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**CHRONICLE**

 Wednesday, April 08, 2026

**NEWS CREDIT**

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**English**



## Top Stories of The Day

- *Campbell Wilson Resigns as Air India CEO Before Term End Amid Safety Concerns and Financial Challenges*
- *Amaravati Granted Statutory Status as Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh After 2026 Amendment Act*
- *Artemis II Crew Sets New Record for Farthest Human Spaceflight During Lunar Flyby Mission*
- *Bhuvneshwar Kumar Becomes First Fast Bowler to Reach 200 Wickets in Indian Premier League History*
- *Puri Airport Project Receives Stage-I Forest Clearance, Paving Way for Greenfield Development*
- *Gujarat High Court Bans Use of AI in Judicial Decision-Making, Allows Limited Administrative Use*
- *Moody's Ratings Cuts India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 6% Citing West Asia Conflict Impact*
- *India's Indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam Achieves Criticality, Marking Nuclear Milestone*
- *NASA Explains Tidal Locking as Reason Only One Side of Moon is Visible from Earth*
- *Vinay Muralidhar Tonse Assumes Charge as MD & CEO of YES Bank with Focus on Growth Strategy*

## Air India CEO Campbell Wilson Resigns



- CEO of Air India, Campbell Wilson, has resigned before completing his term amid ongoing operational and financial challenges.

### Key Highlights

- The airline has not yet officially announced a successor.
- He was appointed CEO in July 2022 after Air India's privatization.

### Reasons Behind Resignation

- Slow financial turnaround after privatization.
- Mounting losses and operational inefficiencies.
- Increased regulatory scrutiny following safety lapses.
- Impact of 2025 Ahmedabad plane crash (~260 deaths).
- External challenges like airspace restrictions and global conflicts affecting routes.

### About Campbell Wilson

- Nationality: New Zealand
- Former executive at Singapore Airlines (25+ years experience).
- Led Air India's transformation plan "Vihaan.AI" (5-year roadmap).

### About Air India:

- Founded: 1932 (as Tata Airlines)
- Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana
- Chairman: Natarajan Chandrasekaran

- Owner:
- Tata Group (~74.9%)
- Singapore Airlines (~25.1%)
- Re-privatized in 2022 after decades under government control
- Member of Star Alliance

## Amaravati Gets Statutory Status as Capital of Andhra Pradesh



- Amaravati has been granted statutory status as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh after the enactment of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Act, 2026.

### Key Highlights

- The law came into effect after assent by Droupadi Murmu.
- Parliament passed the Amendment Bill in April 2026.
- A Gazette notification officially declared Amaravati as the sole and permanent capital.
- The law has retrospective effect from June 2, 2024.
- It amends the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

### Key Provisions of the Amendment

- Section 5(2) of the 2014 Act modified to state: "Amaravati shall be the capital."
- Ends the earlier ambiguity over capital location.
- Provides legal and permanent status, preventing frequent policy changes.
- Rejects the earlier three-capital proposal (Executive–Visakhapatnam, Judicial–Kurnool, Legislative–Amaravati).

## Background

- After the Andhra Pradesh bifurcation 2014, Hyderabad served as joint capital for 10 years.
- The 10-year period ended on June 2, 2024, necessitating a permanent capital.
- Amaravati was originally planned as a greenfield capital city in 2015.

## About Amaravati

- Located on the banks of the Krishna River.
- Planned as a smart, sustainable greenfield city.
- Developed under:

## Artemis II Crew Sets New Distance Record in Human Spaceflight



- The crew of Artemis II has set a new record for the farthest distance traveled by humans from Earth, surpassing the previous record held by Apollo 13.

## Key Highlights

- Artemis II crew traveled beyond 248,655 miles (Apollo 13 record).
- The mission reached a maximum distance of about 252,700+ miles (~406,000 km) from Earth.
- This is the farthest distance ever achieved by humans in space.
- The milestone was achieved during a lunar flyby mission.
- The spacecraft used a free-return trajectory, ensuring safe return without additional propulsion.

- Crew Members
- Reid Wiseman (Commander)
- Victor Glover
- Christina Koch
- Jeremy Hansen

## Mission Details

- Spacecraft: Orion (Integrity)
- Launch date: April 1, 2026
- Mission type: Crewed lunar flyby (no landing)
- Duration: ~10 days
- Closest approach to Moon: ~4,000 miles above surface

## Key Achievements

- First humans to travel beyond Apollo-era distance limits in 50+ years
- First crewed mission beyond low Earth orbit since 1972 (Apollo 17)

## Record for:

- Farthest human spaceflight distance
- Distance beyond Moon (~4,700 miles)
- Observed and photographed the far side of the Moon

## About Artemis Programme

- Launched by: NASA
- Objective:
- Return humans to the Moon
- Establish sustainable lunar presence
- Key Missions:
- Artemis I (2022): Uncrewed test flight
- Artemis II (2026): Crewed lunar flyby
- Artemis III (planned): Human Moon landing

## Additional Important Points

- Artemis II is the first crewed mission of Orion spacecraft
- Uses Space Launch System (SLS) rocket
- Demonstrates laser-based optical communication technology

### Crew includes:

- First woman (Christina Koch) to travel to lunar vicinity
- First non-American (Jeremy Hansen) in deep space mission

## Bhuvneshwar Kumar Scripts History in IPL 2026



- Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first fast bowler in IPL history to take 200 wickets, achieving a major milestone during IPL 2026.

