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**English**



## Top Stories of The Day

- *Min Aung Hlaing Elected President of Myanmar, Formalising Military Control After Controversial Elections*
- *India Inducts INS Aridhaman, Boosting Nuclear Triad and Second-Strike Capability*
- *New Zealand Revises Dependent Child Visa Rules with Clearer Age and Financial Criteria*
- *Cambodia Passes Tough Cybercrime Law to Eliminate Global Online Scam Operations*
- *Deepening Economic Crisis Puts Spotlight on Leadership of Miguel Díaz-Canel in Cuba*
- *Bharat Electronics Limited to Manufacture Indigenous RxT17 Hemodialysis Machine to Boost Healthcare Access*
- *Indian Air Force Plans to Upgrade MiG-29 Jets with Advanced ASRAAM Missiles for Enhanced Combat Capability*
- *United States Announces 100% Tariff on Patented Drugs, Limited Immediate Impact on India's Pharma Exports*
- *India Commissions Stealth Frigate INS Taragiri Equipped with BrahMos Missiles to Strengthen Naval Power*
- *OpenAI Restructures Leadership as COO Role Changes and Key Executive Takes Medical Leave*

## Myanmar Junta Chief Elected President



- Min Aung Hlaing, the military chief of Myanmar, has been elected as the country's President by a military-dominated parliament, formalising his control over the nation.

### Election Process

- He secured a majority vote in parliament, which is largely controlled by military-backed representatives.
- The election followed widely criticised general elections, seen as favouring the military establishment.
- He stepped down as Commander-in-Chief before contesting, as required by the constitution.

### Background Context

- Min Aung Hlaing has been the de facto ruler since the 2021 military coup, which overthrew the elected government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.
- The coup led to widespread protests and an ongoing civil war in Myanmar.
- The recent move is seen as a shift from military rule to a civilian facade, without real change in power structure.

### Key Developments

- His close ally Ye Win Oo has been appointed as the new military chief, ensuring continued military influence.

- The military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) dominated the elections with a large majority.

### Additional Key Facts:

- The President of Myanmar is the head of state and government, elected by the Presidential Electoral College under the 2008 Constitution.
- Myanmar has experienced prolonged military rule since 1962, with a brief democratic phase (2016–2021) conditions.
- Myanmar is a member of ASEAN, but faces diplomatic isolation due to the political crisis.
- The current development indicates continuity of military dominance under a constitutional setup, important for polity and international relations topics.
- Myanmar Capital: Naypyidaw
- Myanmar Currency: Myanmar Kyat
- Myanmar Prime Minister: Nyo Saw

## INS Aridhaman Strengthens India's Nuclear Deterrence



- India has inducted INS Aridhaman, its third indigenously developed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), into the Indian Navy. This marks a significant advancement in India's maritime defence and strategic capabilities.

### Strategic Importance

- The induction of INS Aridhaman enhances India's nuclear triad, which includes land, air, and sea-based nuclear delivery systems. It strengthens the country's second-strike

capability, ensuring credible nuclear deterrence. The submarine operates under the Strategic Forces Command, responsible for managing India's nuclear arsenal.

### Key Features

- INS Aridhaman belongs to the Arihant-class submarines and is more advanced than its predecessor INS Arihant. It has an approximate displacement of 7,000 tonnes and can carry K-15 (Sagarika) and K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs). Built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project, it reflects India's growing indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities.

### Global Context

- With this induction, India joins a select group of nations possessing nuclear-powered submarines, including the United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China.

### Additional Facts

- SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear) are crucial for strategic deterrence, as they can remain underwater for extended periods and launch nuclear missiles from sea. India is also working towards achieving Continuous At-Sea Deterrence (CASD), ensuring at least one nuclear submarine is always on patrol. Earlier submarines in this class include INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024), highlighting India's steady progress in strengthening its naval nuclear capabilities.

## New Zealand Revises Dependent Child Visa Rules

- The government of New Zealand has updated and clarified its dependent child visa rules, focusing on eligibility criteria such as age limits, financial dependency, and legal requirements. The move aims to streamline family immigration and ensure clarity for applicants.



### Eligibility Criteria

- Under the revised norms, children applying as dependents must be single and financially reliant on their parents. For resident visas, children aged up to 24 years can qualify, while for temporary visas (such as visitor or student visas), the age limit is generally 19 years. Additionally, children aged 21–24 years must provide strong proof of financial dependency to be eligible.

### Legal & Documentation Requirements

- Applicants must furnish proof of relationship, financial support, and in some cases, legal custody documents. For children aged 16 years and above, English language requirements may also apply. These rules ensure that only genuinely dependent children are included under family visas.

### Policy Significance

- The updated guidelines reflect New Zealand's emphasis on regulated immigration and family reunification. By clearly distinguishing between resident and temporary visa categories, the policy reduces ambiguity and prevents misuse of dependent visa provisions.

