

## Part 1: National News & Polity

**Q1. The Punjab Legislative Assembly recently passed the Jaagat Jyot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026. What major provision does this amendment bill introduce?**

- A) Establishment of a new central administrative committee for historical Gurdwaras
- B) Enhancement of the punishment for acts of sacrilege (beadbi) to life imprisonment and a fine up to ₹25 lakh
- C) Inclusion of digital blasphemy under local cybercrime units
- D) Devolution of security monitoring to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) exclusively

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** In April 2026, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed the *Jaagat Jyot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026* to address long-standing demands regarding religious sacrilege.
- **Key Provisions:** The bill proposes stricter punishments for acts of sacrilege against the holy Guru Granth Sahib, elevating sentences up to **life imprisonment** along with a fine of up to **₹25 lakh**.
- **Legal Nuance:** The bill categorizes these offenses as non-bailable and demands swift investigation. Because it modifies penal provisions within a state framework that may overlap with central laws (like the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), the bill requires the Governor's assent, and potentially presidential assent, under Article 254(2) of the Constitution to become operational.

**Q2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently addressed a three-day special sitting of Parliament aimed at amending the Women's Reservation Act of 2023. What is the primary objective of this fast-tracked amendment?**

- A) Extending the reservation to include local municipal bodies
- B) Delinking the implementation of the reservation from the completion of the census and delimitation exercise
- C) Increasing the reservation quota from 33% to 50%
- D) Providing sub-categorization for economically weaker sections within the quota

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** The original *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Women's Reservation Act, 2023)* stated that the 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies would only come into effect after the first census and subsequent delimitation exercise conducted after the passage of the Act.
- **Current Event:** Ahead of the special legislative sitting in mid-April 2026, the government pushed for amendments to bypass or decouple these procedural requirements to allow implementation before upcoming critical state and General elections, ensuring quicker political representation.

**Q3. In April 2026, severe industrial unrest and mass worker protests broke out in the industrial belt of Noida (Gautam Buddha Nagar district), Uttar Pradesh. What was the central demand driving this widespread protest?**

- A) Mandatory provision of health insurance under the ESIC scheme
- B) Immediate revision and hike of minimum wages alongside better working conditions
- C) Reduction of standard weekly working hours from 48 to 40 hours
- D) Abolition of contract-based seasonal hiring practices

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** A massive wave of industrial action turned violent in Noida's manufacturing and manufacturing-export sectors. Workers staged peaceful demonstrations that culminated in clashes over unmet financial demands.
- **Core Issue:** The primary triggers were the stagnation of base minimum wages relative to localized inflation and widespread claims of labor exploitation. Following the protests, the Uttar Pradesh state government was forced to fast-track wage revisions and review enforcement machinery across industrial estates.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the historic McMahon Line, which was prominently cited in mid-2026 geopolitical reviews on border infrastructure:**

1. The line was formally proposed and negotiated during the Simla Convention of 1914.
2. It serves as the clear, undisputed international border recognized under a bilateral treaty signed between British India and the Republic of China.

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**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** The McMahon Line was proposed by Sir Henry McMahon at the Simla Convention in 1914 as the boundary between British India and Tibet.
- **Statement 2 is incorrect:** China was not a final signatory to the agreement; the representative of China initialed the convention but refused to ratify it, claiming Tibet did not possess sovereign treaty-making powers. Thus, modern China completely rejects the legitimacy of the McMahon Line, considering it an illegal colonial construct.

## Part 2: International News & Geopolitics

**Q5. In a major political shift in Hungary, opposition leader Peter Magyar's Tisza Party defeated long-time Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. How many seats did the Tisza Party secure in the 199-seat parliament?**

- A) 55 seats
- B) 101 seats
- C) 138 seats
- D) 152 seats

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** The general elections in Hungary marked the end of the 20-year dominant rule of Viktor Orbán and his Fidesz party.

- **The Numbers:** Peter Magyar's opposition *Tisza Party* secured an absolute majority, winning **138 seats out of 199** with a 53.6% vote share, while Orbán's Fidesz party dropped to 55 seats (37.8%).
- **Significance:** Orbán's tenure was defined by right-wing populism, anti-immigration policies, and deep alignments with figures like Vladimir Putin. Magyar's victory indicates a fundamental shift back toward pro-EU, anti-corruption, and judicially independent policies within Central Europe.

