament have brought together the tribal athletes from across the country and make important step to promoting grassroots sports and inclusiveness.



### Top Performers: Medal Tally Highlights

- In this edition the performance from the several states are challenging and giving tough fights to each other.
- Karnataka – 1st position (23 Gold)
- Odisha – 2nd position (21 Gold)
- Jharkhand – 3rd position (16 Gold)
- Chhattisgarh (Host) – 9th position

## PAYAL NAG MAKES HISTORY BY BECOMING FIRST QUADRUPLE AMPUTEE TO WIN AN ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP -

• In a recent inspiring sports news story, 18-year-old Payal Nag from Odisha has made history by winning a gold medal at an international archery event. Her achievement has surprised and inspired people across the world, as she became the first quadruple amputee to make such a great achievement in para archery.



### A Life-Changing Incident

- Payal Nag was born in a small village in Balangir district, Odisha. Her family was very poor and her father worked as a daily-wage labourer. When she was just eight years

old, her life changed forever due to a serious electric shock accident. Sadly, she lost both her arms and legs in this incident. After this tragedy, she had to stay in an orphanage, where she slowly started rebuilding her life.

## KHELO INDIA TRIBAL GAMES (KITG) 2026

- India is hosting its first national multi-sport event for tribal athletes, Khelo India Tribal Games (25th March – 3rd April 2026) in Chhattisgarh (Raipur, Jagdalpur and Surguja), bringing tribal athletes from across the country onto a national platform.
- **About:** The Games are jointly organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, SAI, IOA, National Sports Federations and the Chhattisgarh government, with international-level technical standards.
- **Objective:** It aims to integrate tribal talent into mainstream sports by providing exposure, structured competition and pathways for future development.
- The Games are part of the Khelo India programme, which promotes grassroots participation, talent identification and inclusive expansion of India’s sporting ecosystem.
- **Mascot:** “Morveer” symbolises tribal pride, identity and bravery.
- **Sports Included:** The Games feature seven medal sports—athletics, football, hockey, weightlifting, archery, swimming and wrestling—along with indigenous sports like kabaddi and mallakhamb, with over 60,000 athletes competing for 338 medals.
- **Selection Process:** Athlete selection follows a two-stage process: state/UT trials followed by national-level trials by sports federations, ensuring merit-based participation.
- A dedicated Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC) scouts promising athletes for further training under the Khelo India framework.



**TASHKENT TO HOST WORLD PARA ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2027 IN JUNE -**

- World Para Athletics has announced that Tashkent will host the 2027 World Para Athletics Championships. This event is scheduled to be held in the June 2027.



This will marks the first time the Central Asia will host the prestigious event. The championship which is one of the largest para sporting events in the world will take place at the state-of-the-art Olympic City Main Stadium in Tashkent.

**Tashkent Selected as Host for 2027 Championships**

- The announcement confirms that Tashkent will host the 13th edition of the World Para Athletics Championships.
- This decision showcases the Uzbekistan's expanding infrastructure and its commitment to promote the inclusive sports and global sporting events.
- This event will be staged at the Olympic City Main Stadium which is the modern facility capable of to hosting international competitions.

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# IMPORTANT MCQ FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

