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Today in History on 26 APR

➤ 2004 - New Iraqi flag approved.

In 2004, Iraq's Governing Council proposed a new national flag, but it was never approved. The flag consisted of four unequal horizontal stripes - white, blue, yellow, and blue - with a blue crescent on the white stripe. The flag was widely rejected by Iraqis. In 2008, Iraq adopted a new flag with the words "Allahu Akbar" written in dark green and the three green stars removed. The 2004 proposed flag was never adopted, while the 2008 flag remains Iraq's national flag today.



➤ 1755: Russia's first university opened in the capital, Moscow.

In 1755, Russia's first university was established in Moscow, which was the country's capital at the time. This university later came to be known as Lomonosov Moscow State University. Mikhail Lomonosov, a polymath, played a crucial role in advocating for the establishment of the university in

Moscow. The university initially occupied the Principal Medicine Store building on Red Square.



➤ 1828: Russia declares war on Turkey in support of Greek independence.

In 1828, Russia declares war on Turkey in support of Greek independence. The war was part of the ongoing struggle for Greek independence, in which Russia supported the Greeks. The war began when Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II closed the Dardanelles to Russian ships and abrogated the 1826 Akkerman Convention in November 1827 in retaliation for the Imperial Russian Navy's participation in the October 1827 Battle of Navarino.



➤ 1920: Great mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan passes away.

In 1920, the great Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan passed away on 26 April in Kumbakonam. He was 32 years old and was suffering from tuberculosis. Ramanujan made significant contributions in various fields of mathematics, especially infinite series, number theory and partition function. He developed many important formulas and theorems, many of which remain subjects of study for mathematicians even today.



➤ 1959: Cuba invades Panama.

After the Cuban Revolution in 1959, Cuba attempted an invasion of Panama but it failed. The expedition consisted of Cuban troops and some Panamanian guerrillas. The invasion force arrived in the Panamanian jungles in April 1959 but the expedition

failed on April 28. The invasion was led by Panama's Enrique Morales to support a coup attempt by Roberto Arias.



Important NEWS on 26 APR

➤ Klaus Schwab Resigns as Chairman of World Economic Forum After Five Decades

Klaus Schwab, the 87-year-old founder of the World Economic Forum (WEF), has resigned as Chairman after leading the institution since 1971. Known as the face of the Davos Summit, Schwab's departure on April, 2025, marks the end of an era as WEF faces criticism of elitism, internal workplace issues, and a broader globalisation backlash. Peter Brabeck-Letmathe has taken over as interim Chair.



➤ IMF Cuts India's Growth Forecast to 6.2% in FY26 Amid Tariff Uncertainty

The IMF has revised India's FY26 GDP growth forecast down to 6.2% (from 6.5%) and FY27 to 6.3%, citing US-imposed 26% tariffs and trade tensions as key factors. Despite the downgrade, India remains the fastest-growing major economy, outperforming China (4%) and the US (1.8%). The global growth forecast for 2025 was also lowered to 2.8% (from 3.3%), with tariffs contributing to rising inflation and slowing economies worldwide. Strong domestic consumption, especially in rural India, is expected to cushion India against global headwinds.



➤ Life Insurance Premium Mobilisation Rises by 5.13% in FY25

The Indian life insurance industry recorded a 5.13% growth in new business premium for FY25, collecting ₹3,97,336 crore, up from ₹3,77,960 crore in FY24. The individual new business premium rose sharply by 11.17% to ₹1,66,590.81 crore, driven by increased first-time policyholder participation.

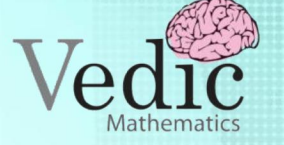


➤ Jitendra Mishra Elected President of CIFEJ

Jitendra Mishra, Festival Director of the Smile International Film Festival for Children and Youth (SIFFCY), has been unanimously elected as the President of CIFEJ (International Centre of Films for Children and Young People) for the 2025-2027 term. CIFEJ, supported by UNESCO and headquartered in Athens, focuses on promoting educational and culturally diverse films for young audiences globally. Under Mishra's leadership, the organization aims to empower youth through

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cinema, highlight cultural diversity, and foster social impact.



➤ MeitY Launches 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), in collaboration with the International Council for Circular Economy (ICCE), launched the 'I Am Circular' Coffee Table Book on April 2025, showcasing 30 groundbreaking Indian innovations in the circular economy. Curated around core themes—Design to Last, Work with Nature, and Use Existing Resources—the book highlights innovations like e-waste recycling, IoT-enabled circular systems, and biodegradable packaging.



➤ IISc Tops Times Higher Education Asia Rankings 2025

The Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025 revealed that the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) remains the highest-ranked Indian university at 38th place, despite a drop from 32nd last year. Other notable Indian institutions include Anna University (111th), IIT Indore (131st), and Mahatma Gandhi University (140th). The rankings highlight China's dominance, with Tsinghua University and Peking University securing the top two spots.