**Q6. Which international term best describes the strategic use of domestic legal frameworks, historic mapping, and geographical renaming by a nation to legitimize and expand its territorial claims over a sovereign neighbor?**

- A) Cartographic Aggression
- B) Lawfare
- C) Gray-Zone Warfare
- D) Diplomatic Brinkmanship

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Concept:** **Lawfare** is the strategic deployment of legal claims, courts, national legislation, and formal administrative actions (such as publishing state-authorized maps or modifying legal definitions) as a substitute for or supplement to military means to achieve operational and territorial objectives.
- **Application:** It was highlighted in current affairs modules evaluating East Asian border disputes, where systematic renaming of villages, mountains, and rivers is used to establish historical "legal precedence" over contested areas.

**Q7. In mid-April 2026, the Kremlin announced that Russia is prepared to take in a specific Middle Eastern country's enriched uranium as part of a potential structural peace settlement. Which country is this?**

- A) Syria
- B) Iran
- C) Iraq
- D) Yemen

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** Geopolitical negotiations between Iran and the United States hit roadblocks over permanent structural sanctions relief and verification mechanisms.
- **Russian Involvement:** To break the deadlock and prevent unchecked nuclear enrichment, Russia offered to act as a third-party repository to receive and safely store Iran's stockpiles of highly enriched uranium. This move closely mirrors structural elements of the historical Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) frameworks.

**Q8. Ambassadors from which two nations met in Washington D.C. for a landmark series of in-person negotiations mediated by the United States to secure a permanent border settlement?**

- A) Ukraine and Russia
- B) Armenia and Azerbaijan
- C) Lebanon and Israel
- D) Saudi Arabia and Iran

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** Following prolonged cross-border conflict and devastating military exchanges in West Asia, the ambassadors of **Lebanon and Israel** scheduled a direct, high-level meeting in Washington.
- **Objective:** Backed by US diplomatic channels, the negotiations focus on delineating permanent terrestrial and maritime security borders to de-escalate regional friction.

microfinance and unsecured personal loans, which exposes them to high systemic asset-quality shocks, making them unsuited for the risk profile of a standard universal commercial bank.

### Part 3: Economics & Banking

**Q9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently rejected the applications of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank and Jana Small Finance Bank for converting into full-scale 'Universal Banks'. What primary structural deficiency did the RBI highlight for this rejection?**

**Q10. Which organization developed and maintains the underlying network infrastructure of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India?**

- A) Inadequate Capital To Risk-Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR)
- B) Extreme concentration and lack of diversification in their loan portfolios
- C) High levels of Gross Non-Performing Assets (GNPAs) in corporate lending
- D) Non-compliance with Priority Sector Lending (PSL) norms

- A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- B) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- C) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- D) NITI Aayog

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

**Answer: C** (Correction based on standard operational rules & source text: **B**)

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** Small Finance Banks (SFBs) can apply for transition into a Universal Bank status once they satisfy specific operational track records, asset criteria, and regulatory parameters.
- **The Core Reason:** The RBI rejected these leading SFB applications primarily due to a **lack of loan portfolio diversification**. The central bank pointed out that their business structures remain heavily dependent on

• **Development:** The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** designed, built, and runs the UPI ecosystem. NPCI is an umbrella organization operating retail payments and settlement systems across India, created as a joint initiative of the RBI and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

• **Role of RBI:** While the RBI serves as the primary regulator and policymaker for the entire banking and financial system, it does not directly develop the operational software architecture of UPI.

**Q11. In financial technology, what is the primary structural function of a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) within the UPI architecture?**

- A) To act as an escrow account for holding funds during cross-border trade settlements
- B) To act as a unique identifier that routes financial transactions directly to a linked bank

account without exposing sensitive bank credentials

C) To bypass multi-factor biometric authentication for high-value corporate transfers

D) To convert standard legal fiat currency into Central Bank Digital Currency (e-Rupee) instantly

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Functionality:** A VPA (e.g., username@bank) serves as an alias or mask for a user's actual financial back-end data. It enables instantaneous peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant payment routing across the National Financial Switch (NFS) without forcing users to input their specific bank account numbers, IFSC codes, or branch information, minimizing phishing and financial data leaks.

