

## Part 1: International News & Bilateral Ties

**Q1. In April 2026, the United States and Iran announced a historic two-week ceasefire. As part of this temporary truce, which strategically vital maritime chokepoint did Iran temporarily agree to reopen under coordinated traffic regulations?**

- (a) Strait of Malacca
- (b) Bab-el-Mandeb
- (c) Strait of Hormuz
- (d) Strait of Gibraltar
- (e) Bosphorus Strait

• **Answer: (c)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** Following intense geopolitical friction, the United States and Iran declared a two-week ceasefire. A key clause of Iran's 10-point framework included the temporary reopening of the **Strait of Hormuz** (a 167-km vital waterway separating the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean). However, Iran placed a restriction allowing no more than 15 vessels per day to transit, warning of deep-sea mines outside the designated safe-entry corridors to maintain economic leverage over international crude oil shipping prices.

**Q2. Which country officially hosted the Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in April 2026, highlighting that NCDs account for nearly 74% of global deaths?**

- (a) India
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Brazil
- (d) South Africa

(e) Switzerland

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** The Partnership for Healthy Cities Summit was convened in April 2026 to address urban health frameworks and the rising tide of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and chronic respiratory disorders. Global data presented showed NCDs cause 74% of deaths globally (causing 17 million premature deaths annually). In India, NCDs now account for roughly 66% of total mortalities.

**Q3. India and Türkiye recently convened a high-level diplomatic meeting to strengthen bilateral economic ties, supply chain resilience, and regional security. Which edition of the India-Türkiye Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was this?**

- (a) 10th Edition
- (b) 11th Edition
- (c) 12th Edition
- (d) 15th Edition
- (e) 8th Edition

• **Answer: (c)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** The 12th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Türkiye was held to review the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The discussions centered around enhancing trade volumes, collaboration in technology, and strategic mutual cooperation in multilateral forums.

## Part 2: National News

**Q4. According to the "Land Inequality in Rural India" data analyzed in April 2026, which Indian**

**state recorded the highest percentage of rural landlessness at 73%?**

- (a) Bihar
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Punjab
- (d) Kerala
- (e) Madhya Pradesh

• **Answer: (c)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** Socio-economic reports on rural land assets highlighted stark distribution gaps in rural India, showing that the top 10% of rural households control over 44% of total agricultural land. Nationally, about 46% of rural households remain asset-landless. Among specific states, **Punjab recorded the highest rural landlessness at 73%**, followed closely by structural imbalances in Bihar and Kerala.

**Q5. India formally announced its withdrawal from hosting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) COP33 summit in 2028. Following India's exit, which country stands as the sole remaining contender from the Asia-Pacific group?**

- (a) Australia
- (b) South Korea
- (c) Japan
- (d) Turkey
- (e) Indonesia

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** India pulled back its bid to host the high-profile COP33 summit in 2028. Analysts cite that COP33 will coincide with the intensive "Second Global Stocktake", which would subject

India's domestic coal and energy policies to heavy global monitoring. With India's exit, **South Korea** is the only remaining nation in the Asia-Pacific group bidding for the 2028 spot. Note: COP31 (2026) will be co-hosted by Turkey and Australia, and COP32 (2027) is scheduled for Ethiopia.

**Q6. Which statutory authority under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare implemented extensive food safety reforms and intensified state-led enforcement mechanisms across India for the fiscal year 2025-26?**

- (a) FSSAI
- (b) BIS
- (c) APEDA
- (d) AGMARK
- (e) NITI Aayog

• **Answer: (a)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), established under the Food Safety and Standards Act of 2006, rolled out a major regulatory overhaul for FY 2025-26. The focus was on checking micro-contamination, regulating packaging defaults, and augmenting state-level laboratory infrastructure to enforce strict standards across the food supply chain.

**Q7. According to data released by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) for March-April 2026, which city recorded the highest pollution levels in India with a dangerous average PM2.5 concentration of 116 µg/m<sup>3</sup>?**

- (a) Ghaziabad
- (b) Noida
- (c) Bahadurgarh

(d) Faridabad

(e) New Delhi

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** The CREA environmental tracker designated **Bahadurgarh** (located in Haryana) as the most polluted city in India during the monitoring cycle, logging an average PM2.5 level of 116 micrograms per cubic meter. This significantly exceeds both the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) limits and WHO guidelines.

### Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to keep the benchmark policy Repo Rate unchanged during its April 2026 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) review. What is the current Repo Rate?**

- (a) 6.00%
- (b) 6.25%
- (c) 6.50%
- (d) 6.75%
- (e) 5.85%

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** Adhering to its stance of "withdrawal of accommodation" to keep inflation aligned with the medium-term target of 4% while supporting growth, the RBI's MPC kept the policy repo rate unchanged at **6.50%**. Consequently, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate stays at 6.75%.