➤ India Shines at 2025 ISSF World Cup Lima with 7 Medals, Finishes Third Overall

India delivered a stellar performance at the 2025 ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru (April 2025), clinching 7 medals—2 Gold, 4 Silver, and 1 Bronze—to finish third in the overall medal tally behind China and the USA. Standout shooters like Suruchi Singh (Women's 10m Air Pistol, Mixed Team with Saurabh Chaudhary) and Manu Bhaker helped secure spots

for the ISSF World Cup Final 2025 in Doha. With over 400 shooters from 43 nations, India's 42-member squad was one of the largest and most successful at the event.



Current affairs MCQS on 26 APR

Q.1. Recently which organization has released its "World Economic Outlook (WEO) to April 2025: A Turning Point Amid Policy Change" report?

- (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (b) World Bank
- (c) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- (d) Asian Development Bank (ADB)

Answer: (a) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently released its "World Economic Outlook (WEO): A turning point amid policy shift" report. The report has lowered the global growth forecast to 2.8% and India's to 6.2% from the January 2025 update. The downgrade is due to global trade tensions and policy uncertainty. The report highlights rapidly ageing population as a major concern for economies around the world.

Q.2. Who was recently selected as the best male athlete at the 2025 Laureus World Sports Awards?

- (a) Lionel Messi
- (b) Armand Duplantis
- (c) Usain Bolt

(d) Novak Djokovic

Answer: (b) Armand Duplantis

Star pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis was named the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year while American gymnast Simone Biles won the top women's honour at the Laureus World Sports Awards ceremony. Duplantis, 25, regarded as the greatest pole vaulter of all time, was fourth time lucky after being nominated each of the past three years. He became only the second track-and-field athlete to receive the prestigious award after four-time winner Usain Bolt.

Q.3. Recently the Chief Minister of which state inaugurated the Garia and Borsu Boron Utsav 2025?

- (a) Assam
- (b) Tripura
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Meghalaya

Answer: (b) Tripura

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha inaugurated the two-day cultural festival 'Garia and Borsho Boron Utsav 2025' organised at Swami Vivekananda Maidan in Agartala. Organised by the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs in collaboration with various local bodies, including the Tribal Welfare Department, the event aims to celebrate the cultural heritage of the region. The festival highlights Garia Puja, an important religious festival for the Tripuri and Reang communities, and features live performances, traditional food stalls and cultural exhibitions. The inauguration also saw the presence of several eminent guests, underlining the significance of this festival for the indigenous people of Tripura.

Q.4. Who recently inaugurated the Mumbai International Cruise Terminal?

- (a) Nitin Gadkari
- (b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
- (c) Sarbananda Sonowal
- (d) Piyush Goyal

Answer: (c) Sarbananda Sonowal



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India's largest cruise terminal - Mumbai International Cruise Terminal (MICT) has officially started operations. It was inaugurated by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal. This terminal is a significant step towards taking India's cruise tourism and maritime infrastructure to new heights. Built at a cost of approximately ₹556 crore, this state-of-the-art terminal has a capacity to handle 1 million passengers per year and 5 cruise ships simultaneously.

Q.5. Recently, the Government of India imposed how much percentage tariff on steel imports to protect the domestic industry?

- (a) 10%
- (b) 12%
- (c) 15%
- (d) 8%

Answer: (b) 12%

In a decisive move to protect its domestic steel industry, the Indian government has announced a provisional safeguard duty of 12% on select categories of steel imports. The decision is aimed at countering the rise in low-cost steel imports, particularly from China, South Korea and Japan. The move is being seen as a response to growing concerns within the industry about unfair competition and market distortion.

Q.6. Recently, the Indian Navy repaired the coast guard ship of which country?

- (a) Sri Lanka
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Maldives
- (d) Mauritius

Answer: (c) Maldives

Indian Navy successfully completed a major refit of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship MNDF Huravee at Mumbai Naval Dockyard, reflecting the strong diplomatic and military cooperation between the two countries. The refit was carried out as part of India's commitment to regional maritime security

under the umbrella of 'Mutual and Inclusive Advancement for Security and Growth for All in the Region (OCEAN)' and its 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Q.7. Recently, Simran Preet Kaur won the silver medal in which event in the ISSF World Cup in Lima, Peru?

- (a) 10 meter air pistol
- (b) 25 meter pistol
- (c) 50 meter rifle 3 position
- (d) 10 meter air rifle

Answer: (b) 25 meter pistol

Simranpreet Kaur Brar of India has won a silver medal at the International Shooting Sports Federation- ISSF World Cup. Simranpreet won her first senior international medal in the women's 25m pistol event in Lima, Peru. The gold medal of this event was won by Sun Yuji of China. This is Yuji's second consecutive World Cup gold medal. China's Yao Qian Sun won the bronze medal. Manu Bhaker, who won two medals at the Paris Olympics, finished fourth.

Q.8. Recently, which space organization has developed the first space-based quantum sensor for gravity measurement?