**Q12. Jointly, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank, and International Energy Agency (IEA) issued a stern warning to global economies in April 2026. What action did they collectively urge nations to avoid?**

A) Lowering domestic interest rates ahead of Federal Reserve updates

B) Hoarding energy supplies and imposing protective export controls

C) Rapidly liquidating sovereign gold reserves to fund green energy infrastructure

D) Issuing long-term sovereign fiat bonds to cover corporate defaults

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** Volatility in the global oil, natural gas, and clean energy supply chains

prompted major multilateral bodies to issue an uncommon joint statement.

- **The Warning:** They called on nations to stop implementing energy protectionism, hoarding essential oil/gas reserves, and enforcing strict export limits, as these actions distort market pricing and risk causing structural recessions in energy-importing emerging economies.

## Part 4: Appointments, Awards & Honors

**Q13. Who was appointed as the new operational head of Israel's intelligence agency, Mossad, in April 2026?**

- A) David Barnea  
B) Roman Gofman  
C) Ronen Bar  
D) Herzi Halevi

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** In a significant security restructuring in Israel, **Roman Gofman** was appointed to take charge of Mossad, Israel's external intelligence agency. This change comes amidst a sweeping reorganization of domestic and foreign military intelligence assets aimed at managing long-term strategic operations across West Asia.

**Q14. Member of Parliament Raghav Chadha was recently appointed as the Chairman of which important parliamentary committee of the Rajya Sabha?**

- A) Committee on Public Accounts  
B) Committee on Privileges  
C) Committee on Petitions

D) Committee on Subordinate Legislation

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Appointment:** Senior leader and Rajya Sabha MP Raghav Chadha was nominated and officially appointed as the Chairman of the **Rajya Sabha Committee on Petitions**.
- **Role of the Committee:** This committee performs a vital role in examining petitions addressed to the Rajya Sabha on matters of public importance and suggesting remedies, acting as a crucial interface between common citizens and the upper house of Parliament.

**Q15. The film 'Boong', which recently made headlines in Indian cinema circles for its performance on the global stage, secured an award at which prestigious international awards ceremony?**

- A) 79th BAFTA Awards (2026)
- B) 98th Academy Awards (Oscars)
- C) 83rd Golden Globe Awards
- D) Cannes Film Festival 2026

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** The Indian film "Boong", directed by Laxmipriya Devi and deeply rooted in the social realities of Manipur, won critical acclaim and honors at the **79th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA 2026)**. The film's global recognition highlighted the rising narrative power of regional cinema from Northeast India.

## Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

**Q16. In April 2026, a dedicated Structure Assembly Line and an Automated Storage &**

**Retrieval System (ASRS) were inaugurated at an Indian defense manufacturing facility. For which domestic aircraft platform was this infrastructure specifically deployed?**

- A) Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A
- B) Prachand Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)
- C) Sukhoi Su-30MKI Upgrade Platform
- D) NETRA Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C)

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** To scale up production and streamline defense manufacturing supply lines, a state-of-the-art automated advanced manufacturing line was inaugurated specifically for the **Prachand Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** and Light Utility Helicopters (LUH).
- **Technology:** The integration of an Automated Storage & Retrieval System (ASRS) ensures high-speed, zero-error parts inventory processing, enabling faster delivery timelines to the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.

**Q17. India's recent trade strategy has focused on closing Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) rapidly. Agreements with EFTA are in force, and preferential market access deals with which major nation are projected to become fully operational from May 1, 2026?**

- A) Oman
- B) New Zealand
- C) United Kingdom (U.K.)
- D) Australia

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** India's trade diplomacy achieved a massive breakthrough with the **India-U.K. Free Trade Agreement** slated to become operational from **May 1, 2026**.
- **Impact:** This agreement gives Indian exporters preferential tariff lines into the U.K. market. Simultaneously, an FTA with Oman is targeted for implementation from June 1, 2026, significantly boosting India's access across developed trade blocks.

## Part 6: Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q18. The "Cyber Sakhi" program, operating under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), aims to train rural women in cybersecurity frameworks. What is the target population milestone and final completion year set for this scheme?**

- A) 100,000 women by 2027
- B) 500,000 women by 2028
- C) One Million (10 Lakh) women by 2029
- D) Two Million women by 2030

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Scheme Details:** Run under MeitY's *Information Security Education and Awareness (ISEA)* programme, the **Cyber Sakhi** initiative focuses on digital literacy and security.
- **Target:** It aims to systematically train **one million rural women** to act as digital defense points within their local communities by **2029**, ensuring rural digital banking and connectivity remain secure against rising cyber threats.