### Additional Facts:

- Dependent child visa holders under resident categories can live, study, and work in New Zealand. However, children above 18 must generally not have children of their own to qualify as dependents. The policy also includes provisions for adopted children, subject to strict documentation and legal verification,

highlighting the country's structured approach to immigration management.

### New Zealand:

- Capital: Wellington
- Governor-General: Cindy Kiro
- Prime Minister: Christopher Luxon
- Currency: New Zealand dollar

## Cambodia parliament approves law to combat cybercrime scam rings



- Cambodia's Parliament has approved a new cybercrime law to stop online scam operations.
- These scams mainly involve fake investments, online fraud, and romance scams.

### Why was this law needed?

- Cambodia has become a major hub for online scam centres.
- These scams have cheated people worldwide of billions of dollars.
- Many workers in these scam centres are trafficked or forced to work under harsh conditions.
- There was international pressure on Cambodia to take strict action.

### Key features of the new law

- Punishment for online scams: 2–5 years in jail + heavy fines
- Serious cases (gangs or many victims): Up to 10 years in jail + higher fines

- Covers crimes like: Online fraud, Money laundering, Illegal data collection, Recruiting people into scam networks

### What is the government's goal?

- To completely eliminate scam centres in the country
- To support ongoing crackdowns and raids
- To protect: Economy, Tourism, International reputation

### Background

- Earlier, Cambodia did not have a specific law for online scams.
- Authorities have already:
  - Shut down many scam centres
  - Arrested hundreds of suspects
- The new law gives strong legal power to continue action.

### Note:

- The law is part of a larger effort to clean up cybercrime networks and stop them from returning in the future.

### Cambodia

- Capital: Phnom Penh
- Currency: Cambodian riel
- King: Norodom Sihamoni
- Prime Minister: Hun Manet

## Cuba crisis explained: Who holds power, and could Diaz-Canel be replaced?

### What is happening in Cuba?

- Cuba is facing a serious economic and energy crisis.
- There are: Fuel shortages, Frequent electricity cuts, Food and medicine shortages
- The crisis has worsened due to U.S. sanctions and oil blockade.



### Who is the current leader?

- The President of Cuba is Miguel Díaz-Canel
- He has been in power since 2018 and also leads the Communist Party.

### Who actually holds power in Cuba?

- Communist Party is the real power centre
- Cuba is a one-party system controlled by the Communist Party.
- The top position is Party leader, not just the President.
- Military has strong control
- The system is heavily influenced by the military and security agencies.
- Many important sectors (like economy and businesses) are linked to military control.
- Role of Raúl Castro
- Even after stepping down, he still has significant influence.
- He is considered a key power figure behind the scenes.

### Can Díaz-Canel be replaced?

- Yes, but it may not change much. Experts say the President can be replaced easily.
- But the system will remain the same, Power will still stay with the same ruling group
- This is because the President's role is not the most powerful position.

### Who could replace him?

- Any new leader will likely come from:
- Communist Party, Military leadership, Possible figures include:

- Senior government officials & People close to the Castro system

### Why is leadership change being discussed?

- Economic crisis
- Severe shortages and blackouts are causing public dissatisfaction
- U.S. pressure
- The U.S. wants political change in Cuba
- It has imposed sanctions and pushed for reforms
- Public unrest
- People are unhappy due to:
- Poor living conditions
- Lack of basic services

### Final Understanding

- Cuba is not just run by one person
- It is a system controlled by party + military + old leadership network
- So even if the President changes, real power structure will likely remain unchanged

### Cuba

- Capital: Havana
- Currency: Cuban Peso
- President: Miguel Díaz-Canel
- Prime minister: Manuel Marrero Cruz

## BEL to manufacture RxT17 Hemodialysis machine



- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will manufacture a new dialysis machine called RxT17.

- It is one of India's first indigenously developed hemodialysis machines.

### Who developed it?

- The machine is designed by Renalyx, while BEL will manufacture and distribute it.

### What is a hemodialysis machine?

- It is a medical device used for patients with kidney failure.
- It removes waste and extra fluids from the blood when kidneys cannot do so.

### Key features of RxT17

- Colour touchscreen display for easy use
- Provides real-time data on patient and machine status
- Has audio and visual alarms for safety
- Compatible with standard hospital consumables
- Easy to operate and maintain

### Why is this important?

- Boost to "Make in India"
- Reduces dependence on imported dialysis machines
- Strengthens India's medical technology (MedTech) sector
- Helps patients
- Useful for people with chronic kidney disease
- Will make dialysis more affordable and accessible in India
- Growing demand
- Cases of end-stage renal disease are increasing in India
- So demand for dialysis machines is rising rapidly

### Regulatory approval

- BEL received a manufacturing license from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO)
- The machine meets high safety standards (Class C medical device)

### Global standards

- The machine is CE certified, meaning it meets European safety standards
- This allows it to be sold in international markets

### BEL

- Founded: 1954
- Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
- CMD: Manoj Jain

## IAF's MiG-29 combat jets to be equipped with ASRAAM missiles



### What is the news?

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to equip its MiG-29 fighter jets with a new missile called ASRAAM missile.

