

Part 1: International News

Q1. In April 2026, which country held a snap parliamentary election that concluded a five-year political crisis, resulting in a landslide absolute majority for the newly formed Progressive Bulgaria (PB) coalition?

- [A] Hungary
- [B] Bulgaria
- [C] Romania
- [D] Slovakia

Correct Answer: B [Bulgaria]

Explanation:

- **The News:** On April 19, 2026, Bulgaria held its national assembly elections. It marked the country's seventh snap election since April 2021, resolving a prolonged 5-year political deadlock.
- **Key Outcome:** The newly formed centre-left populist Progressive Bulgaria (PB) coalition, led by former President Rumen Radev (who resigned from the presidency to contest as a prime ministerial candidate), secured a landslide victory with 44.59% of the vote, capturing 131 out of 240 seats.
- **Why it matters for exams:** Bulgaria is a crucial Eastern European country and EU member state. The elimination of major historical parties like the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) from parliament for the first time since the fall of communism is a major geopolitical shift.

Q2. The World Bank Group recently launched a massive global initiative to address structural water scarcity. What is the name of this initiative, and what is its target?

- [A] Water Secure 2030 – Secure drinking water for 500 million people

[B] Water Forward – Ensure water security for over 1 billion people by 2030

[C] Aqua Frontier – Build sustainable desalination infrastructure in 50 countries

[D] Mission Jal Jeevan Global – Regenerate 2,000 global river basins

Correct Answer: B [Water Forward – Ensure water security for over 1 billion people by 2030]

Explanation:

- **The News:** The World Bank Group officially launched its flagship global initiative named "Water Forward".
- **Core Objective:** The program directly aims to ensure robust climate-resilient water security for over **1 billion people by the year 2030**. It focuses on investing in cross-border river basin management, structural infrastructure investments to prevent line losses, and optimizing agricultural water productivity.

Q3. Which two global powers exercised their veto power at the UN Security Council regarding a resolution to reopen the strategically sensitive maritime chokepoint, the Strait of Hormuz?

[A] United States and United Kingdom

[B] Russia and China

[C] France and Russia

[D] China and United Kingdom

Correct Answer: B [Russia and China]

Explanation:

- **Geopolitical Context:** The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical maritime chokepoint, handling approximately one-fifth (20%) of global petroleum consumption.

- **The Event:** A UN Security Council resolution, structurally proposed by Bahrain to enforce the reopening of the Strait amid escalating tensions, was vetoed by **Russia and China**. This triggered parallel diplomatic maneuvers, leading to a temporary two-week ceasefire mediation attempt by Pakistan between the US and Iran.

Part 2: National News

Q4. Which state has launched a specialized, first-of-its-kind highway trauma care and medical rescue protocol titled 'Project Sanjeevani' along a critical stretch of National Highway-44 (NH-44)?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Telangana
- [C] Tamil Nadu
- [D] Maharashtra

Correct Answer: B [Telangana]

Explanation:

- **The Scheme:** The Government of Telangana launched **Project Sanjeevani** to pilot India's first fully integrated trauma care and highway rescue protocol.
- **Implementation Frame:** It was rolled out during the 'Arrive Alive' Road Safety Week under the state government's 99-Day Action Plan (*Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika*). The system utilizes networked geo-fenced ambulances, automated trauma centers, and immediate drone-based medical deliveries along designated dangerous stretches of NH-44.

Q5. According to the data released in mid-April 2026, which country has overtaken the United States to emerge as India's largest trading partner for the Financial Year 2025–26?

- [A] United Arab Emirates
- [B] Russia
- [C] China
- [D] Saudi Arabia

Correct Answer: C [China]

Explanation:

- **The Stats:** Trade data for FY 2025–26 reveals that **China** has overtaken the United States to regain its position as India's largest trading partner, with total bilateral trade reaching **USD 151.1 billion**.
- **Trade Dynamics:** While trade volume rose, India's trade deficit with China widened significantly to approximately **USD 112 billion**. Indian imports stood at USD 131.63 billion, while exports to China remained low at USD 19.47 billion.

Q6. Which railway coaching depot under the Western Railway Zone has been recognized as India's first completely 'Water Neutral' railway facility?

- [A] Nizamuddin Coaching Depot, Delhi
- [B] Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad
- [C] Secunderabad Depot, Telangana
- [D] Borivali Coaching Yard, Mumbai

Correct Answer: B [Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad]

Explanation:

- **The Milestone:** The **Kankaria Coaching Depot** in Ahmedabad (under the Ahmedabad division of the Western Railway Zone) has officially become India's first 'Water Neutral' railway depot.
- **Mechanism:** The depot conserves and recycles nearly **1.60 lakh litres of water**

daily. The core element of this ecological achievement is the deployment of **Phytoremediation**, an engineered environmental process that uses specialized plants to clean and treat wastewater naturally without heavy chemicals.