**Q9. Under the RBI's newly proposed operational revamp of the Business Correspondent (BC)**

**model, what is the mandatory minimum working requirement for a designated Business Correspondent-Banking Outlet (BC-BO)?**

- (a) 2 hours per day for 3 days a week
- (b) 4 hours per day for at least 5 days a week
- (c) 6 hours per day for 6 days a week
- (d) 8 hours per day for 5 days a week
- (e) 3 hours per day for 4 days a week

- **Answer: (b)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** To bring better uniformity, structural transparency, and reliability to rural banking, the RBI revamped the BC framework. It explicitly mandates that **Business Correspondent-Banking Outlets (BC-BO)** must remain operational for a minimum of 4 hours per day for at least 5 days a week to properly service rural unbanked populations.

**Q10. As of April 2026, India's coffee exports achieved an extraordinary economic milestone by crossing which value threshold for the first time in history?**

- (a) \$1 Billion
- (b) \$1.5 Billion
- (c) \$2 Billion
- (d) \$3 Billion
- (e) \$5 Billion

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** Driven by strong global demand, rising international prices of Robusta coffee, and enhanced quality compliance from Indian planters, India's coffee exports officially **crossed the \$2 billion mark** for the first time during the FY 2025-26 cycle, with volume shipments safely scaling past 4 lakh tonnes.



**Q11. Which asset management company received formal approval from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) in April 2026 to manage pension funds under the National Pension System (NPS)?**

- (a) SBI Mutual Fund
- (b) PPFAS Asset Management Company
- (c) HDFC AMC
- (d) Axis AMC
- (e) Nippon India AMC

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** PPFAS Asset Management Company (Parag Parikh Financial Advisory Services) received regulatory clearance from the PFRDA to operate as a full-fledged Pension Fund Manager (PFM). This enables them to manage the retirement corpus of citizens under the investment guidelines of the National Pension System (NPS).

**Q12. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of a 14.286% equity stake in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited (ABHFL) by which entity?**

- (a) Blackstone Group
- (b) KKR & Co.
- (c) Indriya Limited
- (d) Temasek Holdings
- (e) Brookfield Management

• **Answer: (c)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** Under the Competition Act, 2002, the market regulator CCI greenlit the transaction allowing **Indriya Limited** to buy a 14.286% stake in Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. This capital infusion is designed to help expand ABHFL's

retail mortgage portfolio across tier-2 and tier-3 towns.

## Part 4: Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q13. The Union Cabinet recently enhanced the maximum loan limit for the 'Tarun' category under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) to bolster non-corporate, non-farm small business enterprises. What is the revised maximum loan ceiling?**

- (a) ₹10 Lakh
- (b) ₹15 Lakh
- (c) ₹20 Lakh
- (d) ₹25 Lakh
- (e) ₹50 Lakh

• **Answer: (c)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** To assist successfully scaling small businesses, the government introduced a major policy update to PMMY. While the baseline 'Shishu' covers up to ₹50,000, and 'Kishore' covers up to ₹5 Lakh, the **'Tarun' category ceiling has been doubled from ₹10 Lakh to ₹20 Lakh** for entrepreneurs requiring higher capital deployment.

**Q14. The Government of Goa and the Cochin Port Authority formally adopted the 'SAMPANN' software platform. What does the acronym 'SAMPANN' stand for?**

- (a) System for Automated Monetary Pension and National Network
- (b) Scheme for Account Management of Pension and New Network
- (c) System for Accounting and Management of Pension

(d) Seamless Allocation of Municipal Pension and National Needs

(e) State-wide Accounting Mechanism for Pension Administration

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** SAMPANN stands for **System for Accounting and Management of Pension**. It is a seamless, end-to-end digital initiative aimed at processing, tracking, and directly crediting pensions without delays. Its implementation by regional maritime authorities and state portals minimizes errors and eliminates intermediary friction.

**Q15. Which state government officially launched the comprehensive rural healthcare campaign titled "Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon" with a dedicated financial outlay of ₹65.25 crore?**

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Rajasthan
- (e) Uttar Pradesh

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** The **Maharashtra state government** initiated the "Majha Gaon, Arogyasampann Gaon" (My Village, Health-Sufficient Village) campaign. Armed with a budget of ₹65.25 crore, the scheme deploys mobile medical vans, diagnostics, and preventative check-ups across remote tribal and rural hamlets.

