

Part 1: National News & Polity

Q1. The Central government has recently mooted an inter-State redistribution of Lok Sabha seats. This proposed delimitation exercise is planning to utilize the population data from which Census?

- A) 1971 Census
- B) 2001 Census
- C) 2011 Census
- D) Projected 2026 Demographics

Answer: C

Explanation:

Context: The Union Government circulated early drafts of a new Constitution Amendment Bill and a Delimitation Bill that suggest utilizing the **2011 Census** data to operationalize the 33% women's reservation before the 2029 general elections.

Key Issue: Several southern states (like Tamil Nadu and Kerala) that have successfully stabilized their populations over the last few decades are raising intense concerns. A reallocation based on the 2011 data would cause their relative share of seats in Parliament to shrink, shifting political power toward higher-population northern states.

Q2. To smoothly implement the *Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam* (Women's Reservation Law) before the 2029 polls via delimitation, the draft bills propose to increase the total number of Lok Sabha seats to up to what number?

- A) 650 seats
- B) 750 seats
- C) 850 seats
- D) 1,000 seats

Answer: C

Explanation:

Proposal: In order to ensure that states do not lose their absolute number of seats while balancing the north-south demographic divide, the draft text indicates a plan to expand the strength of the Lok Sabha from the current **543 to up to 850 seats**. This expansion is intended to absorb regional imbalances while creating the necessary structural room to implement the 33% reservation framework for women.

Q3. According to recent data released on April 15, 2026, the overall unemployment rate (UR) for individuals aged 15 and older in India rose marginally to 5.1% in March 2026. Which sector or zone primarily drove this uptick?

- A) Rural agricultural sector
- B) Urban industrial and service areas
- C) Semi-urban casual labor market
- D) Traditional MSME manufacturing hubs

Answer: B

Explanation:

Data Release: Official government labor metrics released in mid-April showed a slight rise in unemployment from 4.9% in February to 5.1% in March.

Core Drivers: The surge was heavily concentrated in **urban areas** due to tech-sector rationalization and shifting corporate hiring cycles. Conversely, female labor force metrics and general employment lines in rural zones remained highly stable during this specific month.

Q4. The Supreme Court of India recently stayed an interim protection order granted to Congress leader Pawan Khera by the Telangana High



Court. This legal dispute originated from an FIR filed over allegations regarding which entity?

- A) Unauthorized access to central digital public infrastructure
- B) Public statements concerning the wife of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma
- C) Financial irregularities in state party funding networks
- D) Breach of Parliamentary privilege during budget discussions

Answer: B

Explanation:

Judicial Action: A Supreme Court Bench headed by the Chief Justice stayed the high court's protective stay. The underlying criminal complaint was registered by Riniki Bhuyan Sharma, the wife of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, accusing the political leader of making defamatory and politically motivated public remarks regarding her business and land holdings.

Part 2: International News & Geopolitics

Q5. United States President Donald Trump announced that a second round of high-stakes mediation talks between the U.S. and Iran could occur immediately. Which city has been finalized by diplomats as the location for these negotiations?

- A) Geneva
- B) Islamabad
- C) Muscat
- D) Vienna

Answer: B

Explanation:

Context: Following intense maritime tensions and a rigid U.S. naval blockade of Iranian crude ports, back-channel diplomacy successfully opened a direct line of communication.

The Location: Islamabad, Pakistan, has been chosen as the neutral diplomatic venue to host the foreign ministers and high-level special envoys as they look to hammer out a fragile de-escalation roadmap.

Q6. Which global block or alliance has confirmed that India will play host to its high-level Foreign Ministers-level meeting in May 2026?

- A) G20
- B) Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)
- C) BRICS
- D) I2U2 Grouping

Answer: C

Explanation:

Diplomatic Host: Official sources confirmed that India will host the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in May 2026.

Geopolitical Significance: This event is generating immense global attention as it will bring top diplomats from the United States' allies, newly inducted Middle Eastern members (like the UAE), and representatives from Iran and Russia face-to-face on common diplomatic soil since regional West Asian geopolitical blockades intensified.

Q7. The United States administration recently announced a major easing of unilateral financial and economic sanctions against the Central Bank of which oil-rich Latin American nation?

- A) Colombia
- B) Ecuador

C) Venezuela

D) Guyana

Answer: C

Explanation:

Sanctions Easing: In a significant shift in Western Hemisphere diplomacy, the U.S. administration partially lifted sanctions on **Venezuela's Central Bank**. The policy pivot aims to stabilize global energy supply chains, inject Venezuelan heavy crude back into international processing systems, and build diplomatic ties following systemic leadership adjustments within Caracas.