- Q1. Gangotri National Park is located in which state ?  
a) Uttarakhand  
b) Himachal Pradesh  
c) Rajasthan  
d) Gujarat
- Q2. The Central Government has recently mandated petrol pumps to supply E20 fuel. What does E20 fuel represent ?  
a) 20% petrol + 80% ethanol  
b) 20% ethanol + 80% petrol  
c) 50% ethanol + 50% petrol  
d) 100% ethanol
- Q3. Recently, the SAMPANN digital platform was in the news after agreements were signed to onboard it for pension disbursement. SAMPANN is the flagship platform of which of the following departments ?  
a) Department of Financial Services  
b) Department of Telecommunications  
c) Department of Expenditure  
d) Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare
- Q4. India's first Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) is located in which state ?  
a) Tamil Nadu  
b) Karnataka  
c) Kerala  
d) Andhra Pradesh
- Q5. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?  
a) Bihar  
b) Tamil Nadu  
c) Odisha  
d) Jharkhand
- Q6. World Health Day is observed every year on which day ?  
a) April 4  
b) April 5  
c) April 6  
d) April 7
- Q7. Recently, a 1,500-year-old stepped reservoir was unearthed on Elephanta Island by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Elephanta Island is primarily known for which of the following ?  
a) Buddhist monasteries  
b) Rock-cut cave temples dedicated to Lord Shiva  
c) Mughal-era forts  
d) Ancient Jain temples
- Q8. Recently, the Indian Army contingent departed to participate in Exercise 'Cyclone-IV'. Exercise Cyclone is a joint military exercise conducted between India and which of the following countries ?  
a) Egypt  
b) France  
c) Israel  
d) United States
- Q9. Recently, India withdrew its bid to host the COP33 climate summit. The Conference of Parties (COP) is held under which of the following international frameworks ?  
a) United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)  
b) Paris Agreement  
c) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)  
d) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Q10. Lake Neuchatel, that was recently seen in news, is located in which country ?  
a) Malaysia  
b) Indonesia  
c) Switzerland  
d) Australia
- Q11. Recently, the Ganges river dolphin was in the news due to habitat shifts caused by reduced water flow in the Chambal River. The Ganges river dolphin is recognised as which of the following in India ?  
a) National Animal  
b) National Aquatic Animal  
c) National Protected Animal  
d) National Heritage Animal
- Q12. Girnar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?  
a) Rajasthan  
b) Gujarat  
c) Karnataka  
d) Kerala
- Q13. Shree Chamundeshwari Temple, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state ?  
a) Karnataka  
b) Kerala  
c) Tamil Nadu  
d) Maharashtra
- Q14. The ALH Mk III is a variant of which indigenous helicopter ?  
a) Dhruv  
b) Rudra  
c) Prachand  
d) Chetak



- Q15. Indravati Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?  
a) Karnataka                      b) Odisha  
c) Andhra Pradesh                d) Chhattisgarh
- Q16. Which city has been included in the inaugural “20 Cities Towards Zero Waste” initiative ?  
a) Varkala, Kerala                b) Chennai, Tamil Nadu  
c) Pune, Maharashtra            d) Jaipur, Rajasthan
- Q17. Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve is located in which state ?  
a) Maharashtra                    b) Karnataka  
c) Kerala                            d) Tamil Nadu
- Q18. Recently, India conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti, a high-intensity tri-service drill to strengthen coastal and island defence capabilities. The exercise was conducted in which of the following regions ?  
a) Lakshadweep Islands  
b) Mumbai Coast  
c) Gujarat Coast  
d) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Q19. Which state has the highest number of women SHGs trained as drone pilots under the Namu Drone Didi Yojana (NDDY) as of April 2026 ?  
a) Karnataka                      b) Maharashtra  
c) Kerala                            d) Tamil Nadu
- Q20. INS Aridhaman, that was recently seen in news, is part of which class of submarines ?  
a) Kalvari class                    b) Scorpene class  
c) Chakra class                    d) Arihant class
- Q21. Rongali Bihu is mainly celebrated in which state ?  
a) Mizoram                        b) Manipur  
c) Assam                            d) Tripura
- Q22. INS Taragiri, recently commissioned, belongs to which class of warships ?  
a) Kolkata-class destroyers  
b) Shivalik-class frigates  
c) Project 17A Nilgiri-class frigates  
d) Talwar-class frigates
- Q23. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR) is located in which state ?  
a) Maharashtra                    b) Karnataka  
c) Kerala                            d) Tamil Nadu
- Q24. The Bureau of Indian Standards functions under which ministry ?  
a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
b) Ministry of Science and Technology  
c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution  
d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Q25. Sanjay Gandhi National Park is located in which state?  
a) Kerala                            b) Karnataka  
c) Gujarat                          d) Maharashtra
- Q26. What is the primary objective of the Sagarmala Programme ?  
a) Expansion of air transport  
b) Port-led development  
c) Agricultural modernization  
d) Urban housing development
- Q27. In April 2026, Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has received environmental clearance for lithium exploration in which country ?  
a) Australia                        b) Chile  
c) Argentina                        d) Bolivia
- Q28. Which state has launched India’s first quantum test facilities ?  
a) Andhra Pradesh                b) Tamil Nadu  
c) Karnataka                        d) Kerala
- Q29. Recently, INS Dhruv was deployed by the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea. INS Dhruv is best described as which of the following ?  
a) A conventional aircraft carrier  
b) A nuclear-powered submarine  
c) A missile-tracking and ocean surveillance vessel  
d) An amphibious assault ship
- Q30. Recently, the e-SafeHER programme was launched to promote cybersecurity awareness. The e-SafeHER initiative primarily aims to:  
a) Provide financial assistance to women entrepreneurs  
b) Train government officials in cyber defence  
c) Promote digital payments in urban areas  
d) Enable women in rural India to safely participate in the digital ecosystem