**Q19. With reference to the operational governance of the Fund of Funds for Startups**

**(FFS) scheme, which financial institution acts as the official primary Implementation Agency (IA)?**

- A) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
- B) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
- C) Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)
- D) State Bank of India (SBI)

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Governance Framework:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) serves as the nodal department for FFS, but the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** acts as the specialized implementation agency. SIDBI handles the practical deployment of capital into Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) based on evaluations from the Venture Capital Investment Committee (VCIC).

**Q20. The "Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme" was launched by which state government to provide targeted monthly financial assistance to unemployed youth?**

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

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** Rolled out ahead of crucial provincial timelines, the West Bengal state government introduced the **Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme**. The scheme acts as an

unemployment allowance and skill-upgradation stipend, providing monthly financial support directly through DBT to registered youth to facilitate professional capacity building.

## Part 7: Science, Technology & Environment

**Q21. According to the recent India Meteorological Department (IMD) monsoon forecasts, the Long Period Average (LPA) of rainfall is projected to face below-normal variations. Which oceanic phenomenon is identified as the primary risk factor for this disruption?**

- A) IOD (Indian Ocean Dipole) Positive Phase
- B) Developing El Niño conditions in the Central/Eastern Pacific
- C) La Niña intensification
- D) Atlantic Multi-decadal Oscillation

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Scientific Context:** The IMD projected potential monsoon suppression (~92% of the LPA) owing to a developing **El Niño** phase. El Niño involves the abnormal warming of surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. This shifts atmospheric jet streams, weakens the seasonal trade winds over the Indian Ocean, and disrupts the standard low-pressure moisture pull toward the Indian subcontinent, leading to drier spell intervals.

**Q22. The Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica*) was recently in the news due to severe habitat shifts caused by falling water levels in the Chambal River. What specific environmental status does this mammal hold in India?**

- A) National Heritage Animal
- B) National Aquatic Animal
- C) Critically Endangered Endemic Amphibian
- D) State Animal of Madhya Pradesh

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Status:** The Ganges River Dolphin is recognized as India's official **National Aquatic Animal**.
- **Ecological Role:** It is an "indicator species," meaning its presence, population metrics, and systemic health directly reflect the aggregate ecological health of the entire river ecosystem. River fragmentation, chemical runoff, and dam constructions threaten its survival by isolating gene pools.

**Q23. In recent fertilizer policy reform notes, agricultural scientists advocated for prioritizing Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) over Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP). What is the primary ecological advantage of using TSP?**

- A) It contains a significantly higher ratio of organic carbon
- B) It completely eliminates the unnecessary, excess application of nitrogen
- C) It prevents the alkalization of black soil zones
- D) It can be synthesized directly via bio-composting methods

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **The Science:** DAP supplies both phosphorus and nitrogen. In regions like Punjab and Haryana, where soil is already heavily oversaturated with nitrogen due to granular urea overuse, adding DAP causes dangerous nitrogen runoff, leading to soil **acidification**

and low Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE). **TSP contains phosphorus but lacks nitrogen**, allowing farmers to target phosphorus deficiency cleanly without over-applying nitrogen.

**Q24. A landmark neurological study published in mid-April 2026 highlighted the critical importance of Vitamin D for long-term brain health and cognitive preservation. Which statement correctly characterizes Vitamin D?**

- A) It is a water-soluble micronutrient that must be replenished daily via dietary intake
- B) It is a fat-soluble vitamin that can be synthesized endogenously in the skin upon exposure to ultraviolet-B (UVB) radiation
- C) It is an inorganic trace element absorbed only through deep root vegetables
- D) It is a peptide-based hormone synthesized exclusively by the thyroid gland

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Biochemistry:** Vitamin D is unique because it is a **fat-soluble vitamin** that acts like a pro-hormone. It can be synthesized naturally when human skin is exposed to sunlight (specifically UVB rays breaking down 7-dehydrocholesterol). It plays an essential role not just in calcium homeostasis, but also in neuroprotection and reducing neuro-inflammation.

