

Part 1: National & International Defense News

Q1. On April 4, 2026, the Indian Navy significantly bolstered its nuclear triad capability by commissioning which indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) at Visakhapatnam?

- A) INS Arihant (S2)
- B) INS Arighat (S3)
- C) INS Aridhaman (S4)
- D) INS Taragiri (S5)

Answer: C) INS Aridhaman (S4)

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** On April 4, 2026, India formally inducted its third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), **INS Aridhaman (designated S4)**, into active service at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. This induction marks a historic milestone for India's strategic deterrence.
- **Strategic Significance:** With the commissioning of INS Aridhaman, India now possesses three operational SSBNs concurrently. This radically enhances the country's **credible second-strike capability**—the capability to launch a nuclear retaliatory strike even if land-based assets are destroyed.
- **The Nuclear Triad:** A nuclear triad requires delivery mechanisms across three spheres: Land (e.g., Agni series), Air (e.g., Rafale, Su-30MKI), and Sea (Arihant-class SSBNs). India entered this elite multi-domain club following the first deterrence patrol of INS Arihant in 2018. INS Aridhaman is a significant evolution over its predecessors, engineered with a larger displacement

capacity and equipped to house longer-range ballistic missiles like the K-4 SLBM (Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile) with a strike range of approximately 3,500 km, alongside the K-15 Sagarika (~700 km).

- **Why Options A & B are Incorrect:** INS Arihant (S2) was the first vessel of this class, and INS Arighat (S3) was the second. They are already operational parts of the fleet.
- **Why Option D is Incorrect:** INS Taragiri is a conventional stealth frigate, not an SSBN.

Q2. The Indian Navy recently commissioned its state-of-the-art Nilgiri-class stealth frigate constructed under Project 17A. What is the name of this vessel?

- A) INS Nilgiri
- B) INS Himgiri
- C) INS Dunagiri
- D) INS Taragiri

Answer: D) INS Taragiri

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Built as part of the ambitious **Project 17A** naval modernization program, the stealth frigate **INS Taragiri** has been formally commissioned into the Indian Navy's fleet at the Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- **Key Technical Details:** The warship features a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and was designed completely in-house by the Indian Navy's **Warship Design Bureau (WDB)**. It was manufactured by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai.
- **Self-Reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat):** Approximately **75%** of the raw materials, components, and weapons systems utilized

in the construction of INS Taragiri are sourced entirely from domestic industries, including micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

- **Nomenclature and Project Status:** The vessel continues the long-standing naval tradition of naming frigates after prominent mountain ranges in India; it is named after the Taragiri hills located in the Garhwal range of the Himalayas. Project 17A involves the production of seven advanced guided-missile stealth frigates (four handled by MDL and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers - GRSE) that serve as advanced derivatives of the older Shivalik-class (Project 17) design.

government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

- **Structural Reshuffle:** The voting assembly was dominated heavily by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and the constitutionally mandated block of unelected military officers. Following his formal elevation to the Presidency, Min Aung Hlaing appointed his staunch loyalist, former intelligence chief **Ye Win Oo**, to succeed him as the active Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces. This development carries huge security and diplomatic implications for India's Act East Policy and border management in the Northeast.

Q3. In a major transition within international geopolitics on April 3-4, 2026, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was formalised as the political President of which neighboring country of India?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Myanmar
- C) Nepal
- D) Sri Lanka

Answer: B) Myanmar

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Senior General **Min Aung Hlaing**, the long-standing chief of the military junta in Myanmar, was officially elected as the President of the country following a vote in a pro-military parliament.
- **Political Background:** This appointment formalizes absolute political executive control five years after he successfully led the February 2021 military coup that overthrew the democratically elected

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q4. In April 2026, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched a dedicated website and an AI-powered virtual assistant to simplify tax filing under which broad nationwide campaign?