## Part 5: Appointments & Resignations

**Q16. Who officially assumed charge as the new Secretary of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers in April 2026?**

- (a) Tejveer Singh
- (b) Rajesh Kumar Verma
- (c) T. V. Somanathan
- (d) Alok Sharma
- (e) Vivek Joshi

- **Answer: (a)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** Senior bureaucrat **Tejveer Singh** took charge as the Secretary of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC). His immediate focus areas include overseeing the transition of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes for bulk chemicals and managing environmental safety standards across the chemical manufacturing zones.

**Q17. Sunil Fernandes was recently promoted to the position of Chief Operating Officer (COO) of which leading global digital services and IT solutions company?**

- (a) TCS
- (b) Infosys
- (c) Wipro
- (d) Coforge
- (e) HCLTech

- **Answer: (d)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** **Coforge Limited** announced the elevation of Sunil Fernandes as its new Chief Operating Officer (COO). In this role, he will supervise global

delivery operations, infrastructure transformation vertical, and AI-led technology execution frameworks.

## Part 6: Awards, Honors & Sports

**Q18. Who became the first quadruple amputee in international sports history to win a Gold Medal at an international para-archery event, bringing global honor to India?**

- (a) Sheetal Devi
- (b) Payal Nag
- (c) Avani Lekhara
- (d) Deepa Malik
- (e) Bhavina Patel

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** In an incredible display of resilience and athletic mastery, **Payal Nag** became the world's first quadruple amputee archer to clinch an international Gold Medal. Her precision performance has made her a prime medal contender for upcoming international para-sporting events.

**Q19. India ranks second globally under the Nagoya Protocol framework for issuing the highest number of IRCCs, reflecting the nation's strict compliance with biological diversity protection. What does 'IRCC' stand for?**

- (a) International Resource Conservation Certificate
- (b) Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance
- (c) Indian Regulation for Climate Control
- (d) Inter-provincial Resource Control Council
- (e) International Registry of Carbon Credits

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** Under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS), an **Internationally Recognized Certificate of Compliance (IRCC)** is issued when genetic resources are accessed legally with prior informed consent. India's second-place rank highlights its solid documentation and legal compliance in protecting its native biodiversity from bio-piracy.

## Part 7: Defense News & MoUs

**Q20. Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi officially released a vital strategic document to transform Indian military combat capabilities. What is the title of this document?**

- (a) Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Loitering Munitions
- (b) Indian Army Vision 2030: Quantum and Drone Warfare
- (c) Strategic Guide to Indigenization of Airborne Weapon Systems
- (d) Integrated Theatre Command Operational Manual
- (e) Project Akashdeep: Defense Drone Proliferation

• **Answer: (a)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** General Upendra Dwivedi released the **'Technology Roadmap for Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and Loitering Munitions'**. The comprehensive text acts as a blueprint for domestic defense industries to manufacture autonomous drone swarms, surveillance UAVs, and precision loitering systems tailored to high-altitude borders.

**Q21. Microsoft signed a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with which prominent**

**university to establish a dedicated state-of-the-art Skill Centre in Artificial Intelligence (AI)?**

- (a) Delhi University
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- (c) Chandigarh University
- (d) Lovely Professional University
- (e) Amity University

- **Answer: (d)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** Tech giant Microsoft partnered with **Lovely Professional University (LPU)** via an MoU to build an AI Skill Centre. The facility will train thousands of engineering students and faculty members in cloud architecture, machine learning models, and secure generative AI deployments.

which is then converted into ammonium nitrate for fertilizer and industrial blast use.

**Q23. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved a major infrastructure push by sanctioning the construction of the 41-km long Jaipur Metro Phase 2 corridor. What is the total estimated financial outlay of this project?**

- (a) ₹10,500.50 Crore
- (b) ₹12,000.00 Crore
- (c) ₹13,037.66 Crore
- (d) ₹15,450.90 Crore
- (e) ₹9,850.00 Crore

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** To ease urban transit friction in Rajasthan's capital, the CCEA cleared **Jaipur Metro Phase 2**, a 41-kilometer long transit corridor running at an estimated layout of **₹13,037.66 crore**. The funding will be split between central and state allocations along with multilateral soft loans.