### Key Highlights

- Became the first pacer and second overall bowler to reach 200 IPL wickets.
- Achieved the milestone while playing for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Chennai Super Kings.
- Reached the landmark by dismissing Ayush Mhatre.
- Now among the top wicket-takers in IPL history.

### Record Details

- Total wickets: 200+ in IPL
- Matches played: ~192
- Became only the second bowler after Yuzvendra Chahal to reach this milestone.
- Surpassed legendary pacers like:
- Lasith Malinga
- Jasprit Bumrah

### About IPL

- Full Form: Indian Premier League
- Started in: 2008
- Governing Body: BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India)
- Format: T20 Franchise League
- Most wickets in IPL history: Yuzvendra Chahal (~220+ wickets)

### Additional Important Facts

- Bhuvneshwar Kumar:
- Known for swing bowling and death overs expertise
- Winner of Purple Cap (2016, 2017)
- Part of India's 2013 ICC Champions Trophy-winning team
- IPL Purple Cap: Awarded to highest wicket-taker in a season

## Puri Airport Project Gets Stage-I Forest Clearance



- The proposed Shree Jagannath International Airport in Odisha has received Stage-I (in-principle) forest clearance from the Government of India, marking a major milestone for the project.

### Key Highlights

- Clearance granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Approval allows diversion of about 27.886 hectares of forest land for the airport project.

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- It is a Stage-I (in-principle) approval, not final clearance.
- Construction can begin only after obtaining Stage-II (final) clearance.
- Considered a major step forward for the greenfield airport project.

### Conditions for Final Approval

- Compensatory afforestation to offset forest loss
- Payment of forest diversion charges
- Measures for wildlife and ecosystem protection
- Compliance with environmental norms before Stage-II clearance

### Legal & Policy Framework

- Approval granted under:
  - Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 (now Van Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan Adhiniyam)
  - Forest clearance in India follows a two-stage process:
    - Stage I: In-principle approval
    - Stage II: Final approval after compliance

### Project Details

- Location: Puri district, Odisha
- Type: Greenfield International Airport
- Estimated cost: ~₹5,600+ crore
- Development mode: Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
- Proposed runway length: ~3,700 meters

### Background

- Proposed to improve connectivity to Puri, a major religious destination.
- Puri is famous for:
  - Jagannath Temple
  - Annual Rath Yatra
- The project had earlier faced delays due to:
  - Environmental concerns
  - Impact on coastal ecosystem and wildlife

### Greenfield Airports in India

- Developed under Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008
- Requires:
  - Site clearance
  - Environmental & forest clearances
  - Defence clearance
  - Aviation Sector (India)
- India is among the fastest-growing aviation markets globally
- Focus on regional connectivity under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme
- Environmental Governance

### MoEFCC is responsible for:

- Environmental clearance (EC)
- Forest clearance (FC)
- Wildlife protection

## Gujarat High Court Bars Use of AI in Judicial Decision-Making



- Gujarat High Court has issued a policy prohibiting the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in judicial decision-making, while allowing limited use in administrative functions.

### Key Highlights

- AI cannot be used for:
  - Judicial reasoning
  - Drafting orders/judgments
  - Bail and sentencing decisions
  - Interpretation of facts or evidence
- Judges remain personally responsible for all decisions and judgments.

### AI use is permitted only for:

- Administrative work
- Legal research
- Translation and documentation support
- Mandatory human oversight for any AI-generated output

#### **Applies to:**

- High Court registry
- District judiciary
- Judicial officers, staff, interns, and legal assistants

#### **Objectives of the Policy**

- Preserve judicial independence and human-centric justice
- Prevent risks like:
  - AI bias
  - Incorrect or fabricated legal citations
  - Improve efficiency in non-adjudicatory tasks

#### **Key Restrictions**

- No AI use in:
  - Adjudication or decision-making
  - Application of law
  - Determination of rights and liabilities
- No autonomous AI action without human verification
- Prohibition on sharing confidential case data with public AI tools

#### **Background**

- The move follows concerns over:
  - AI-generated fake or unverifiable case laws in legal proceedings
  - The Supreme Court of India has also warned that AI-based judgments may amount to misconduct.
  - Kerala High Court was the first HC to introduce an AI policy in 2025.