- Q46. Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar is administered by which ministry ?  
a) Ministry of Education  
b) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports  
c) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
d) Ministry of Culture
- Q47. Thrissur Pooram festival is mainly celebrated in which state ?  
a) Kerala  
b) Andhra Pradesh  
c) Tamil Nadu  
d) Maharashtra
- Q48. Recently, India launched its first official Formula 1 Sim Racing Championship. The national championship round of this competition is scheduled to be held in which of the following cities ?  
a) Bengaluru  
b) Delhi  
c) Mumbai  
d) Chennai
- Q49. Recently, India achieved its highest-ever peak electricity demand. What was the approximate peak electricity demand successfully met by India on April 25, 2026 ?  
a) 200 GW  
b) 225 GW  
c) 256 GW  
d) 300 GW
- Q50. Recently, India signed a Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and an arrangement for UN Peacekeeping Training cooperation with which of the following countries ?  
a) Germany  
b) France  
c) Italy  
d) Japan
- Q51. Easter Island, that was recently seen in news, is located in which ocean ?  
a) Pacific Ocean  
b) Atlantic Ocean  
c) Indian Ocean  
d) Arctic Ocean
- Q52. Kotgarh Wildlife Sanctuary is located in which state ?  
a) Odisha  
b) Maharashtra  
c) Gujarat  
d) Karnataka
- Q53. Naval Anti-Ship Missile–Short Range, India’s first indigenous helicopter-launched anti-ship missile, has been developed by which organization ?  
a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited  
b) Indian Space Research Organization  
c) Defence Research and Development Organisation  
d) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- Q54. SVAMITVA scheme was launched by which ministry?  
a) Ministry of Rural Development  
b) Ministry of Panchayati Raj  
c) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
d) Ministry of Agriculture
- Q55. The Korowai tribe is primarily found in which country?  
a) Indonesia  
b) Australia  
c) New Zealand  
d) China
- Q56. With reference to Article 161 of the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:  
1. The Governor can grant pardon, reprieve, respite, remission, suspension, or commutation of sentences.  
2. The Governor can pardon a death sentence.  
3. The Governor’s power extends to offences under laws within the State’s executive domain.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q57. Consider the following statements regarding India’s energy strategy:  
1. India aims to increase the share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030.  
2. LNG sources are geographically more diversified than LPG sources.  
3. LPG prices are less volatile compared to PNG prices.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3
- Q58. With reference to the MITRA Mission, consider the following statements:  
1. It is a satellite-based mission launched to map space debris.  
2. It studies human behaviour and teamwork in simulated space conditions.  
3. It is being conducted in Leh, Ladakh.  
Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?  
a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3



Q59. Consider the following statements about ISRO:

1. It was established in 1969.
2. Its headquarters is in Bengaluru.
3. It was founded by Dr. Homi J. Bhabha.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only                      d) 1, 2, and 3

Q60. Consider the following statements regarding India's renewable energy position (2026):

1. India has become the third-largest country in the world in installed renewable energy capacity.
2. India's total non-fossil fuel capacity exceeds 300 GW when nuclear and large hydro are included.
3. India has overtaken Brazil to reach the second position globally.

Which of the above statements is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only                      d) 1, 2, and 3

Q61. With reference to India's solar energy sector, consider the following statements:

1. India's solar capacity has increased more than 50 times since 2014.
2. India is fully dependent on imports for solar module manufacturing.
3. PM-Surya Ghar scheme promotes household-level solar adoption.