### What is ASRAAM?

- ASRAAM stands for Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
- It is designed for close-range air combat (dogfights)
- Developed by European company MBDA

### Why is this upgrade important?

- Better combat power
- The new missile will make MiG-29 jets more powerful in air battles
- It improves their speed, accuracy, and response time
- Replacing old missiles

Monday, April 06, 2026

- It will replace the older R-73 missile
- R-73 had a range of 10–15 km, while ASRAAM has more than 25 km range
- Modernisation of IAF
- This move is part of India's effort to upgrade older aircraft with modern weapons
- Helps keep MiG-29 relevant in modern warfare

### What steps has the government taken?

- The Ministry of Defence has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP)
- It includes: Missile integration, Launch systems & Testing and training

### Additional facts

- ASRAAM is already used on: LCA Tejas & Jaguar aircraft
- The IAF has 50+ MiG-29 jets in service

## US announces 100% tariff on patented pharma; limited impact on India



- The United States has announced a 100% tariff (import tax) on patented (branded) medicines coming from other countries.
- This rule will start from July 2026.

### Why has the US taken this step?

- The US says it depends too much on imported medicines, which is risky during crises.
- The aim is to:
  - Increase domestic production of drugs
  - Reduce dependence on other countries
  - Push companies to manufacture in the US

### How does the tariff system work?

- Up to 100% tax on imported patented drugs
- But there are exceptions:
  - 0% tariff if companies:
    - Reduce prices (pricing deals)
    - Set up manufacturing in the US
  - 20% tariff if they only invest in US manufacturing
- Companies have 120–180 days to comply

### Important exemption

- Generic medicines are NOT included (for now)
- This is very important for India

### Impact on India

- Why impact is limited (short-term)
- India mainly exports generic drugs, not patented ones
- Since generics are exempt:
- India's exports will not be affected much immediately

### Possible long-term risks

- The US may review and include generic drugs in future
- US focus on domestic production may:
  - Reduce imports from India
  - Affect India's pharma exports in the long run

### Bigger global impact

- The policy may:
  - Change global supply chains
  - Force pharma companies to shift factories to the US
- It is part of a broader economic and trade strategy

### Final understanding

- The US move targets expensive patented drugs, not generics

Monday, April 06, 2026

- So India is safe in the short term, but faces uncertainty in the future due to policy changes

## '6,670-tonne stealth frigate armed with BrahMos': What makes India's indigenous INS Taragiri the ultimate naval weapon?



- India has added a new warship called INS Taragiri to its navy.
- It is a stealth frigate equipped with powerful BrahMos missiles.

### Basic details

- Weight: Around 6,670–7,000 tonnes
- Type: Stealth guided missile frigate
- Built in India under Project 17A
- Builder: Indian shipyard (Mazagon Dock)
- Mostly indigenously made (about 75%)

### What does "stealth frigate" mean?

- It is designed to be hard to detect by radar
- This helps it: Avoid enemy detection & Survive longer in combat

### Main weapons and systems

- BrahMos missiles
- Supersonic cruise missiles Can hit: Enemy ships, Land targets & Very fast and accurate
- Air defence system: Has missiles to shoot down enemy aircraft or missiles
- Guns and close-range defence

- Includes: 76 mm main gun, Close-in weapon systems (CIWS) & Used for short-range attacks and defence
- Anti-submarine capability
- Can detect and destroy submarines using: Torpedoes, Rocket launchers, Also carries helicopters for surveillance
- Advanced features
- Modern radar and sensors to track enemies
- Combat management system for coordination
- Uses integrated construction technology (faster and efficient shipbuilding)

- Why is INS Taragiri important?
- Boost to naval power
- Improves India's ability to: Protect sea borders & Monitor enemy movement
- Multi-role capability
- Can perform: Attack missions, Defence operations, Anti-submarine warfare & Humanitarian missions
- Self-reliance (Aatmanirbhar Bharat)
- Built mostly in India which Shows India's growing strength in defence manufacturing

### Final understanding

- INS Taragiri is a modern, powerful, and stealthy warship
- It combines: Speed (BrahMos missiles), Stealth (low radar visibility) & Multi-role capability
- It is a major step in strengthening India's naval power

## OpenAI rejigs leadership as COO shifts out of role, AGI CEO taking leave

- OpenAI has made major changes in its top leadership team.
- Several senior executives are: Changing roles, Taking leave, Stepping back from responsibilities