#### **About Gujarat High Court (Key Facts)**

- Established: 1960

- Location: Ahmedabad
- Jurisdiction: State of Gujarat
- Works under:
  - Constitution of India (Articles 214–231)
  - Has power of:
    - Judicial review
    - Writ jurisdiction under Article 226

#### **Additional Important Points**

- AI in Judiciary (India)
  - Used for:
    - Case listing
    - Translation (e.g., SUPACE in Supreme Court)
  - Risks:
    - Hallucination (false outputs)
    - Bias in algorithms
    - Data privacy concerns
  - Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023
    - Ensures data privacy and protection
    - Relevant in regulating AI usage in governance

#### **Moody's Cuts India's FY27 GDP Growth Forecast to 6%**



- Moody's Ratings has reduced India's GDP growth estimate for FY 2026–27 to 6%, citing the impact of the ongoing West Asia conflict on the economy.

#### **Key Highlights**

- GDP growth forecast cut from 6.8% to 6% for FY27.
- Downgrade attributed to:
  - Geopolitical tensions in West Asia
  - Rising energy prices and supply disruptions

- Expected impacts:
- Slower consumption and industrial activity
- Increased inflationary pressures
- Reasons for Growth Slowdown

### High dependence on West Asia:

- ~55% of crude oil imports
- 90% of LPG supply

### Conflict may:

- Disrupt energy supply chains
- Increase fuel and transport costs

### Spillover effects:

- Higher fertiliser costs → food inflation
- Pressure on manufacturing and services sectors

### Macroeconomic Implications

- Inflation
- Projected to rise to ~4.8% in FY27 (from ~2.4% in FY26)
- Driven by:
- Fuel price rise
- Supply disruptions

### Fiscal Impact

- Higher subsidy burden (fuel & fertilisers)
- Possible reduction in tax revenues due to excise duty cuts

### External Sector

- Current Account Deficit (CAD) may widen to 1–1.5% of GDP
- Risks to:
- Trade flows
- Remittances (Gulf region contributes ~40%)

### Comparison with Other Estimates

- OECD: ~6.1% growth
- ICRA: ~6.5% growth

- India still expected to remain among the fastest-growing major economies globally

### About India's Economy (Key Facts for Exams)

- 4th largest economy (nominal GDP) globally
- Major growth drivers:
- Services sector (~50%+)
- Infrastructure spending
- Domestic consumption
- Member of:
- G20, BRICS, WTO

## India's Indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam Attains Criticality



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed a major milestone as India's first indigenous Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam attained criticality, marking a significant step in the country's civil nuclear programme.

### Key Highlights

- PFBR achieved criticality (self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction) on 6 April 2026.
- It is a 500 MWe (megawatt electric) reactor developed indigenously.
- Considered a "defining step" in India's nuclear journey by the Prime Minister.
- Represents advancement in Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliance in nuclear technology).
- Marks entry into the second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme.

### What is 'Criticality'?

- A stage where a nuclear fission reaction becomes self-sustaining.
- Each fission produces enough neutrons to continue the reaction at a steady rate.
- It is a key milestone before commercial power generation.

### About Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR)

- Produces more fissile fuel than it consumes.
- Uses fast neutrons instead of slow neutrons.
- Converts:
  - Uranium-238 → Plutonium
  - Thorium-232 → Uranium-233
- Uses liquid sodium as coolant.

### Significance of the Achievement

- Boosts energy security and nuclear fuel self-reliance.
- Enables efficient use of India's vast thorium reserves.
- Places India among few countries with advanced FBR technology.
- Supports clean energy transition (low carbon emissions)
- Strengthens India's position in advanced nuclear technology globally

### India's Three-Stage Nuclear Programme

- (Conceptualised by Homi J. Bhabha)
- Stage 1 → Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) using natural uranium
- Stage 2 → Fast Breeder Reactors (like PFBR) using plutonium
- Stage 3 → Thorium-based reactors (U-233 fuel cycle)

### About PFBR:

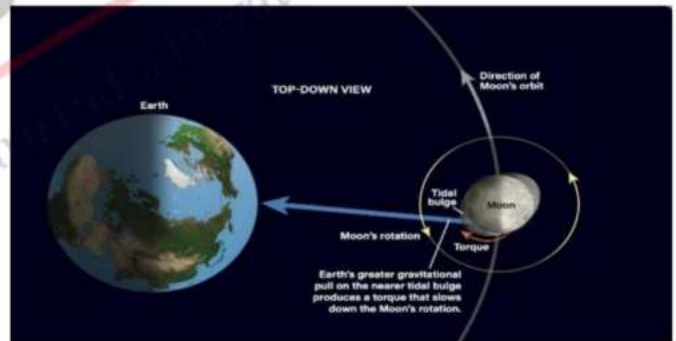
- Developed by: BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd.)
- Designed by: Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR)
- Location: Tamil Nadu