- (a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- (b) China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- (c) Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- (d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

Answer: (d) National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is developing the first space-based quantum sensor to measure gravity with high precision. Scientists are working on a quantum gravity gradiometer (QGG) that will be placed on a satellite in low Earth orbit. The QGG can detect the smallest gravitational changes by measuring differences in acceleration as small as 10^{-15} meters per second squared over a distance of 1 meter. In this system,





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atoms are cooled to close to absolute zero, causing them to transform into a wave-like state inside a vacuum.

Q.9. Recently, what percentage of exports of India's leather and footwear industry increased in the financial year 2024-25?

- (a) 20%
- (b) 22%
- (c) 24%
- (d) 25%

Answer: (d) 25%

India's leather and non-leather footwear exports are estimated to grow by nearly 25 per cent to reach \$5.7 billion in FY2024-25. According to the Council of Leather Exports (CLE), the industry is expected to cross the \$6.5 billion mark in FY2026. CLE, which represents footwear exporters, says demand from both developed and developing countries remains strong, contributing to growth.

Q.10. Who will be honored at the Gold House Gala 2025 recently?

- (a) Deepika Padukone
- (b) Priyanka Chopra Jonas
- (c) Ananya Pandey
- (d) Alia Bhatt

Answer: (b) Priyanka Chopra Jonas

Actress and global icon Priyanka Chopra will be honored at the fourth annual Gold House Gala, which will take place at the Music Center in Downtown Los Angeles on May 10. The Bollywood star will be honored alongside international celebrities such as rapper Megan Thee Stallion, Academy Award-winning director Ang Lee and filmmaker Jon M. Chu.

Q.11. Who recently presented the Yashraj Bharti Samman awards in Maharashtra?

- (a) Devendra Fadnavis
- (b) C.P. Radhakrishnan
- (c) Praveen Pardeshi
- (d) Ram Sutar

Answer: (b) C.P. Radhakrishnan

Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan conferred the third edition of the 'Yashraj Bharti Samman' to three notable grassroots organisations for their exemplary contribution in the fields of healthcare, education for sustainable development and governance. The awards ceremony held in Mumbai recognised the impact of the Services Plus platform developed by Jan Swasthya Sahyog (Chhattisgarh), Pratham Shiksha Foundation and National Informatics Centre.

Q.12. Which cricketer recently made the record for most 50+ scores in IPL?

- (a) David Warner
- (b) Shikhar Dhawan
- (c) Virat Kohli
- (d) Rohit Sharma

Answer: (c) Virat Kohli

Virat Kohli has created another great record in IPL history by surpassing Australian cricketer David Warner and has become the player with the most fifty-plus scores (innings of more than 50 runs). Kohli achieved this feat in a thrilling match played between Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) at Mullanpur.

Q.13. Which ministry recently launched the 'AI Careers for Women' initiative?

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (c) Ministry of Education
- (d) Ministry of Science and Technology

Answer: (b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has launched the 'AI Careers for Women' initiative in partnership with Microsoft. The programme aims to train 20,000 women from tier-II and tier-III cities across six Indian states in Artificial Intelligence (AI). It focuses on empowering women with digital skills, leadership abilities, and entrepreneurship





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knowledge. The 240-hour curriculum has been developed in collaboration with the National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). The training will be delivered using a hub-and-spoke model with 30 centres of excellence and 150 spoke centres. The initiative promotes digital inclusion and bridges the gender gap in tech fields.

Q.14. Recently in the latest edition of Wisden Cricketers Almanac, who was named among the leading cricketers in the world?

- (a) Virat Kohli and Harmanpreet Kaur
- (b) Rohit Sharma and Deepti Sharma
- (c) Smriti Mandhana and Jaspreet Bumrah
- (d) Suryakumar Yadav and Mithali Raj

Answer: (c) Smriti Mandhana and Jaspreet Bumrah

Jasprit Bumrah and Smriti Mandhana have been crowned the world's leading cricketers in the latest edition of Wisden Cricketers' Almanack. Bumrah won the honour in the men's category after a stellar 2024 when he excelled across formats and was named the player of the tournament after India won the Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies.

Q.15. Who recently won the Formula 1 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix 2025?

- (a) Max Verstappen
- (b) Lando Norris
- (c) Oscar Piastri
- (d) Lewis Hamilton

Answer: (c) Oscar Piastri

Australian driver Oscar Piastri put in a dominant performance to win the 2025 Saudi Arabian Grand Prix held at the Jeddah Corniche Circuit. It was his third win of the season, helping him overtake defending champion Max Verstappen in the Drivers' Championship standings. A penalty to Verstappen early in the race proved to be decisive as Piastri capitalised on the situation and led a well-managed race ahead of Verstappen and Charles Leclerc, who secured his first podium of the season. The race saw many dramatic moments and strategic decisions,

most notably a strong recovery drive by Lando Norris and point-scoring finishes for Williams and Ferrari.