Q7. India's 99th Ramsar Site was recently added to the global list of Wetlands of International Importance. Name this site and its location.

- [A] Haiderpur Wetland, Uttar Pradesh
- [B] Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)
- [C] Thol Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Gujarat
- [D] Shallbugh Wetland, Jammu & Kashmir

Correct Answer: B [Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh)]

Explanation:

- **The Addition:** The Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, has been declared India's 99th Ramsar Site.
- **State Record:** With this inclusion, the total number of officially recognized Ramsar sites in Uttar Pradesh has risen to 12. Ramsar sites are designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention to ensure global conservation of critical avian habitats and biodiversity.

Q8. The "IndiaAI Governance Guidelines", anchored on seven distinct foundational pillars known as "Sutras", were officially released at which major summit?

- [A] Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) Delhi Summit
- [B] AI Impact Summit 2026
- [C] NITI Aayog Digital Transformation Conclave

[D] MEITY Quantum-AI Hackathon

Correct Answer: B [AI Impact Summit 2026]

Explanation:

- **The Framework:** Released during the AI Impact Summit 2026 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), India's new principle-based AI governance roadmap is anchored on 7 core Sutras.
- **The 7 Sutras:** Trust is the Foundation; People First; Innovation over Restraint; Fairness & Equity; Accountability; Understandable by Design; and Safety, Resilience & Sustainability. It balance technical innovation with citizen-centric privacy.

Part 3: Economics and Banking

Q9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently issued updated Master Directions concerning customer service at bank branches. What is the core mandate of these guidelines?

- [A] Mandatory installation of 24/7 passbook printing kiosks
- [B] Provision of free and non-discriminatory Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins
- [C] Zero transaction charges on all international credit card usage
- [D] Compulsory doorstep banking for all citizens above 60 years

Correct Answer: B [Provision of free and non-discriminatory Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins]

Explanation:

- **The Mandate:** The RBI issued its latest Master Directions on the Facility for Exchange of Notes and Coins.

- **Key Feature:** It legally obligates all commercial bank branches across India to provide free, non-discriminatory exchange services for soiled, mutilated, or imperfect currency notes and coins to the general public, regardless of whether they hold an account with that specific bank.

Q10. Which government body has updated its regulatory allocation, permitting 15 specific commercial banks to import both gold and silver, and 2 banks to import only gold, valid until March 31, 2029?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- [B] Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- [C] Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- [D] Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance

Correct Answer: B [Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)]

Explanation:

- **The Update:** The DGFT, functioning under the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, updated its statutory list of authorized banking channels for precious metal trade.
- **Timeline:** The formal authorization came into effect on April 01, 2026, and is slated to remain valid for a three-year window closing on **March 31, 2029**. This helps stabilize internal bullion supply chains.

Q11. India achieved a landmark milestone in international commerce by recording its highest-ever total exports in Financial Year 2025-26. What was the absolute value achieved, and what was its year-on-year growth rate?

- [A] \$750 Billion with 3.1% growth

- [B] \$860 Billion with 4.2% growth
- [C] \$920 Billion with 5.5% growth
- [D] \$800 Billion with 2.8% growth

Correct Answer: B [\$860 Billion with 4.2% growth]

Explanation:

- **The Achievement:** In FY 2025-26, India's combined merchandise and services exports reached an all-time record high of **USD 860 billion**.
- **Growth Metrics:** This represents a robust **4.2% growth rate** over the previous financial year's performance of USD 825 billion, driven strongly by engineering goods, electronics manufacturing output, and IT-enabled services.

Q12. Credit management platform CheQ, in collaboration with which banking entity, launched India's first co-branded Light-Emitting Diode (LED)-powered credit card?

- [A] HDFC Bank
- [B] AU Small Finance Bank
- [C] Capital Small Finance Bank
- [D] ICICI Bank

Correct Answer: B [AU Small Finance Bank]

Explanation:

- **Innovation Fact:** FinTech platform CheQ partnered with **AU Small Finance Bank** to introduce the 'CheQ AU Credit Card'.
- **Technology:** This is India's first LED-powered credit card. It draws structural energy wirelessly from the Near Field Communication (NFC) electromagnetic field generated by Point-of-Sale (POS) terminals during tap transactions. Because it powers

itself via NFC, it requires no internal lithium battery.