- Fuel: MOX (Mixed Oxide fuel – Uranium + Plutonium)
- Coolant: Liquid sodium
- Expected commercial operation: 2026 (post commissioning phase)

### Additional Important Points

- India may become second country after Russia to operate a commercial-scale FBR.
- Thorium reserves are mainly found in:
  - Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh coasts
- FBR helps:
  - Reduce nuclear waste
  - Increase fuel efficiency significantly
  - Nuclear energy contributes to India's Net Zero target (2070)

### Tidal Locking Explains Why Only One Side of the Moon is Visible from Earth



- NASA explained the concept of tidal locking, which is the reason why the same side of the Moon is always visible from Earth.

### The Moon is tidally locked with Earth, meaning:

- It takes the same time to rotate on its axis as it does to orbit Earth.
- As a result, only one hemisphere (near side) of the Moon is visible from Earth.
- The far side remained unknown until 1959 (Luna 3 mission).
- Tidal locking occurs due to gravitational interaction between two bodies over long periods.

### What is Tidal Locking?

- A phenomenon where:
- Orbital period = Rotational period of a celestial body.
- Also known as:
- Synchronous rotation
- Spin-orbit locking
- Example:
- Moon-Earth system

### How Does Tidal Locking Occur?

- Due to tidal forces (gravitational pull differences) acting on a body.
- These forces create tidal bulges, causing:
- Internal friction
- Gradual slowing of rotation
- Over millions of years, rotation synchronizes with orbit → tidal lock achieved.

### Important Facts About the Moon

- Rotation period ≈ 27.3 days
- Orbital period ≈ 27.3 days
- About 59% of the Moon's surface is visible from Earth due to libration.

### Occurrence in the Solar System

- Most large moons are tidally locked with their planets.
- Examples:
- Moons of Jupiter and Saturn
- Special case:
- Pluto-Charon system (mutually tidally locked)

### Significance

- Explains:
- Why we always see the same face of the Moon
- Helps in:
- Understanding orbital mechanics and planetary evolution
- Important for:

- Study of exoplanets (many may be tidally locked)

- Related Concepts
- Tidal Forces → Cause ocean tides on Earth
- Tidal Heating → Internal heating due to friction
- Tidal Acceleration → Gradual change in orbit and rotation
- Future Scenario
- Earth may also become tidally locked with the Moon after billions of years (theoretical).

### Vinay Tonse Takes Charge as YES Bank MD & CEO



- Vinay Muralidhar Tonse has taken charge as the Managing Director & CEO of YES Bank, outlining a roadmap for the bank's future growth and consolidation.

### Key Highlights

- Appointment approved by the Reserve Bank of India for a three-year term.
- He succeeded Prashant Kumar, who led the bank during its post-crisis phase.
- Former Managing Director at State Bank of India with 35+ years of banking experience.

### Background

- YES Bank underwent a major crisis in 2020, leading to:
- RBI-led reconstruction
- Capital infusion by banks like SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank
- Recent ownership shift:

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- Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation became the largest shareholder (~20–25% stake).

- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Type: Private sector bank
- Founder: Rana Kapoor & Ashok Kapur

#### About YES Bank:

- Founded: 2003

### Lets Revise

- ❖ Who resigned as CEO of Air India in 2026? **Campbell Wilson**
- ❖ Which city has been given statutory status as the capital of Andhra Pradesh in 2026? **Amaravati**
- ❖ Which mission set a new record for the farthest distance traveled by humans in space in 2026? **Artemis II**
- ❖ Who became the first fast bowler to take 200 wickets in IPL history? **Bhuvneshwar Kumar**
- ❖ Which airport project recently received Stage-I forest clearance in Odisha? **Shree Jagannath International Airport**
- ❖ Which High Court barred AI use in judicial decision-making in 2026? **Gujarat High Court**
- ❖ Which organization reduced India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6%? **Moody's Ratings**
- ❖ Where is India's first indigenous fast breeder reactor located? **Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**
- ❖ Which stage of India's nuclear programme does PFBR belong to? **Second stage**
- ❖ Who is known as the father of India's nuclear programme? **Homi J. Bhabha**
- ❖ Why is only one side of the Moon visible from Earth despite its continuous motion? **Due to tidal locking with Earth.**
- ❖ How long does the Moon take to complete one rotation and one revolution around Earth? **About 27.3 days.**
- ❖ Which space mission first provided images of the far side of the Moon? **Luna 3 (1959).**
- ❖ Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of YES Bank in 2026? **Vinay Muralidhar Tonse**

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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