### Key changes

Monday, April 06, 2026

- COO role change
- Brad Lightcap (COO) is no longer handling daily operations
- He will now work on special projects and report directly to CEO Sam Altman



### **AGI (AI development) head on leave**

- Fidji Simo, who handles major business and product strategy, is:
- Taking medical leave for a few weeks
- Due to a neuroimmune health condition

### **Other leadership adjustments**

- Some responsibilities are being redistributed to other executives

- Leadership roles are being reorganised to maintain continuity

### **Why is this happening?**

- Health-related reasons (main reason)
- Multiple top leaders are stepping back due to serious health issues

### **Internal restructuring**

- OpenAI is reorganising leadership to: Improve efficiency & Divide responsibilities better

### **Preparation for future growth / IPO**

- The company is preparing for: Possible public listing (IPO) & Expansion of enterprise business and global users

### **Rapid expansion of AI business**

- OpenAI is growing very fast (ChatGPT, enterprise AI, etc.)

## **Lets Revise**

- ❖ Who has been elected as the President of Myanmar recently? **Min Aung Hlaing**
- ❖ INS Aridhaman strengthens which component of India's defence system? **Nuclear triad (land, air, and sea-based nuclear capability).**
- ❖ What is the maximum age limit for dependent children under New Zealand resident visa rules? **24 years or younger.**
- ❖ Which country recently passed a law to combat cybercrime scam rings? **Cambodia**
- ❖ What is the minimum punishment under Cambodia's new cybercrime law? **2-5 years imprisonment with fines.**
- ❖ Which country is currently facing a severe economic and energy crisis in 2026? **Cuba**
- ❖ Which external factor has worsened Cuba's economic crisis? **U.S. sanctions.**

- ❖ Which Indian PSU will manufacture the RxT17 hemodialysis machine? **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**
- ❖ What is RxT17? **An indigenously developed hemodialysis machine.**
- ❖ Which company designed the RxT17 hemodialysis machine? **Renalyx Health Systems**
- ❖ Which fighter jet of the Indian Air Force is being upgraded with ASRAAM missiles? **MiG-29**
- ❖ What does ASRAAM stand for? **Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile.**
- ❖ Name one Indian aircraft already equipped with ASRAAM. **HAL Tejas**
- ❖ Which country has announced a 100% tariff on patented pharmaceutical imports in 2026? **United States**
- ❖ Are generic medicines included in the US tariff policy? **No**
- ❖ INS Taragiri belongs to which project of the Indian Navy? **Project 17A (stealth frigate project).**
- ❖ What type of warship is INS Taragiri? **Stealth guided missile frigate.**
- ❖ Which senior executive moved out of the COO role at OpenAI? **Brad Lightcap**
- ❖ What new role will Brad Lightcap focus on after stepping down as COO? **Special projects reporting directly to the CEO.**

Current affairs form the dynamic backbone of preparation for competitive examinations such as UPSC, SSC, and banking services. They bridge the gap between theoretical concepts and real-world developments, transforming static knowledge into practical understanding. In an age marked by rapid geopolitical changes, economic reforms, and policy innovations, a significant portion of these exams—often 30–35%—draws directly or indirectly from recent events.

Mastery of current affairs not only enhances scores but also cultivates analytical thinking, clarity of perspective, and decision-making skills—qualities indispensable for future administrators and professionals.

#### Key Dimensions of Importance

- **Syllabus Integration:** Current events seamlessly connect with core subjects like polity, economy, history, and geography. For instance, understanding constitutional provisions becomes more meaningful when linked to recent judicial reforms or landmark judgments.
- **Scoring Edge:** Many questions in prelims and mains are derived from contemporary developments. A well-prepared aspirant can secure quick and confident marks through accurate knowledge of high-yield topics from reliable news sources.
- **Interview Excellence:** In personality tests and interviews, panels evaluate awareness of pressing national and global issues—ranging from climate diplomacy to economic policy—requiring thoughtful, balanced responses.

As many toppers emphasize, current affairs are not a separate subject but the soul of exam preparation. Consistent engagement with credible sources like The Hindu, PIB releases, and Yojana magazine strengthens critical thinking and nurtures a well-rounded outlook, moving beyond rote memorization.

In a competitive landscape where millions aspire for limited opportunities, current affairs serve as a decisive differentiator. Adopting structured habits—daily news analysis, monthly revisions, and regular mock tests—empowers candidates to adapt confidently to evolving exam patterns. Ignoring this essential component is like navigating uncertain waters without direction—while mastering it ensures clarity, confidence, and a competitive advantage.


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 info@spardha.guru

 www.spardha.guru

 No 8, 24th Block Manasi Nagar Beside of Bliss serviced Apartment, Mysuru, Karnataka 570029