Part 4: Sports News

Q13. Which Indian chess prodigy won the prestigious FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 held in Cyprus, earning the formal right to challenge reigning World Champion Ju Wenjun?

- [A] Koneru Humpy
- [B] R. Vaishali
- [C] Harika Dronavalli
- [D] Divya Deshmukh

Correct Answer: B [R. Vaishali]

Explanation:

- **The Victory:** Grandmaster **R. Vaishali** delivered a stellar performance to win the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus.
- **The Record:** She finished with a final score of **8.5/14 points**, sealing her victory by defeating Kateryna Lagno in the decisive rounds. With this landmark title, Vaishali secured her spot to challenge China's Ju Wenjun for the ultimate Women's World Chess Championship crown later this year.

Q14. Who recently etched his name in cricket history by becoming the first fast bowler to reach the milestone of 200 wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL)?

- [A] Jasprit Bumrah
- [B] Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- [C] Lasith Malinga
- [D] Mohammed Shami

Correct Answer: B [Bhuvneshwar Kumar]

Explanation:

- **The Record:** Sunrisers Hyderabad's veteran swing bowler **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** became the **first-ever fast bowler** to scale the peak of **200 wickets** in IPL history.
- **Context:** While spinners like Yuzvendra Chahal reached the mark earlier, Bhuvneshwar's feat sets a unique benchmark for pacers in the tournament's history, highlighting his longevity and mastery over powerplay and death-overs execution.

Q15. Which state hockey team clinched its third consecutive Sub-Junior Women's National Championship title in April 2026?

- [A] Hockey Haryana
- [B] Hockey Jharkhand
- [C] Hockey Odisha
- [D] Hockey Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: B [Hockey Jharkhand]

Explanation:

- **The Tournament:** The dominant force in grassroots women's field hockey, **Hockey Jharkhand**, defeated its opponents to claim its **third consecutive Sub-Junior Women's National Title**. Jharkhand's structural investments in rural residential sports academies have consistently produced national-level talent for the Indian hockey ecosystem.

Part 5: Appointments & MoUs

Q16. Which prominent veteran politician and former Union Minister is set to be appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh?

- [A] Dinesh Trivedi
- [B] Mukul Roy

- [C] Suresh Prabhu
[D] Yashwant Sinha

Correct Answer: A [Dinesh Trivedi]

Explanation:

- **The Appointment:** Former Union Railway Minister **Dinesh Trivedi** has been designated as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh. This diplomatic assignment comes at a crucial juncture for bilateral trade, cross-border grid integration, and neighborhood security protocols under India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy.

Q17. The Financial Intelligence Unit-India (FIU-IND) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with which regulatory body to strengthen Anti-Money Laundering (AML) frameworks and Counter-Terror Financing (CTF) oversight?

- [A] SEBI
[B] PFRDA
[C] IRDAI
[D] EPFO

Correct Answer: B [PFRDA]

Explanation:

- **The MoU:** FIU-India and the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) signed a formal MoU.
- **Impact:** The collaboration aims to institutionalize data-sharing, identify suspicious transaction reports (STRs) within corporate and individual national pension systems, and bolster India's compliance posture under the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) guidelines.

Q18. The Gujarat Government has inked a high-profile MoU to establish a dedicated Indo-

Taiwan Industrial Park. In which regional industrial belt will this park be developed?

- [A] Mithapur–Okha Region
[B] Sanand–Dholera Region
[C] Hazira–Surat Belt
[D] Ankleshwar–Bharuch Node

Correct Answer: B [Sanand–Dholera Region]

Explanation:

- **The Project:** To attract major high-tech investments, the Government of Gujarat signed a landmark MoU with Allegiance International Company Limited to set up the Indo-Taiwan Industrial Park.
- **Focus Area:** It will be housed in the **Sanand–Dholera region**, transforming the micro-market into an anchor destination for electronics manufacturing, specialized hardware design, and upstream supply chain components.

Part 6: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q19. At the 2026 BAFTA Awards, which Indian film made news by winning a prestigious global award, highlighting Indian cinema's rising international footprints?

- [A] All We Imagine as Light
[B] Boong
[C] The Disciple
[D] Kantara

Correct Answer: B [Boong]

Explanation:

- **The Honor:** The Indian film "**Boong**" captured global headlines by securing a major win at the **BAFTA 2026** awards. The



film has been widely appreciated across global festivals for its artistic storytelling, regional representation, and emotional depth, highlighting the rising international profile of independent Indian cinema.