- A) PRAGATI 2026
- B) PRARAMBH 2026
- C) SAMARTH 2026
- D) VIKSIT KAR 2026

Answer: B) PRARAMBH 2026

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** To simplify tax filing, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), functioning under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, rolled out a new website alongside a specialized Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered digital assistant named "**Kar Saathi**".
- **Core Objectives:** The launch of "Kar Saathi" coincided with the rollout of the nationwide

administrative awareness campaign titled **PRARAMBH 2026** (Policy Reform and Responsible Action for Mission Viksit Bharat).

- **Impact of Reforms:** Since the implementation of the PRARAMBH program, the government has aggressively driven regulatory simplification. Statutory rules have been drastically consolidated from 510 down to 333, and physical/digital filing forms have been slashed from 399 to 190. This massive clean-up has effectively eliminated excessive compliance loops for over six crore individual and corporate financial transactions across India.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) rupee market, which saw massive intervention from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in early April 2026:

1. The NDF market allows foreign investors to trade rupee-denominated exposures without accessing onshore domestic markets.
2. India maintains full capital account convertibility, which eliminates the need for NDF trading structures. *Which of the statements given above is/are correct?*

- A) 1 only
B) 2 only
C) Both 1 and 2
D) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: A) 1 only

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Statement 1 is Correct:** A Non-Deliverable Forward (NDF) market is an offshore financial market that allows global hedge funds, foreign investors, and international

banks to hedge or speculate on the value of a currency (like the Indian Rupee) without settling the actual physical currency onshore. Transactions are settled completely in a convertible currency, typically US Dollars.

- **Statement 2 is Incorrect:** India does not maintain full capital account convertibility; it enforces **partial capital account convertibility**. Because there are regulatory restrictions on moving capital freely out of Indian domestic markets, offshore entities rely on the NDF market (centered in financial hubs like Singapore, London, and Dubai) to manage their currency risk.

- **Recent Developments:** In early April 2026, heightened geopolitical tensions in West Asia caused major speculative volume in the NDF markets, creating artificially high exchange-rate volatility. This forced the RBI to step in and intervene directly in offshore currency platforms to stabilize the Rupee and align offshore sentiment with stable domestic macroeconomic indicators.

Q6. During the April 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, the Reserve Bank of India kept the benchmark policy Repo Rate unchanged at what level?

- A) 5.50%
B) 6.00%
C) 6.50%
D) 6.25%

Answer: C) 6.50%

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), meeting

for its first scheduled review of the financial year 2026–27, decided by a majority vote to keep the benchmark policy **Repo Rate unchanged at 6.50%**.

- **Macroeconomic Rationalization:** The committee opted to maintain its stance of "withdrawal of accommodation" to ensure that retail inflation aligns progressively with the medium-term target of 4.00% while supporting underlying economic growth.
- **Associated Key Rates:**
 - The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate** (the lower floor of the liquidity adjustment corridor) remains pegged at **6.25%**.
 - The **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate** and the official **Bank Rate** are locked symmetrically at **6.75%**.
- The RBI also retained its real GDP growth forecast for the financial year FY27 at a strong projection of **7.0%**, factoring in a robust agricultural recovery and steady urban demand, despite structural global headwinds.

Part 3: Government Policies, Bills & Schemes

Q7. The Parliament recently passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026. What is the fundamental objective of this legislative framework?

- A) Reforming the direct tax grievance mechanism
- B) Decriminalizing minor and technical offenses to boost the ease of doing business
- C) Establishing a unified digital judicial repository for criminal records
- D) Enhancing data privacy protections for e-commerce transactions

Answer: B) Decriminalizing minor and technical offenses to boost the ease of doing business

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Parliament enacted the landmark **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026**, marking a major milestone in India's regulatory reform architecture.
- **Key Provisions & Mechanics:** The core mandate of the Bill is to systematic decriminalize minor, technical, and procedural offenses spread across dozens of central legislations. It replaces severe, outdated imprisonment terms with a robust **civil penalty framework**.
- **Graded Compliance & Adjudication:** The legislation introduces a graded compliance mechanism, enabling administrative authorities to issue formal warnings, rectification guidelines, or improvement notices before heavy monetary fines are enforced. Furthermore, the enforcement architecture moves away from backlogged criminal courts toward specialized **administrative adjudicating authorities**. This massive rationalization helps eliminate criminal intimidation for minor non-compliances, thereby enhancing the country's business climate and reducing the burden on the Indian judicial system.