## Part 8: Science, Tech & Infrastructure

**Q22. India's first-ever completely indigenous Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate project was approved to reduce import dependency on fertilizers. At which location will this project be established?**

- (a) Talcher, Odisha
- (b) Lakhanpur, Odisha
- (c) Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Jharia, Jharkhand
- (e) Korba, Chhattisgarh

- **Answer: (b)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** To boost domestic fertilizer self-reliance, the government cleared India's first indigenous **coal-to-ammonium nitrate technology plant at Lakhanpur in Odisha**. The process gasifies domestic high-ash coal into synthesis gas,

**Q24. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) signed a strategic tech MoU with which digital platform to translate ancient Ayurvedic research and texts into multiple regional languages?**

- (a) Bhashini AI
- (b) Anuvadini AI
- (c) Sarvam AI
- (d) BharatGPT
- (e) Google Translate

- **Answer: (b)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** To democratize access to traditional medical

knowledge, CCRAS joined hands with **Anuvadini AI** (the AI-based translation tool backed by the Ministry of Education). This collaboration aims to translate intricate Sanskrit and historical medical manuscripts into 22 scheduled Indian regional languages.

### Part 9: Art, Culture, Festivals & Days

**Q25. Which international day is observed globally on April 7, and featured extensively in the April 2026 weekly reviews with campaigns focusing on universal healthcare and preventative medicine?**

- (a) World Malaria Day
- (b) World Health Day
- (c) International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- (d) World Tuberculosis Day
- (e) Global Wellness Day

- **Answer: (b)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** World Health Day is celebrated every year on April 7 to mark the founding anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1948. In 2026, the global campaigns targeted narrowing health access disparities and expanding primary healthcare infrastructure across developing economies.

**Q26. A massive cultural contingent from India departed to participate in the Osaka Expo 2026 to showcase traditional heritage. Which traditional performing art form was selected as a focal attraction for the Indian cultural pavilion?**

- (a) Kathakali
- (b) Yakshagana
- (c) Kabuki Theater collaboration

- (d) Chhau Dance
- (e) Koodiyattam

- **Answer: (c)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** For the **Osaka Expo 2026** in Japan, India showcased a unique cultural blend alongside its traditional classical dances—highlighting cross-cultural adaptations including Indo-Japan artistic fusion experiments and classical folk narratives to celebrate historical Asian links.

### Part 10: Books, Authors & Anniversaries

**Q27. A new analytical book titled "The New Choke Points: Maritime Security in the 21st Century", which details the modern military and economic vulnerabilities of global shipping straits, was released in April 2026. Who is its author?**

- (a) Admiral R. Hari Kumar
- (b) Dr. S. Jaishankar
- (c) Shashi Tharoor
- (d) Capt. Vikram Mahajan (Retd.)
- (e) Sanjeev Sanyal

- **Answer: (d)**
- **Detailed Length Explanation:** Coinciding perfectly with the sudden maritime blockades and ceasefire news in the Middle East, **Capt. Vikram Mahajan (Retd.)** released his timely book, "*The New Choke Points*". It breaks down how modern low-cost loitering munitions and naval mines can disrupt global commerce through trade corridors like Bab-el-Mandeb and the Strait of Hormuz.

**Q28. April 9 marks the birth anniversary of which legendary Indian freedom fighter and political philosopher, known for establishing the radical "Forward Bloc" within the Indian National Congress framework?**

- (a) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
- (b) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (c) Chandrashekhar Azad
- (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (e) Bhagat Singh

• **Answer: (a)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** While Netaji's birth anniversary is widely celebrated as *Parakram Diwas* on January 23rd, special commemorative national seminars and administrative archives were unsealed on **April 9** to honor his specific military strategies, his escape timelines, and his establishment of the Forward Bloc wing.

**Q29. The nation paid tribute on the death anniversary of a prominent pioneer of modern Indian painting who integrated western techniques with Indian spiritual themes, passing away in the early half of the 20th century. Who was this artist?**

- (a) Raja Ravi Varma
- (b) Abanindranath Tagore
- (c) Nandalal Bose
- (d) Amrita Sher-Gil
- (e) Jamini Roy

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** Academic forums observed the legacy of **Abanindranath Tagore**, the creator of the iconic 'Bharat Mata' painting and founder of the Bengal School of Art. His work rejected

blind western academic realism in favor of traditional Indian miniature and mural styles.

**Q30. Which core historical text tracking ancient Indian statecraft, fiscal management, and espionage frameworks was re-released in a translated digital edition by the Ministry of Culture in early April 2026?**

- (a) Manusmriti
- (b) Arthashastra by Chanakya
- (c) Nitishara by Kamandaka
- (d) Mudrarakshasa
- (e) Rajatarangini

• **Answer: (b)**

• **Detailed Length Explanation:** The Ministry of Culture digitized and released a highly annotated edition of Chanakya's **Arthashastra**. The project aims to integrate ancient Indian strategic vocabulary (such as the *Mandala theory* and *Saptanga theory* of state) into modern administrative and defense education training courses.