Q20. A major biographical and analytical book titled "The Book of Elon and Muskism: Elon Musk in His Own Words—and as an OS of the Future" was widely discussed in literary circles in mid-April 2026. This book focuses primarily on what concept?

- [A] A critical financial audit of Tesla's early funding rounds
- [B] A conceptual study of Musk's philosophy as an "Operating System" shaping future human civilization
- [C] A technical blueprint for Space-X Mars colonial habitats
- [D] A historical review of PayPal's corporate split

Correct Answer: B [A conceptual study of Musk's philosophy as an "Operating System" shaping future human civilization]

Explanation:

- **The Book:** Released in April 2026, "The Book of Elon and Muskism" analyzes Elon Musk's public declarations, structural management methods, and systemic bets on AI, robotics, and neuro-interfaces. It frames his ideological viewpoints not just as individual corporate goals, but as a conceptual "Operating System" driving future technological societies.

Part 7: Defense & Science News

Q21. Which premium international research institution recently announced the development of highly stable hafnium-oxide

based memristors capable of radically lowering energy consumption in AI training models?

- [A] MIT, USA
- [B] University of Cambridge, UK
- [C] Max Planck Institute, Germany
- [D] IIT Bombay, India

Correct Answer: B [University of Cambridge, UK]

Explanation:

- **The Breakthrough:** Researchers at the University of Cambridge developed a specialized hafnium-oxide based memristor.
- **Technical Importance:** Standard AI computational processes consume vast amounts of electrical energy. These advanced memristors can store and process data simultaneously (in-memory computing), mirroring human neural synaptic pathways. This could dramatically lower the energy footprint of large language models and neural architectures.

Q22. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) recently granted official manufacturing and marketing approval to Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for a generic version of which anti-diabetic and anti-obesity blockbuster drug?

- [A] Metformin XR
- [B] Oral Semaglutide
- [C] Sitagliptin-Phosphate
- [D] Dapagliflozin

Correct Answer: B [Oral Semaglutide]

Explanation:

- **The Approval:** The CDSCO cleared Dr. Reddy's Laboratories to produce and

distribute generic oral semaglutide tablets in India.

- **Medical Impact:** Semaglutide is a critical GLP-1 receptor agonist prescribed for Type 2 diabetes management and weight loss. Local manufacturing of its generic oral form significantly lowers treatment costs, aiding India's medical infrastructure in tackling non-communicable lifestyle diseases (NCDs).

Q23. Scientists monitoring Earth's magnetosphere via the European Space Agency's (ESA) "Swarm" mission reported fresh data on a persistent geomagnetic vulnerability known as the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA). What is the popular nickname given to this space hazard region?

- [A] The Devil's Vortex of the Pacific
- [B] The Bermuda Triangle of Space
- [C] The Van Allen Death Trap
- [D] The Magnetic Dead Zone

Correct Answer: B [The Bermuda Triangle of Space]

Explanation:

- **The Science:** The South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA) is an area where Earth's inner Van Allen radiation belt dips closest to the planet's surface, leading to an increased flux of energetic particles.
- **The Nickname:** Dubbed the "Bermuda Triangle of Space", it presents unique risks. When satellites, electronic instruments, and spacecraft fly through this region, they are exposed to intense radiation, which can disrupt communications and trigger severe hardware anomalies.

Part 8: Government Schemes & Initiatives

Q24. Under the Startup Financing Pillar of the national IndiaAI Mission, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) selected 10 innovative startups for Cohort II of which global acceleration program?

- [A] IndiaAI Global Leap (IGL)
- [B] IndiaAI Startups Global (ISG) Acceleration Programme
- [C] Digital India Accelerator Phase-4
- [D] Bharat-AI Venture Scale-up

Correct Answer: B [IndiaAI Startups Global (ISG) Acceleration Programme]

Explanation:

- **The Scheme:** MeitY launched the second cohort under the IndiaAI Startups Global (ISG) Acceleration Programme.
- **Global Connect:** This initiative is executed in strategic collaboration with Station F (France, the world's largest startup campus) and HEC Paris (one of Europe's premier business schools). It aims to provide emerging Indian AI enterprises with direct cross-border mentorship, advanced venture exposure, and global market access.

Q25. The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) officially rolled out the 3rd edition of which flagship scheme to support the delivery of technical education in regional Indian languages?

- [A] PRAGATI Scheme
- [B] AICTE-VAANI Scheme
- [C] SWAYAM Prabha Bhasha
- [D] KSHITIJ Initiative

Correct Answer: B [AICTE-VAANI Scheme]

Explanation:

- **The Scheme:** The 3rd edition of the **AICTE-VAANI** (*Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages*) scheme was launched by AICTE Chairman Yogesh Singh in New Delhi.
- **Operational Rules:** The scheme provides financial grants to educational institutions to host seminars, conferences, and compile learning materials across **22 scheduled Indian languages** listed under the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, promoting inclusive engineering and technical education.