Q8. A tragic security incident occurred in mid-April 2026 when a 14-year-old student opened fire and killed 9 individuals inside a school. In which country did this event take place?

A) Serbia

B) Turkey

C) Germany

D) United States

Answer: B

Explanation:

Event: A devastating school shooting shocked the international community when a teenage student gunned down nine individuals at an educational institution in **Turkey**. It marked the second highly localized incident of youth firearm violence within the country in less than 48 hours, prompting immediate parliamentary debates over national gun licensing codes.

Part 3: Economics & Banking

Q9. India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rose to a 38-month high of 3.88% in

March 2026. Which primary macro factor was cited by economists as the chief driver of this spike?

A) Unseasonal domestic crop failures impacting staple food stocks

B) Sharp spike in global rates of fuel, power, and manufactured items due to the West Asia crisis

C) Sudden structural reduction in corporate tax brackets

D) Rupee appreciation making imported technology expensive

Answer: B

Explanation:

Inflation Dynamics: WPI inflation surged to **3.88%** in March, rising from 2.13% in February.

Reasoning: The primary driver was imported inflation. The ongoing geopolitical crisis in West Asia severely disrupted container lanes and shipping corridors, causing input costs for crude derivatives, fuel, industrial power, and global manufactured raw materials to spike, which quickly trickled down into wholesale pricing books.

Q10. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a strict regulatory mandate to all domestic commercial banks regarding 'Nostro Accounts'. What is the newly stipulated maximum timeline within which banks must reconcile Nostro credits?

A) Within 30 minutes of the credit

B) A time gap not exceeding 2 hours

C) Within 24 hours

D) Real-time automated matching within 5 minutes

Answer: C

Explanation:

Regulatory Order: Under its tightening financial risk and foreign exchange compliance framework, the RBI directed that all commercial banking entities must reconcile their **Nostro account credits within a maximum time interval of 24 hours**. This measure minimizes settlement risks and prevents unauthorized capital floating in overseas correspondent banking channels.

Q11. Which asset management company recently received official regulatory clearance from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to manage pension funds under the National Pension System (NPS)?

- A) HDFC Mutual Fund
- B) PPFAS Asset Management Company (Parag Parikh)
- C) Zerodha Fund House
- D) Groww Asset Management

Answer: B

Explanation:

Approval: PPFAS AMC received the formal green light from the pension regulator, PFRDA. This allows the fund house to set up a dedicated subsidiary to manage pension assets under the NPS framework, expanding the options available to retail savers looking for value-oriented equity and debt pension allocations.

Part 4: Appointments, Awards & Honors

Q12. In the field of international chess, Indian Grandmaster R. Vaishali achieved a historic milestone by winning the Women's Candidates Tournament after a dramatic finale. In which country was this tournament held?

- A) Canada

- B) Cyprus
- C) Azerbaijan
- D) Spain

Answer: B

Explanation:

Chess Achievement: Grandmaster R. Vaishali secured a monumental victory at the Women's Candidates Tournament held in **Cyprus**. Her clinical endgame performance in the final rounds earned her the right to challenge for the ultimate Women's World Chess Championship title, solidifying India's absolute dominance in global chess circuits alongside her brother R. Praggnanandhaa.

Q13. Senior Congress leader Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan was recently elected to which constitutional administrative position?

- A) Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- B) Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly
- C) Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee
- D) Pro-tem Speaker of the Puducherry Assembly

Answer: B

Explanation:

Appointment: Following localized political realignments and state assembly procedures, veteran political leader **Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan** was formally elected as the **Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly**, stepping into the high-profile role to steer legislative debates.

Q14. Which city was granted formal legal status and explicitly notified as the definitive, singular capital city of the state of Andhra Pradesh in mid-April 2026?

- A) Visakhapatnam

- B) Kurnool
- C) Tirupati
- D) Amaravati

Answer: E

Explanation:

Capital Declaration: Resolving years of administrative and legal back-and-forth regarding the "three-capitals" model, formal executive orders and legislative notifications clarified **Amaravati** as the absolute, legally defined capital city of Andhra Pradesh, fast-tracking centralized infrastructure funding to the zone.

Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

Q15. United States Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued a stern warning regarding the deployment of American combat forces if a diplomatic breakthrough fails. Which region or chokepoint is currently facing a full U.S. naval blockade?