Which of the statements are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1 and 3 only  
c) 2 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2, and 3

Q62. Consider the following statements with reference to the Census in India:

1. The Census is a statutory process.
2. It is conducted every 10 years.
3. It is conducted by State Governments.

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 and 3 only  
c) Only 1 and 3                      d) 1, 2, and 3

Q63. Which of the following countries are the initial signatories of the Abraham Accords ?

1. United Arab Emirates
2. Bahrain
3. Saudi Arabia
4. Morocco

Choose the correct answer:

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1, 2 and 4 only  
c) 2, 3 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q64. Consider the following statements regarding INS Aridhaman:

1. It has 8 Vertical Launch Tubes (VLS).
2. It can carry K-4 ballistic missiles.
3. It is powered by a gas turbine engine.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only                      b) 2 only  
c) 2 and 3 only                      d) 1, 2, and 3

Q65. With reference to the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, consider the following statements:

1. The gathering at Jallianwala Bagh was held to peacefully protest the arrest of Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal under the Rowlatt Act.
2. The firing was ordered by Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer without any warning to the crowd to disperse.
3. The Hunter Commission, appointed to investigate the incident, recommended strict criminal prosecution and imprisonment for General Dyer.
4. Rabindranath Tagore renounced his knighthood as a mark of protest against the atrocity.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 1, 3 and 4 only  
c) 1, 2 and 4 only  
d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q66. Consider the following statements regarding language provisions in the Indian Constitution:

1. Article 343 declares Hindi as the official language of the Union.
2. Article 351 directs the Union to promote the spread of Hindi.
3. States have no authority over education policy as it is in the Union List.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only  
b) 2 and 3 only  
c) 1 and 3 only  
d) 1, 2 and 3



Q67. With reference to the IMF’s April 2026 World Economic Outlook report, consider the following statements regarding the Indian economy:

1. The IMF raised India’s GDP growth forecast for FY2026–27 (FY27) to 6.5%.
2. The upward revision was primarily driven by a significant reduction in US tariffs on Indian goods, dropping from a peak of 50% to roughly 10-18%.
3. The IMF’s growth projection for India (6.5% in FY27) is higher than those of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

- b) 1 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2, and 3

Q68. Regarding Bauxite and Aluminum industry in India, consider the following statements based on the recent Mineral Yearbooks and Mining updates:

1. Odisha holds the largest share of bauxite resources in India, contributing over 70% of the total production (2022-23).
2. Bauxite is refined into alumina through the Hall-Héroult process, which is then smelted into aluminium.
3. The Sijimali mining project is significant for supporting India’s domestic aluminium smelting capacity.

Which of the statements given above are correct ?

- a) 1 and 2 only

Q69. Consider the following statement and reason:

Statement (A): In the financial year 2025–26, China has become India’s largest trading partner.

Reason (R): Due to structural limitations in India’s manufacturing capacity, it is dependent on imports for high-technology products.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) Both A and R are correct and R correctly explains A
- b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A
- c) A is correct, but R is incorrect
- d) A is incorrect, but R is correct

Q70. Consider the following statement and reason:

Statement (A): The proposed “COP of the Future” approach for COP31 is based only on the priorities of developed countries and limits the participation of developing countries.

Reason (R): This model emphasizes an implementation-based approach, climate finance and technology transfer.

Choose the correct answer using the code given below:

- a) Both A and R are correct and R correctly explains A
- b) Both A and R are correct, but R does not correctly explain A
- c) A is incorrect, but R is correct
- d) A is correct, but R is incorrect

## ANSWERS

1- a	2- b	3- b	4- a	5- b	6- d	7- b	8- a	9- d	10- c
11- b	12- b	13- a	14- a	15- d	16- a	17- a	18- d	19- a	20- d
21- c	22- c	23- a	24- c	25- d	26- b	27- c	28- a	29- c	30- d
31- c	32- a	33- c	34- b	35- d	36- b	37- b	38- b	39- a	40- a
41- b	42- a	43- c	44- b	45- a	46- c	47- a	48- c	49- c	50- a
51- a	52- a	53- c	54- b	55- a	56- b	57- a	58- c	59- a	60- a
61- b	62- a	63- b	64- a	65- c	66- a	67- a	68- b	69- b	70- c