Q8. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in April 2026 to map and locate authorized Aadhaar Centres visually using which indigenous navigation application?

- A) MapmyIndia (Mappls App)
- B) Bhuvan Portal
- C) NavIC Map
- D) MapUp India

Answer: A) MapmyIndia (Mappls App)

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), working under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), finalized a strategic partnership agreement with **MapmyIndia**.
- **Functionality:** This partnership integrates all authorized Aadhaar service, enrollment, and update centers across the nation into MapmyIndia's flagship **Mappls Application**.
- **User Benefits:** This implementation enables citizens to easily pinpoint their nearest verified Aadhaar centers using advanced, interactive 3D maps and visual navigation assets. The integration provides accurate location data, detailed step-by-step street routing, and real-time operational updates about the centers, vastly improving public convenience for essential biometric and demographic updates.

conferred the **President's Police Colour (Nishaan)** on the **Uttarakhand Police** force during a formal ceremonial parade.

- **Significance of the Award:** The President's Police Colour is the absolute highest national honor that can be bestowed upon any state police organization or paramilitary unit in India. It rewards long-term institutional contributions, operational bravery, structural discipline, and outstanding service records.
- **Note on Odisha Police:** The **Odisha Police** was also separately approved for the honor just a few days prior on March 30, 2026, to coincide with their 90th Police Foundation Day (Utkal Divas), recognizing their highly successful long-term anti-Maoist operations. However, the specific event executed on **April 2, 2026**, directly honored the **Uttarakhand Police** for their exceptional professionalism in maintaining security in a strategic border state.

Part 4: Awards, Honors & Appointments

Q9. Which state police force was conferred with the prestigious President's Police Colour (Nishaan) honour on April 2, 2026, for exceptional institutional service and anti-insurgency excellence?

- A) Odisha Police
- B) Uttarakhand Police
- C) Punjab Police
- D) West Bengal Police

Answer: B) Uttarakhand Police

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** On April 2, 2026, the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, approved and

Q10. Who assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the state-run Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) effective April 1, 2026?

- A) Ravindra Kumar Tyagi
- B) Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan
- C) Y B Khurania
- D) Sanjay Dhingra

Answer: B) Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Power officially approved the appointment of **Burra Vamsi Rama Mohan** as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID).



- **Tenure:** His leadership tenure became effective on **April 1, 2026**, and will extend until his formal superannuation on July 31, 2030, or until further administrative orders are passed.
- **Profile:** POWERGRID is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) and stands as India's largest electric power transmission utility. Rama Mohan succeeds the outgoing management and is tasked with driving India's massive grid modernization, cross-border grid links, and integrating interstate green energy corridors to accommodate India's scaling renewable energy inputs.

altitude of over 5,364 meters above sea level.

- **Impact:** Her achievement sets a massive milestone for extreme adventure cycling and high-altitude sports in India, drawing global praise for breaking conventional barriers in women's adventure sports.

Part 5: Sports & Achievements

Q11. Who became the first Indian woman to successfully cycle to the Mount Everest Base Camp in April 2026?

- A) Arunima Sinha
- B) Santosh Yadav
- C) Divya Singh
- D) Premlata Agrawal

Answer: C) Divya Singh

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** In a remarkable display of physical endurance and mountaineering grit, Indian athlete **Divya Singh** etched her name in the record books by becoming the first Indian woman to successfully cycle all the way up to the iconic **Mount Everest Base Camp** in Nepal.
- **The Journey:** The expedition required navigating treacherous, high-altitude terrain, sub-zero alpine temperatures, and highly un-stabilized rocky paths at an

Part 6: Important Days, Books & Culture

Q12. International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is celebrated annually on April 2. What is the official designated theme for the year 2026?

- A) "Stories are wings that help you soar every day"
- B) "Plant stories and the world will bloom"
- C) "Reading is a superpower for the human mind"
- D) "Books: The cross-cultural bridges of humanity"

Answer: B) "Plant stories and the world will bloom"

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** International Children's Book Day (ICBD) is organized globally on April 2 every year to coincide with the birth anniversary of the legendary Danish author Hans Christian Andersen.
- **Objective:** The day is designed to inspire a lifelong love of reading among children and to focus international attention on the critical importance of children's literature in building empathy, cognitive development, and cross-cultural understanding.
- **2026 Theme:** The official global theme selected for the 2026 iteration is **"Plant stories and the world will bloom"**. The theme highlights how reading early in life acts as

seeds of creative imagination and critical thought that eventually transform global societies positively.

significantly boosting digital employability for engineering and management graduates.

Part 7: Science, Technology & Environment

Q13. In April 2026, which global technology giant signed a strategic MoU with Chandigarh University to establish a state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence (AI) Skill Center at its Mohali campus?

- A) Google India
- B) Microsoft
- C) IBM Corporation
- D) Amazon Web Services (AWS)

Answer: B) Microsoft

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** To address the growing demand for advanced digital skills, **Microsoft** signed a comprehensive Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Chandigarh University (CU)**, Punjab.
- **Project Specifications:** Under this agreement, a cutting-edge **Microsoft AI Skill Center** has been set up at the university's Mohali campus. The facility was inaugurated by Sanjay Dhingra, Director of Public Sector at Microsoft, in active collaboration with tech-education platform **byteXL**.
- **Impact:** The specialized center is engineered to provide students and faculty with direct access to advanced cloud resources, generative AI sandboxes, machine learning frameworks, and professional Microsoft certifications. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between academic curricula and industrial technology requirements,

Q14. India's first-ever completely 'Water Neutral' Railway Depot, which saves nearly 1.60 lakh litres of fresh water daily through 'Phytoremediation', became operational in April 2026. Where is it located?

- A) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad
- B) Wadi Bunder Yard, Mumbai
- C) Shakurbasti Depot, Delhi
- D) Perambur Carriage Works, Chennai

Answer: A) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** In a massive victory for environmental sustainability in transport infrastructure, India's first **'Water Neutral' Railway Depot** was unveiled at the **Kankaria Coaching Depot** in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Technical Innovation:** The depot achieves this status by saving an estimated **1.60 lakh litres of water every single day**. The core driver of this ecological transformation is the deployment of **Phytoremediation** technology—an eco-friendly, engineered system that utilizes specific live plants to naturally clean, filter, and purify industrial wastewater without relying on harsh chemical treatments.
- **Administrative Zone:** The Kankaria Coaching Depot operates under the Ahmedabad Division of the **Western Railway Zone** (which is headquartered historically at Churchgate in Mumbai, Maharashtra). This project sets a new benchmark for green infrastructure under India's Net-Zero emission targets for the railway sector.

Q15. Located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, which wetland was formally designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site in April 2026?

- A) Haiderpur Wetland
- B) Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary
- C) Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary
- D) Samaspur Bird Sanctuary

Answer: C) Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that the **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary**, situated in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, has been officially designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention.
- **Statistical Status:** This addition marks **India's 99th Ramsar Site**. With this inclusion, the total number of protected Ramsar wetlands within the state of Uttar Pradesh has risen to **12**, further cementing its position as a primary hub for wetland conservation.
- **Ecological Merit:** Originally formed during the construction of the Upper Ganges Canal, Shekha Jheel is a perennial freshwater body that acts as a vital wintering habitat for more than 150 species of indigenous and migratory birds flying along the Central Asian Flyway. The formal designation mandates strict international conservation guidelines, boosting biodiversity protection and climate resilience in the region.

Part 8: State-Level Current Affairs & Ordinances

Q16. The Cabinet of which North-Eastern state approved an Ordinance in April 2026 to grant the indigenous Khasi and Garo languages full "Official Language" status alongside English?

- A) Assam
- B) Meghalaya
- C) Nagaland
- D) Mizoram

Answer: B) Meghalaya

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The state cabinet of **Meghalaya** officially cleared the historic **Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026**.
- **Legislative Action:** This decision elevates the indigenous **Khasi** and **Garo** languages to full "Official Language" status for all administrative, legislative, and judicial records within the state, operating alongside English.
- **Constitutional Provision:** This new ordinance systematically repeals the older Meghalaya State Language Act of 2005, which had kept English as the sole official language while relegating Khasi and Garo to mere "associate" languages. The state government enacted this historic change by exercising its sovereign legislative powers under **Article 345 of the Indian Constitution**, which permits a state legislature to adopt one or more regional languages for official state operations.

Q17. In April 2026, the administrative geography of Ladakh was reshuffled following the formal approval for the creation of how many new districts?

- A) Three
- B) Four
- C) Five
- D) Six

Answer: C) Five

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh formally signed off on the historic administrative creation of **five brand new districts**.
- **The New Map:** The five newly carved districts are **Nubra, Sham, Changthang, Zaskar, and Drass**.
- **Administrative Context:** Prior to this major decentralization, the vast and rugged terrain of the Ladakh Union Territory was managed via just two massive districts: **Leh and Kargil**. With this update, the total number of administrative districts in Ladakh has increased to **seven**. This move aims to improve governance delivery, accelerate infrastructure deployment, and address long-standing public demands for localized administrative offices in remote, high-altitude border zones.

Part 9: MoUs, Tenders & Business Agreements

Q18. Indian defense manufacturing firm PLR Systems secured a major contract to manufacture and deliver 170,000 Close-Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines to the Indian Armed Forces. PLR Systems is a joint venture with which country?

- A) Russia
- B) Israel
- C) United States

D) France

Answer: B) Israel

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Under the Make in India initiative in defense production, private arms manufacturer **PLR Systems** secured a landmark contract to supply **170,000 advanced Close-Quarter Battle (CQB) carbines** to fulfill the immediate operational requirements of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Delivery Schedule:** The first operational batch of 18,000 weapons systems is scheduled for delivery within late 2026.
- **Industrial Background:** PLR Systems (Precision Laser Review Systems) is a highly successful domestic joint venture established with **Israel Weapon Industries (IWI)**. The weapons are manufactured domestically at a state-of-the-art facility in Madhya Pradesh. This procurement significantly upgrades the small-arms capability of frontline infantry troops, replacing aging and obsolete service carbines with modern, high-precision weapons designed for urban counter-terrorism and close-combat operations.

Part 10: Additional Quick-Fire Core Current Affairs MCQs

Q19. In early April 2026, India commenced its first-ever completely digital Population Census rollout. What are the names of the two official digital mascots unveiled for this historic exercise?

- A) Unnati and Viksit
- B) Pragati and Vikas
- C) Bharat and Digital
- D) Sankalp and Siddhi



Answer: B) Pragati and Vikas

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** India has officially kicked off its highly anticipated national **Population Census**, utilizing a completely digital data-capture methodology alongside a "Self-Enumeration" application portal.
- **Mascots & Scale:** The government has introduced two official animated mascots named "**Pragati**" and "**Vikas**" to drive mass public awareness campaigns.
- **Rollout Details:** In its primary phase, the self-enumeration digital portal was made live across eight select States and Union Territories, including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Goa, Karnataka, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Odisha, Sikkim, alongside the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and Delhi Cantonment Board zones. This secure, web-based facility supports 16 regional languages, modernizing data collection for the world's most populous nation.

Q20. Which state government officially launched the "Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme 2026" to provide targeted financial and skill assistance to unemployed youth?

- A) Tripura
- B) West Bengal
- C) Assam
- D) Odisha

Answer: B) West Bengal

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Government of **West Bengal** rolled out the "**Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme 2026**".

- **Scheme Objectives:** This state welfare program provides direct financial support and vocational skill training allowances to registered unemployed youth across the state. The primary objective is to enhance youth employability by funding industry-grade technical certifications and providing a monthly financial buffer to ease the cost of competitive exam applications and training materials.

Q21. Senior Indian academic and data scientist Professor B. Ravindran was appointed to a high-level United Nations advisory panel on Artificial Intelligence. With which premier Indian institution is he primarily associated?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IISc Bengaluru
- D) IIT Delhi

Answer: B) IIT Madras

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Professor B. Ravindran, the head of the Wadhvani School of Data Science and AI at **IIT Madras**, was selected to join a high-level United Nations advisory body on Artificial Intelligence.
- **Significance:** This global panel forms a core part of the UN's efforts to establish international guardrails, ethical frameworks, and cross-border governance protocols for generative AI systems. His appointment underscores India's rising leadership and technical authority in global AI research and ethical deployment.

Q22. The domestic insurance regulator IRDAI recently renewed the status of which major insurance companies as Domestic Systemically

Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for 2026, noting they are "Too Big To Fail"?

- A) LIC, GIC Re, and New India Assurance
- B) HDFC Ergo, ICICI Prudential, and SBI Life
- C) LIC, Bajaj Allianz, and Oriental Insurance
- D) Max Life, GIC Re, and Tata AIG

Answer: A) LIC, GIC Re, and New India Assurance

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) kept Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), and The New India Assurance Company on its list of Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs).
- **Regulatory Implications:** D-SIIs are insurers deemed "Too Big or Too Important To Fail" (TBTF). Because their financial health is vital to the national economy and the continuity of the insurance market, they are subjected to much stricter regulatory oversight, enhanced capital adequacy ratios, and rigorous corporate governance audits by the IRDAI.

Q23. India's first indigenous coal-to-ammonium nitrate project, aimed at reducing dependence on imported raw chemical fertilizers, is being set up at Lakhanpur in which state?

- A) Jharkhand
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

Answer: C) Odisha

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Groundwork has accelerated for India's first completely indigenous **coal-to-ammonium nitrate production facility** at Lakhanpur in **Odisha**.
- **Strategic and Economic Merit:** Ammonium nitrate is a vital chemical compound widely used in the commercial manufacturing of industrial explosives for mining and infrastructure, as well as specialized agricultural fertilizers. Currently, India imports a substantial volume of this compound. By gasifying domestic low-grade coal blocks into high-value ammonium nitrate, this project directly boosts national self-reliance and lowers the import bill for the energy and mining sectors.

Q24. Which Indian state capital was granted formal and exclusive legal status as the definitive state capital through a legislative notification in April 2026?

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Kurnool
- C) Amaravati
- D) Guntur

Answer: C) Amaravati

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Following a long period of administrative changes and legal challenges, **Amaravati** was officially granted exclusive legal status as the capital city of Andhra Pradesh through a fresh legislative notification.
- **Significance:** This confirmation resolves years of policy debates regarding a "three-capitals" model, establishing Amaravati as the singular seat of the Legislature, Executive, and Judiciary for the state. This clarity is expected to accelerate urban



infrastructure development and attract institutional real estate investments to the capital region.

Q25. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently completed a performance audit to accelerate the expansion of the Piped Natural Gas (PNG) network. What is the primary target for natural gas in India's total energy mix by 2030?

- A) 10%
- B) 15%
- C) 20%
- D) 25%

Answer: B) 15%

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas reviewed the expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks to accelerate the adoption of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for households and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for transport.
- **The Target:** This expansion is central to India's stated goal of increasing the share of natural gas in the primary energy mix from the current ~6.5% to **15% by 2030**.
- **Strategic Objectives:** Expanding the domestic PNG network reduces reliance on imported Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders, lowers urban greenhouse gas emissions, and improves supply chain security against external shocks, such as geopolitical conflicts in West Asia that threaten Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) shipping routes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Q26. Air India signed a major codeshare agreement with which international carrier in

April 2026 to significantly expand its flight network into Central Asia?