- A) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- B) Strait of Malacca
- C) Iranian Ports and the Persian Gulf
- D) Black Sea Maritime Corridors

Answer: C

Explanation:

Defense Update: US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth clarified that American forces in West Asia are fully postured to restart active kinetic combat operations if Iran rejects the proposed peace terms. The U.S. military has enforced a strict operational **blockade around Iranian ports**, warning of structural strikes on energy infrastructure if maritime access is challenged.

Q16. Air India announced the signing of a comprehensive codeshare agreement with which international carrier to significantly bolster flight connectivity into Central Asia?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Strategic MoU: To expand its network footprint across strategically vital commercial markets, Air India inked a codeshare partnership with **Uzbekistan Airways**. This agreement allows seamless passenger routing from major Indian metros through Tashkent to various regional destinations across Central Asia.

Part 6: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q17. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which artificial intelligence translation platform to convert ancient medical research into Indian regional languages?

- A) Bhashini AI
- B) Anuvadini AI
- C) Sarvam AI
- D) Krutrim AI

Answer: B

Explanation:

Scheme Integration: CCRAS has partnered with **Anuvadini AI** (the AI translation engine originally patronized by the Ministry of Education and AICTE).

Objective: The platform will be deployed to translate classical Ayurvedic textbooks, research journals, and historical medical manuscripts into scheduled regional Indian languages, making traditional medical knowledge accessible to local practitioners and students.

Q18. Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched a unique mobile application in Mumbai designed to completely eliminate corporate commissions for taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers. What is the name of this digital initiative?

- A) Mumbai Cab
- B) Swift Ride
- C) Garvi Mumbai
- D) Bharat Taxi

Answer: C

Explanation:

App Launch: The mobile application "Garvi Mumbai" was officially rolled out to the public. Operating on an open-network architecture philosophy, it allows local transport drivers to accept bookings directly from commuters without paying high commissions to private corporate aggregators, improving driver earnings.

Q19. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the first-ever edition of which specialized macro economic survey in April 2026?

- A) Annual Survey of Unincorporated Digital Enterprises (ASUDE)
- B) Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)
- C) National Informal Labor Mapping Index (NILMI)

D) Survey of Rural E-Commerce Penetration (SRECP)

Answer: B

Explanation:

Survey Launch: MoSPI initiated the **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**. This specialized corporate exercise fills a critical data gap in India's national accounting systems by tracking output, employment metrics, and financial structures within the formal, registered services sector components.

Part 7: Science, Technology & Environment

Q20. Which premier Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) has announced the launch of a new, specialized undergraduate B.Tech programme in Climate Science and Sustainability?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Madras
- C) IIT Delhi
- D) IIT Indore

Answer: D

Explanation:

Academic Innovation: IIT Indore is introducing a specialized undergraduate curriculum focused entirely on **Climate Science**. The interdisciplinary programme will train students in climate modeling, carbon accounting technologies, green hydrogen engineering, and renewable energy grids to meet the global demand for sustainability professionals.

Q21. To tackle rising cyberbullying and protect minors, the Andhra Pradesh state government announced a plan to introduce automated 'age

tokens' for social media regulation. Through which official platform will these tokens be verified?

- A) DigiLocker
- B) UMANG App
- C) Aarogya Setu
- D) Permanent Account Number (PAN) Portal

Answer: A

Explanation:

Tech Policy: The Andhra Pradesh digital governance cell plans to deploy secure, cryptography-backed **age verification tokens issued via DigiLocker**. This framework allows teenagers and children to verify their eligibility to access social platforms without forcing them to hand over raw identity documents to private social media corporations.

Q22. In mid-April 2026, an industrial accident involving a major boiler blast occurred at a power facility owned by Vedanta in Chhattisgarh's Sakti district, causing the death toll to rise to 17. What type of power generation plant was this?

- A) Run-of-the-river Hydroelectric Plant
- B) Captive Thermal Power Plant
- C) Biomass Gasification Unit
- D) Supercritical Coal-Fired Commercial Grid

Answer: B

Explanation:

Industrial Incident: The tragic accident occurred inside a **captive thermal power plant** unit operated by Vedanta in Chhattisgarh. A high-pressure boiler system failed and exploded, leading to intense scrutiny over occupational safety standards and structural

engineering maintenance protocols across heavy industrial belts.

Part 8: Sports & Corporate News

Q23. Who became the first Indian woman to successfully cycle all the way to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal?

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

Answer: B

Explanation:

Adventure Sports: Endurance athlete **Divya Singh** scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to cycle to the **Mount Everest Base Camp** (situated at an altitude of 5,364 meters). Navigating treacherous high-altitude terrains, extreme weather drops, and low oxygen levels, her expedition set a new benchmark for Indian extreme adventure cycling.