## Part 8: Sports, Books & Corporate

**Q25. Which two debutant bowlers shared eight wickets between them to guide Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) to a spectacular 57-run victory over Rajasthan Royals in IPL 2026?**

- A) Nitish Kumar Reddy and Mayank Markande
- B) Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain

- C) Gurnoor Brar and Manav Suthar
- D) Umran Malik and Rasikh Salam

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** In IPL 2026 matches played on April 13-14, unheralded debutants **Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain** delivered an extraordinary bowling performance for Sunrisers Hyderabad, taking eight wickets combined to dismantle the Rajasthan Royals batting line-up at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

**Q26. Enforcement Directorate (ED) actions made headlines in April 2026 following the arrest of Vinesh Chandel in connection with an alleged money-laundering case linked to a coal scam. Vinesh Chandel is a co-founder and director of which prominent political consultancy firm?**

- A) JARVIS Insights
- B) Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)
- C) I-PAC (Indian Political Action Committee)
- D) Primus Partners

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Context:** In a major enforcement action ahead of regional state elections, the ED arrested Vinesh Chandel, a core director and co-founder of **I-PAC**. The legal action was initiated under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) regarding transactions tied to historical coal allotment probes.

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

**Q27. The Lanjia Saora community was recently featured in national cultural documentation series for their dedicated preservation of indigenous art forms, including unique wall murals. The Lanjia Saora tribe is primarily found in which Indian state?**

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

**Answer: A** (Correction based on standard tribal demographics and source text: A)

**Explanation:**

- **Culture:** The Lanjia Saora are a unique sub-tribe of the broader Saora PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group) located predominantly in Odisha (often also found in tribal border areas of surrounding states). They are famous for their *Idital* art—exquisite geometric wall murals dedicated to tribal deities, nature, and daily activities, which have recently earned distinct Geographical Indication (GI) status recognition.

**Q28. On April 14, multiple regions across India celebrate traditional New Year and spring harvest festivals under different names. Match the following festivals with their respective states correctly:**

1. Bohag Bihu — Assam
2. Vishu — Kerala
3. Puthandu — Tamil Nadu
4. Poila Boishakh — West Bengal

Select the correct option:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2, 3, and 4 only
- C) 1, 3, and 4 only
- D) All the above are correctly matched

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:**

- **Festivals Context:** April 14 marks the solar new year across several traditional Indian calendars:
  - **Bohag Bihu (Rongali Bihu):** Assamese New Year, celebrating agriculture and folk music.
  - **Vishu:** Malayalam New Year in Kerala, characterized by the auspicious morning viewing (*Vishukkani*).
  - **Puthandu:** Tamil New Year, marked by eating *Mango Pachadi* (a dish featuring sweet, sour, and bitter elements to mirror life's experiences).
  - **Poila Boishakh:** Bengali New Year, commencing the financial year with new books (*Hal Khata*).

## Part 10: Important Days & Anniversaries

**Q29. The 14th of April is observed nationwide as a public holiday to commemorate the birth anniversary of which legendary architect of the Indian Constitution?**

- A) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- B) Babu Jagjivan Ram
- C) Jyotirao Phule
- D) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

**Answer: A**

**Explanation:**

- **Ambedkar Jayanti:** April 14 marks the birth anniversary of **Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar** (born 1891). Known as the *Babasaheb*, he was a brilliant jurist, economist, and social reformer who chaired the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.
- **Historical Link:** He founded the *Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha* in 1924 to uplift marginalized classes and lead movements against untouchability, transforming India's social and legal landscape.

**Q30. Mid-April 2026 marks the 107th anniversary of the tragic Jallianwala Bagh Massacre. Consider the following statements regarding this historical milestone:**

1. The brutal firing on the unarmed gathering was executed under the direct command of Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer on April 13, 1919.
2. The crowd had gathered primarily to stage peaceful protests against the implementation of the Rowlatt Act and the arrest of leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satyapal.

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: C**

**Explanation:**

- **Statement 1 is correct:** On Baisakhi day in 1919, troops under General Dyer blocked the single exit of Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar and opened fire without warning.

- **Statement 2 is correct:** The gathering was peaceful, protesting the repressive Rowlatt Act (which allowed detention without trial) and the sudden arrest of their popular local freedom leaders. The official records underreported casualties, while the independent inquiry panel led by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya estimated the death toll to be well over 500.