

Part 1: International News & Geopolitics

Q1. In April 2026, which country officially entered the "Pax Silica" partnership, a US-led strategic technology framework focused on securing semiconductor design and mining corridors?

- [A] Vietnam
- [B] The Philippines
- [C] South Korea
- [D] Malaysia

Correct Answer: B [The Philippines]

Explanation:

- **The News:** The Philippines has officially entered the **Pax Silica partnership**, a major US-led strategic initiative aimed at counterbalancing supply chain concentration risks in the Indo-Pacific.
- **Structural Blueprint:** The partnership includes a blueprint for a massive 4,000-acre high-tech industrial hub in the **Luzon region** of the Philippines. This node will be entirely dedicated to advanced semiconductor assembly, testing, packaging, and critical minerals processing.
- **Strategic Intent:** For competitive exams (UPSC/SSC), this represents a structural diversification away from dependent supply chains toward geopolitically trusted-nation technology partnerships.

Q2. The "Hormuz Security Summit," co-chaired by French President Emmanuel Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to secure global crude oil transit routes, was held in which city?

- [A] London

- [B] Paris
- [C] Geneva
- [D] Brussels

Correct Answer: B [Paris]

Explanation:

- **The Summit:** Following a brief diplomatic stand-off and the subsequent reopening of the critical maritime chokepoint, the **Hormuz Security Summit** was hosted in **Paris, France**.
- **Key Mandates:** Co-chaired by France and the UK, the apex convention brought together key maritime nations to formulate a institutional multinational force.
- **The Goal:** The mechanism is designed to ensure permanent freedom of navigation and protect merchant vessels carrying crude oil through the Strait of Hormuz, minimizing premium insurance spikes that disrupt global energy pricing.

Q3. According to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) April 2026 World Economic Outlook (WEO), India's global nominal GDP ranking shifted to which position for the projected cycle?

- [A] 4th Position
- [B] 5th Position
- [C] 6th Position
- [D] 7th Position

Correct Answer: C [6th Position]

Explanation:

- **The Data:** The IMF's April 2026 WEO reported that India's nominal GDP position temporarily slid from the 4th to the **6th position globally**, behind the United Kingdom (\$4.0 trillion) and Japan



(\$4.4 \text{ trillion}\$), due to deep currency valuation fluctuations. India's projected nominal GDP stood at **USD 3.92 trillion**.

- **The Silver Lining:** The report explicitly highlights that India remains the **fastest-growing major economy** globally.
- **The Recovery Path:** Macroeconomic projections demonstrate that India is structurally on track to reclaim the 4th spot by 2027 (\$4.58 \text{ trillion}\$) and scale past the USD 6 trillion mark by 2030.

Part 2: National News & Governance

Q4. Which state legislative assembly recently passed the "Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026," introducing a penalty of life imprisonment for acts of sacrilege?

- [A] Haryana
- [B] Punjab
- [C] Himachal Pradesh
- [D] Rajasthan

Correct Answer: B [Punjab]

Explanation:

- **The Legislation:** The Punjab Vidhan Sabha unanimously passed the **Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026**.
- **Legal Provisions:** The law introduces strict legal deterrents against the sacrilege (*beadbi*) of the holy Sri Guru Granth Sahib. It prescribes **mandatory life imprisonment** alongside a financial penalty of up to **₹25 lakh** for offenders.
- **Exam Relevance:** For governance and polity papers, this highlights the legislative power of state assemblies to

modify criminal penal frameworks within their territorial jurisdiction to maintain public order.

Q5. Union Home Minister Amit Shah soft-launched digital data management tools and unveiled two official mascots for the upcoming Census 2027. What are the names of these mascots?

- [A] Shaurya and Vivek
- [B] Pragati and Vikas
- [C] Aadhaar and Kushal
- [D] Sankalp and Siddhi

Correct Answer: B [Pragati and Vikas]

Explanation:

- **The Initiative:** In New Delhi, the Union Home Ministry unveiled the digital preparation pipeline for **Census 2027**, which will be the world's largest enumeration exercise.
- **The Mascots:** The two official mascots are named '**Pragati**' (representing progress) and '**Vikas**' (representing development).
- **Operational Shift:** Census 2027 will be executed in a completely digital, two-phase structure utilizing specialized self-enumeration modules to ensure real-time data cleansing and high accuracy.

Q6. The Punjab Vidhan Sabha recently passed a dedicated bill to establish the "Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur World-Class University." At which location of historical and spiritual significance will this university be built?

- [A] Amritsar
- [B] Sri Anandpur Sahib
- [C] Sultanpur Lodhi
- [D] Patiala

Correct Answer: B [Sri Anandpur Sahib]

Explanation:

- **The Project:** The Punjab State Legislative Assembly passed the *Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur World-Class University Bill, 2026*.
- **Location:** The state-of-the-art research university will be established at **Sri Anandpur Sahib**, a site of profound historical and spiritual significance in Sikh heritage. The university will focus on higher technical education alongside advanced historical research.

Q7. Which water utility board has made history by becoming the first in India to bag the prestigious ISO 50001:2018 Certification for its Energy Management Systems?

- [A] Delhi Jal Board (DJB)
- [B] Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)
- [C] Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply Board (HMWSSB)
- [D] Kerala Water Authority (KWA)

Correct Answer: B [Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB)]

Explanation:

- **The Award:** The **BWSSB** became India's first water utility board to secure the global **ISO 50001:2018 certification** for energy management.
- **Scope of Audit:** The certification covers energy efficiency parameters at its critical bulk water pumping stations (TK Halli, Harohalli, and Tataguni), its Cauvery Bhavan headquarters, and its continuous water distribution systems. This milestone sets a benchmark for reducing operational costs

and minimizing carbon footprints across urban utilities.

Part 3: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q8. The World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) approved a USD 225 million loan for the Rajasthan Highway Modernization Project. What unique structural mechanism does this loan feature for the first time in India?

- [A] Deferred Drawdown Option (DDO)
- [B] Step-Up Loan (SuL) mechanism
- [C] Zero-Coupon Sovereign Credit Line
- [D] