

1. International News

Q1. Senior military general Min Aung Hlaing has formally transitioned from direct military junta leadership to being elected as the President of which neighboring nation of India?

- A) Cambodia
- B) Laos
- C) Myanmar
- D) Vietnam

Correct Answer: C) Myanmar

- **Detailed Explanation:** General Min Aung Hlaing has been formally elected as the President of Myanmar through a parliamentary process held in the capital city, Naypyidaw. Since the 2021 military coup d'état that overthrew the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, he had been ruling via the State Administration Council. Concurrently, General Ye Win Oo has been appointed as the new Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to replace him in the top military post. This structural transition is critical for neighborhood policy questions in UPSC and SSC.

Q2. Amidst the ongoing global energy transit blockade in West Asia, which Indian-flagged Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanker successfully transited the volatile Strait of Hormuz on April 5, 2026?

- A) Green Asha
- B) Varuna Power
- C) Sagar Samrat
- D) Shakti Urja

Correct Answer: A) Green Asha

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian-flagged LPG tanker *Green Asha* successfully crossed the strategic Strait of Hormuz carrying 15,400 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas crucial for India's domestic energy needs. The passage occurred amidst extreme geopolitical tensions where the strait has been virtually choked due to military escalations between global powers and regional states. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, serving as a vital choke point for global oil and gas supplies.

2. National News

Q3. The Union Government introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 in the Lok Sabha. Which administrative organ is the primary regulatory authority managing FCRA registrations in India?

- A) Ministry of Finance
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Reserve Bank of India
- D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Home Affairs

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 was tabled in the Parliament to further streamline and monitor foreign funding received by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations. Under the parent Act (FCRA 2010), the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) possesses absolute regulatory oversight. The amendment seeks to tighten internal compliance data, improve transparent implementation data, and prevent the misuse of foreign funds for anti-national or unauthorized lobbying activities.

Q4. The Parliament passed a crucial Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill in April 2026 to formally insert the phrase "at Amaravati" into the parent Act of 2014. This provides statutory finality to the sole capital of which state?

- A) Telangana
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

Correct Answer: C) Andhra Pradesh

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was passed with broad political consensus in the Parliament. It modifies Section 5 of the parent Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, explicitly inserting "at Amaravati" to remove all long-standing legal and administrative uncertainties regarding the capital city. This statutory designation is expected to boost investor confidence and clear the path for large-scale infrastructure and urban development in the region.

3. Economics and Banking

Q5. Moody's Ratings on April 5, 2026, slashed India's economic growth estimates for the current financial year (FY27) to what percentage?

- A) 6.8%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.0%
- D) 5.8%

Correct Answer: C) 6.0%

- **Detailed Explanation:** Global rating agency Moody's cut India's FY27 GDP growth forecast significantly from its previous estimate of 6.8% down to 6.0%. The agency

cited structural supply chain disruptions and inflationary pressures arising from the protracted military conflict in West Asia as the main headwinds. Higher crude prices and logistics bottlenecks are expected to temper industrial momentum, altering the monetary calculations of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

Q6. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced the launch of which comprehensive digital platform to simplify registration and expand the base of Investment Advisers (IAs) in India?

- A) SEBI SETU
- B) SEBI MITRA
- C) SEBI KUBER
- D) SEBI JAGO

Correct Answer: A) SEBI SETU

- **Detailed Explanation:** SEBI is launching "SEBI SETU", an all-in-one digital single-window interface designed to simplify registration, compliance, and reporting workflows for investment advisers. This structural intervention addresses a stark economic imbalance in India's retail capital boom: the market features over 22 crore demat accounts but has fewer than 1,000 SEBI-registered investment advisers.

Q7. According to data tracking from the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) evaluated in April 2026, which structural category continues to dominate the largest share of India's aggregate workforce?

- A) Private Salaried Employees
- B) Casual Laborers
- C) Self-Employed
- D) Public Sector Employees

Correct Answer: C) Self-Employed

- **Detailed Explanation:** The PLFS data shows that the "Self-Employed" category dominates India's labor economics, accounting for over 56% of the active workforce. While indicating micro-entrepreneurial grit, economists point out that a large percentage of this sector represents disguised unemployment and low-productivity agricultural or retail work. This structural feature is a recurring focus in UPSC civil services economics papers.

Q8. Regulatory inspections by the RBI and IRDAI highlighted a massive increase in the institutional "mis-selling" of financial products through banking channels. What was flagged as the primary systemic driver behind this issue?

- A) Poor financial literacy of consumers
- B) High upfront commissions paid to distributors
- C) Excessive corporate tax rates
- D) Rapid digitization of rural branches

Correct Answer: B) High upfront commissions paid to distributors

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) noted that high upfront commissions distort advisory behavior, prompting commercial banks to aggressively cross-sell complex insurance policies and alternate investments without assessing consumer risk suitability. IRDAI controls these operational expenses by enforcing strict Expense of Management (EOM) caps.

4. Environment and Infrastructure

Q9. Due to gas shortages driven by global supply chain disruptions, India's power sector is

shifting heavily toward coal. This structural friction has triggered concerns regarding "Solar Curtailment". What does this mean?

- A) Complete breakdown of regional solar panels due to heatwaves
- B) Intentionally reducing or stopping solar power generation despite ambient sunlight availability
- C) Importing low-grade solar photovoltaic modules from overseas markets
- D) Imposing a direct green tax on domestic solar producers

Correct Answer: B) Intentionally reducing or stopping solar power generation despite ambient sunlight availability

- **Detailed Explanation:** Solar curtailment happens because legacy thermal coal plants operate with an inflexible Minimum Technical Load (MTL), which prevents them from dropping below roughly 55% operational capacity during peak daylight hours. Consequently, when solar output peaks simultaneously, grid operators are forced to curtail cheaper solar power to prevent transmission congestion. This highlights a key infrastructure challenge in India's green energy transition.

5. Sports News

Q10. Indian athlete Murali Sreeshankar clinched the gold medal at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 showcase event. With which track-and-field sport is he associated?

- A) Triple Jump
- B) Javelin Throw
- C) Long Jump
- D) 400m Hurdles



Correct Answer: C) Long Jump

- **Detailed Explanation:** India's premier long jumper Murali Sreeshankar secured the title at the Indian Athletics Series 2026 as he returned to peak competitive form. Sreeshankar has consistently represented India across elite global meets, including the Commonwealth Games and World Athletics Championships. Tracking his comeback is essential for upcoming SSC, Railway, and State PSC sporting current affairs questions.

Q11. According to the comprehensive report issued by the global Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU), which country ranked first globally with the highest number of provisionally and fully suspended track athletes due to doping violations?

- A) Russia
- B) Kenya
- C) India
- D) Belarus

Correct Answer: C) India

- **Detailed Explanation:** In a worrying development for Indian sports administration, India ranked first globally with 148 suspended track-and-field athletes in the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) global list. Key suspended figures include prominent names like Dutee Chand, Dhanalakshmi Sekar, and Parvej Khan. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) has initiated structural reforms, including decentralizing national training camps, to curb the spread of performance-enhancing drugs.

6. Appointments

Q12. Who has been appointed as the new Director of the prestigious Biotechnology

Research and Innovation Council - National Centre for Cell Science (BRIC-NCCS), Pune?

- A) Dr. Thomas Pucadyil
- B) Dr. Rakesh Mishra
- C) Dr. Manisha Inamdar
- D) Dr. Sharmila Bapat

Correct Answer: A) Dr. Thomas Pucadyil

- **Detailed Explanation:** Dr. Thomas Pucadyil, a distinguished scientist and former professor at IISER Pune, has taken charge as the Director of BRIC-NCCS Pune. Renowned globally for his breakthrough research in cell membrane biology and vesicular transport systems, Dr. Pucadyil is a recipient of the prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize. NCCS Pune is an autonomous institution under the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology.

7. Awards and Honors

Q13. The prestigious 'Varuna Award' is traditionally conferred by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways during high-level national celebrations. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to which of the following fields?

- A) Space exploration and satellite launch systems
- B) Deep-sea conservation and marine biology
- C) India's maritime sector, shipping industry, and maritime education
- D) Naval indigenization and coastal security weapons systems

Correct Answer: C) India's maritime sector, shipping industry, and maritime education

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Varuna Award is the highest honor bestowed upon

individuals who have made outstanding, lifelong contributions to the growth, education, and economic advancement of India's maritime sector. It is presented annually on National Maritime Day (5 April) by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to celebrate leaders in intercontinental shipping and commerce.

8. Science and Technology

Q14. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has introduced "Mission MITRA" into its structural developmental framework. What is the foundational objective of this mission?

- A) Deploying low-Earth-orbit communication satellites for rural digital connectivity
- B) Assessing human physiological and psychological responses under extreme environments like hypoxia
- C) Mapping Martian sub-surface topography using infrared radar technology
- D) Engineering deep-space kinetic interceptors to track near-Earth asteroids

Correct Answer: B) Assessing human physiological and psychological responses under extreme environments like hypoxia

- **Detailed Explanation:** Mission MITRA is a specialized human-centric research project led by ISRO to study how the human body adapts to extreme stress conditions, including sudden hypoxia (oxygen deprivation) and hypercapnia. The insights gathered are critical for designing environmental control and life support systems (ECLSS) for the upcoming long-duration human spaceflight programs under Gaganyaan and the planned Bharatiya Antariksha Station.

Q15. Geologists from the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology published a pathbreaking

study explaining why deep, intermediate-depth earthquakes repeatedly rock the Hindu Kush mountain region. What is the underlying tectonic reason?

- A) Large-scale volcanic rifting beneath the Indus plain
- B) The subduction of a remnant tectonic slab into the Earth's mantle
- C) Rapid glacial melting altering superficial lithospheric pressures
- D) The horizontal sliding of the Arabian plate away from Asia

Correct Answer: B) The subduction of a remnant tectonic slab into the Earth's mantle

- **Detailed Explanation:** While shallow earthquakes are common across mountain belts, the Hindu Kush range regularly experiences powerful intermediate-depth earthquakes (depths greater than 70 km). Geological research confirms this occurs because the collision between the Indian Plate and the Eurasian Plate has forced a piece of the continental lithosphere to tear and sink (subduct) directly into the Earth's mantle. This sinking slab generates high stresses as it deforms, triggering deep seismic events.

Q16. Rare microfossils called "Otoliths" were recently discovered in the Shivalik foothills, confirming the presence of complex ancient freshwater ecosystems. What exactly are Otoliths?

- A) Petrified scales found on prehistoric freshwater eels
- B) Durable calcium carbonate ear stones found inside fish heads
- C) Fossilized imprints of prehistoric fish fins in mudstone

D) Mineralized eggs of ancient freshwater reptiles

Correct Answer: B) Durable calcium carbonate ear stones found inside fish heads

- **Detailed Explanation:** Otoliths are hard, calcium carbonate structures found in the inner ear of bony fishes. They are highly resilient to decay and act like geological logbooks, recording a fish's growth rings and environmental chemical exposures. The discovery of these structures in the Shivalik sediments has allowed paleontologists to reconstruct the river systems of the Miocene-Pliocene eras, identifying rare species like the Gourami fish in the Indian subcontinent for the first time.

9. Defense News

Q17. The strategic nuclear submarine INS Aridhaman (S4) represents a major upgrade to India's sea-based nuclear triad deterrent. To which specific class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines does it belong?

- A) Kalvari Class
- B) Shishumar Class
- C) Arihant Class
- D) Chakra Class

Correct Answer: C) Arihant Class

- **Detailed Explanation:** INS Aridhaman (S4) is the third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) built indigenously under India's Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, following INS Arihant and INS Arighat. It is significantly larger and carries a greater payload of long-range nuclear-capable ballistic missiles (such as the K-4 SLBM), providing India with a more potent and survivable second-strike capability at sea.

Q18. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 47th Raising Day of 'Project Chetak' on April 5, 2026. This dedicated operational project primarily handles strategic road infrastructure along which sector?

- A) The high-altitude Ladakh and Siachen glacier logistics routes
- B) The international border and desert terrain sectors of Rajasthan and Punjab
- C) The dense, mountainous tri-junction boundaries of Arunachal Pradesh
- D) The coastal highway corridors of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Correct Answer: B) The international border and desert terrain sectors of Rajasthan and Punjab

- **Detailed Explanation:** Project Chetak is one of the oldest and most vital operational wings of the BRO, established to construct, expand, and maintain critical military supply lines and border infrastructure across the desert plains and semi-arid zones of Rajasthan and Punjab (headquartered at Bikaner). This project ensures that the Indian Army maintains rapid mobilization capabilities along the western international border.

Q19. In recent intercept training exercises conducted by the Indian Air Force, the advanced ASRAAM weapon system demonstrated high precision. How is the ASRAAM system classified in modern warfare?

- A) Surface-to-Air Missile defense shield
- B) Beyond-Visual-Range Anti-Ship Cruise Missile
- C) Air-to-Air close-range heat-seeking missile
- D) Deep-penetration bunker buster bomb

Correct Answer: C) Air-to-Air close-range heat-seeking missile

- **Detailed Explanation:** ASRAAM stands for *Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile*. It is a cutting-edge, within-visual-range missile engineered with infrared heat-seeking technology. Operating on a "fire-and-forget" mechanism, it allows fighter pilots to lock onto and eliminate highly maneuverable enemy aircraft during close-range dogfights. Its integration into IAF fleets like the upgraded Sukhoi-30MKI and MiG-29 combat jets enhances India's air superiority.

10. Government Schemes

Q20. Which state government launched the comprehensive 'School Chalen Hum' campaign to boost primary and secondary enrollment figures for the 2026–27 academic year?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Bihar
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: C) Madhya Pradesh

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Government of Madhya Pradesh rolled out its flagship 'School Chalen Hum' mass enrollment campaign. Official data released alongside the launch noted a 19.6% jump in total institutional enrollment, with government schools logging a 32.4% spike. The initiative uses local micro-planning to target zero dropouts at the primary level, supporting over 5.5 million students with free uniforms, learning aids, and bicycles for rural transport.

11. MoUs and Agreements

Q21. Air India announced a major international codeshare agreement with an overseas legacy carrier to significantly bolster transit links into Central Asia. Name the airline involved.

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

Correct Answer: A) Air Astana

- **Detailed Explanation:** Air India signed a comprehensive bilateral codeshare agreement with Kazakhstan's flag carrier, Air Astana. This structural commercial partnership allows both airlines to sell seats on each other's networks, providing Indian passenger and trade traffic with seamless, single-ticket connectivity into Almaty, Astana, and the broader, resource-rich Central Asian geography.

12. Important Days

Q22. National Maritime Day is celebrated in India every year on 5 April. This day honors which historic milestone in India's commercial navigation history?

- A) The setup of the first modern dockyard in Visakhapatnam in 1947
- B) The maiden voyage of the Indian ship 'SS Loyalty' from Mumbai to London in 1919
- C) The absolute nationalization of all domestic ports under the Major Port Trusts Act
- D) The formal entry of the Indian Navy into global joint security operations

Correct Answer: B) The maiden voyage of the Indian ship 'SS Loyalty' from Mumbai to London in 1919

- **Detailed Explanation:** India observed its 63rd National Maritime Day on 5 April 2026, a celebration held annually since 1964. On 5 April 1919, the vessel *SS Loyalty*, owned by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed from Mumbai to the United Kingdom, marking a bold step for Indian commercial shipping against British colonial monopolies. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways hosts national events to honor this cornerstone of India's maritime trade history.

Q23. The United Nations observes the "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace" annually. What is the designated global date for this event?

- A) 4 April
- B) 5 April
- C) 6 April
- D) 7 April

Correct Answer: C) 6 April

- **Detailed Explanation:** The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDSDP) is celebrated around the world on 6 April. This UN-mandated day highlights the transformative power of sports in driving social change, community development, peace-building initiatives, and cross-border cultural harmony. It commemorates the opening of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.

13. Art, Culture, and Festivals

Q24. The mega cultural showcase event 'Bharat Tribes Fest 2026' concluded with a grand closing ceremony. In which city was this festival hosted?

- A) Ranchi
- B) Raipur

- C) New Delhi
- D) Bhubaneswar

Correct Answer: C) New Delhi

- **Detailed Explanation:** Organized under the aegis of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the 'Bharat Tribes Fest 2026' concluded its week-long run at New Delhi. The fest serves as a national platform for tribal artisans, forest-dwelling communities, and indigenous craftsmen to showcase traditional arts, organic agri-products, handloom weaves, and tribal cuisine directly to urban consumer bases, bolstering the rural tribal economy.

Q25. Oxford University launched a major touring exhibition across the United Kingdom to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the historic text 'Shikshapatri'. Who is the author of this seminal scripture?

- A) Adi Shankaracharya
- B) Swami Sahajanand (Bhagwan Swaminarayan)
- C) Sant Tukaram
- D) Sri Ramanujacharya

Correct Answer: B) Swami Sahajanand (Bhagwan Swaminarayan)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The *Shikshapatri* is a foundational scripture written by Bhagwan Swaminarayan (Swami Sahajanand) in 1826, outlining a code of moral, social, and spiritual conduct for a harmonious life. The original handwritten manuscript is preserved at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University. The 200th-anniversary exhibition showcases this historic Indo-UK heritage link to international audiences.

14. Birth and Death Anniversaries

Q26. April 5 marks the birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram, one of India's most influential nationalist leaders. Which crucial portfolio did he hold during the historic Indo-Pakistani War of 1971?

- A) Union Home Minister
- B) Union External Affairs Minister
- C) Union Defence Minister
- D) Finance Minister of India

Correct Answer: C) Union Defence Minister

- **Detailed Explanation:** Popularly revered as *Babuji*, Babu Jagjivan Ram was born on 5 April 1908. He was a champion of social equality and a highly capable administrator. He holds the record for being the longest-serving cabinet minister in India, spanning over 30 years. Crucially, he served as the Defence Minister of India during the 1971 war, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh. He also served as the Deputy Prime Minister of India later in his career.

Q27. April 5 is observed as the death anniversary of Pandita Ramabai (1922). She was a pioneering social reformer who established the 'Sharada Sadan' in Mumbai. What was the core purpose of this institution?

- A) Providing technical training to industrial factory laborers
- B) Educating and housing young widowed women and destitute girls
- C) Secretly printing revolutionary nationalist newspapers
- D) Training women to become doctors for wartime field service

Correct Answer: B) Educating and housing young widowed women and destitute girls

- **Detailed Explanation:** Pandita Ramabai was an extraordinary scholar of Sanskrit and a pioneering feminist reformer. Recognizing the harsh social ostracization faced by young widows in Hindu society, she established the *Sharada Sadan* (Home for Learning) in 1889 with international support. The institution provided a safe haven, formal education, and vocational skills to make these women economically self-reliant. Her life work is a recurring theme in UPSC history papers.

15. Comprehensive Revision (Mixed Bag)

Q22. India's ambitious indigenous Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate project is being set up to minimize dependency on chemical imports. At which location is this facility being built?

- A) Lakhanpur, Odisha
- B) Dhanbad, Jharkhand
- C) Korba, Chhattisgarh
- D) Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: A) Lakhanpur, Odisha

- **Detailed Explanation:** India's first major indigenous coal-to-ammonium nitrate development complex is being established at Lakhanpur in Odisha. This commercial gasification plant converts low-grade domestic coal into syngas, which is then processed into ammonium nitrate. This chemical is heavily utilized by domestic mining companies for manufacturing civil explosives, helping cut down on expensive imports.

Q29. The Reserve Bank of India announced structural modernization updates to its central banking platform. What is the name of India's

advanced high-speed core software infrastructure that processes all sovereign banking transactions and currency management?

revenues between the Centre and the States (vertical devolution) and among the states themselves (horizontal devolution), balancing fiscal federalism in India.

- A) E-KUBER
- B) SFMS-2
- C) KUBER SETU
- D) BHARAT-NET

Correct Answer: A) E-KUBER

- **Detailed Explanation:** *e-Kuber* is the centralized core banking solution (CBS) of the Reserve Bank of India. It provides a single, highly secure platform for processing transactions for the Government of India and commercial banks, managing sovereign debt auctions, and coordinating currency chest allocations across the nation. Under the Utkarsh framework, it is continuously updated to handle modern digital currency rollouts.

Q30. Commercial disputes regarding fiscal transfers emerged between various state governments and the Centre. Under which constitutional Article does the President of India constitute the Finance Commission to regulate financial relations?

- A) Article 248
- B) Article 263
- C) Article 280
- D) Article 300

Correct Answer: C) Article 280

- **Detailed Explanation:** Under Article 280 of the Constitution of India, the President must constitute a Finance Commission at the expiration of every fifth year or earlier. The commission is responsible for recommending the formula for sharing tax