Q24. India's first-ever commercial-scale indigenous "Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate" industrial project is being set up by Coal India Limited at Lakhapur. In which state is this facility located?

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

Answer: C

Explanation:

Industrial Update: This landmark project is located at Lakhapur in **Odisha**. The plant

converts low-grade domestic coal into syngas, which is then processed into ammonium nitrate. This compound is a vital raw material for manufacturing industrial explosives used across the mining sector, lowering India's reliance on imported chemicals.

Q25. A Delhi Court recently took formal legal cognizance of an Enforcement Directorate (ED) prosecution complaint involving which prominent high-profile individual in a money-laundering investigation?

- A) Robert Vadra
- B) K. Kavitha
- C) Abhishek Banerjee
- D) Farooq Abdullah

Answer: A

Explanation:

Legal Context: The Special PMLA Court in Delhi formally took cognizance of the supplementary charge-sheet filed by the ED against businessman **Robert Vadra**. The court ruled that the investigative agency had produced sufficient material evidence regarding the acquisition and floating of undeclared overseas assets to proceed with a formal trial.

Part 9: Art, Culture, Festivals & Tribes

Q26. Mizoram signed a peace agreement with its "only remaining underground insurgent group" to transition them into mainstream civil society. What is the name of this tribal ethnic group?

- A) Bru National Liberation Front
- B) Hmar People's Convention (Democratic)

- C) Zomi Revolutionary Army
- D) Kuki National Army

Answer: B

Explanation:

Peace Accord: The Mizoram state administration and the Union Home Ministry successfully concluded a peace roadmap with the **Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) - HPC(D)**. As the final active underground group in the state laid down its arms, the agreement prioritizes localized cultural autonomy and structural economic development budgets for the Hmar tribal pockets.

Q27. During the mid-April regional cultural evaluations, a major debate emerged over the systemic removal of political and historical cartoons from school textbooks. Which national apex body handles the curriculum drafting for these books?

- A) Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)
- B) University Grants Commission (UGC)
- C) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
- D) National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)

Answer: C

Explanation:

Institutional Role: The **NCERT** is the official autonomous organization responsible for advising the Ministry of Education and drafting the National Curriculum Framework (NCF) along with standard school textbooks. The ongoing pedagogical modifications regarding the removal of sharp satirical cartoons have drawn considerable debate from educational experts and historians.

Part 10: Important Days & Anniversaries

Q28. World Art Day is celebrated globally every year on the 15th of April. Whose birth anniversary is honored on this day to promote the development and enjoyment of art?

- A) Michelangelo
- B) Leonardo da Vinci
- C) Pablo Picasso
- D) Vincent van Gogh

Answer: B

Explanation:

Important Day: World Art Day is observed on April 15 worldwide. The day was officially declared by the International Association of Art (IAA) to honor the birth anniversary of the polymath **Leonardo da Vinci**. He was chosen as a symbol of peace, tolerance, freedom of expression, and the seamless intersection of art with science and humanism.

Q29. On April 15, Himachal Pradesh celebrates its official "Himachal Day". What historical milestone does this day mark?

- A) The day it attained full statehood as the 18th state of the Indian Union in 1971
- B) The integration of 30 princely states into a unified Chief Commissioner's Province in 1948
- C) The bifurcation of Punjab and Haryana that carved out alpine territories in 1966
- D) The signing of the Shimla Agreement with Tibet in 1914

Answer: B

Explanation:

State History: Himachal Day is celebrated on April 15 because it marks the day in 1948 when

Himachal Pradesh was created as a distinct administrative unit. It was formed by merging 30 separate mountain princely states following independence.

Note for Aspirants: It should not be confused with *Statehood Day* (January 25, 1971), which is when Himachal officially transitioned into a full-fledged state.

Q30. April 15 marks the death anniversary of Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States. Which historic proclamation issued by him legally abolished slavery across the United States?

- A) The Gettysburg Declaration
- B) The Emancipation Proclamation
- C) The Reconstruction Act
- D) The Thirteenth Amendment Enforcement Bill

Answer: B

Explanation:

Historical Anniversary: Abraham Lincoln passed away on April 15, 1865, after being assassinated at Ford's Theatre.

Key Milestone: He led the nation through the American Civil War and issued the landmark **Emancipation Proclamation** on January 1, 1863. This executive order declared that all persons held as slaves within the rebellious Confederate states "are, and henceforward shall be free," laying the groundwork for the formal ratification of the 13th Amendment.