Q26. The Union Cabinet recently granted a formal extension to which flagship rural infrastructure development scheme beyond March 2025 up to March 2028?

- [A] Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)
- [B] Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)
- [C] Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (DAY-NRLM)
- [D] PM-KUSUM Scheme

Correct Answer: B [Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)]

Explanation:

- **The Extension:** The Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of **PMGSY-III till March 2028** to complete targeted rural connectivity goals.
- **Background:** PMGSY was originally launched on December 25, 2000, under the Ministry of Rural Development. Phase-III specifically focuses on consolidating and upgrading \$1,25,000 \text{ km}^2\$ of existing

rural road networks, routes, and major links connecting habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools, and local hospitals.

Part 9: Environment, Art & Culture, Days & Anniversaries

Q27. Which major international environmental conservation body recently reclassified the conservation status of Emperor Penguins and Antarctic Fur Seals to "Endangered" due to climate change?

- [A] Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- [B] International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- [C] Conservation International
- [D] Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

Correct Answer: B [International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)]

Explanation:

- **The Status Update:** The IUCN updated its Red List of Threatened Species, moving both the Emperor Penguin (*Aptenodytes forsteri*) and the Antarctic Fur Seal (*Arctocephalus gazella*) to the **Endangered** category.
- **Triggers:** The reclassification was driven by accelerating sea-ice loss, commercial overfishing of krill, oil spill hazards, and the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza across sub-Antarctic and Antarctic breeding ecosystems.

Q28. Every year on April 19, which global health and awareness day is observed worldwide to highlight the importance of organ health and disease prevention?

- [A] World Health Day

- [B] World Liver Day
- [C] International World Heart Day
- [D] World Hemophilia Day

Correct Answer: B [World Liver Day]

Explanation:

- **The Day:** World Liver Day is observed annually on **April 19** to spread awareness about liver-related disorders and promote clean lifestyle habits.
- **Theme Note:** For the year 2026, the global campaign was anchored around the message of building preventative resilience through daily fitness and dietary discipline to mitigate non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases.

Q29. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, chaired the 1st BRICS Health Working Group (HWG) Meeting 2026 in New Delhi. What is India's guiding theme as the BRICS Chair for 2026?

- [A] "Intra-BRICS Synergy for Universal Health Coverage"
- [B] "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"
- [C] "Digital Health Integration and Pandemic Preparedness"
- [D] "Affordable Medicine and Vaccine Equity for Global South"

Correct Answer: B ["Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"]

Explanation:

- **The Theme:** India's 2026 BRICS Chairmanship operates under the formal theme: **"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**.
- **Key Interventions:** During this apex health working group meet, India successfully

proposed two brand-new health priorities for member states: the *BRICS Mission for Healthy Lifestyles* (countering tobacco, alcohol, and poor diet) and the *Promotion of Mental Health and Wellness*.

Q30. The Kulsi River, which was recently featured in environmental reports as one of the last major natural habitats for the endangered Gangetic Dolphin, flows as a south-bank tributary to which major river?

- [A] Ganga River
- [B] Brahmaputra River
- [C] Meghna River
- [D] Barak River

Correct Answer: B [Brahmaputra River]

Explanation:

- **Geographical Facts:** The Kulsi River is an important south-bank tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- **Course and Ecology:** It originates in the West Khasi Hills of Meghalaya, running a total length of about 220 km (\$100 km) in Meghalaya and 120 km in Assam) before joining the Brahmaputra. It is highly valued by environmentalists as a critical, undisturbed refuge for the endangered Gangetic dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*), which faces threats from illegal sand mining and damming projects.

Analysis of the Current Affairs Set for Competitive Exams

Category	Central Theme / Focus	Expected Question Style
	Strait of Hormuz Veto	alignments (UPSC/SSC)

Category	Central Theme / Focus	Expected Question Style
Bilateral & Trade	China-India Trade Dynamics, Record \$860B Exports	Statement-based analytical questions (UPSC/Banking)
Environmental Geometry	Kulsi River, Shekha Jheel Ramsar Site, IUCN Red List	Direct matching/Geographical location questions (SSC/Railways)
Banking Technology	Master Directions on currency exchange, LED Credit Cards	Core Banking Operations & financial updates (IBPS/SBI/RBI)
Global Governance	Bulgarian Elections, UNSC	International relations & geopolitical