- A) Air Astana
- B) Uzbekistan Airways
- C) Azerbaijan Airlines
- D) Turkish Airlines

Answer: B) Uzbekistan Airways

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** To enhance connectivity into the resource-rich Central Asian region, India's flagship carrier **Air India** finalized a comprehensive codeshare agreement with **Uzbekistan Airways**.
- **Mechanics:** This deal allows passenger traffic from both airlines to seamlessly book inter-connected itineraries on a single ticket, linking major Indian cities like New Delhi and Mumbai directly to Central Asian transit hubs such as Tashkent. This move supports India's diplomatic and economic efforts to deepen ties with Central Asian countries.

Q27. Which Union Ministry launched the first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) to gather precise data on India's service economy?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: C) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

formally rolled out the first-ever **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**.

- **Objective:** The services sector contributes more than 50% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA), but tracking informal and unorganized services has historically been a challenge. The ASISSE survey is designed to collect high-frequency, authentic data from registered service enterprises. This will provide policymakers with a clearer picture of employment trends, capital expenditure, and input costs to refine GDP calculations and economic policies.

Q28. The Ministry of Finance announced that the interest rate on the National Savings Certificate (NSC) has been retained at what percentage for the seventh consecutive quarter starting April 2026?

- A) 7.1%
- B) 7.5%
- C) 7.7%
- D) 8.2%

Answer: C) 7.7%

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** In its quarterly review of small savings instruments, the Ministry of Finance opted to maintain status quo, holding the interest rate on the **National Savings Certificate (NSC) steady at 7.7%**.
- **Significance:** This marks the seventh consecutive quarter where the rate has been retained at this level. By keeping rates steady on fixed-income small savings schemes, the government aims to support domestic retail savings and provide reliable returns for conservative investors amidst global financial market volatility.

Q29. On April 4, 2026, West Bengal Police arrested an individual for orchestrating a block (Gherao) of seven judicial officers in Malda, bringing focus on which Section of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, regarding intensive electoral roll revision disputes?

- A) Section 13B
- B) Section 21(3)
- C) Section 28
- D) Section 32

Answer: B) Section 21(3)

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** Localized administrative disruptions in Malda, West Bengal, led to the arrest of an individual for blocking judicial and electoral officers.
- **Legal Nexus:** The underlying dispute was linked to the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls** overseen by the Election Commission of India (ECI). Under **Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950**, the ECI has the statutory power to direct an intensive door-to-door verification to remove duplicate, deceased, or ineligible voters. While aimed at ensuring clean voter lists, the wide-scale deletions triggered local disputes, highlighting the legal mechanisms governing voter registration and security during revision cycles.

Q30. The Ministry of Defense recently highlighted the successful transition of Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) from a widespread regional threat to localized pockets. Which specialized anti-Naxal forces were credited with this success?

- A) Greyhounds and CoBRA

- B) NSG and MARCOS
- C) Garud and Ghatak
- D) Black Cats and Rashtriya Rifles

Answer: A) Greyhounds and CoBRA

Detailed Length Explanation:

- **Context:** A security review issued in April 2026 highlighted a steady decline in Left-Wing Extremism (LWE), noting that the Maoist insurgency has contracted from a widespread regional threat into localized pockets, primarily within dense forest zones like Bastar and West Singhbhum.
- **Force Composition:** This operational success is largely attributed to intelligence-led coordination and the deployment of specialized forces:
 - **Greyhounds:** The elite counter-insurgency unit of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, renowned for deep-forest operations.
 - **CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action):** The specialized jungle-warfare wing of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- Enhanced security presence, combined with targeted infrastructure development and communication networks in remote tribal belts, has weakened the operational capacity of the LWE leadership.

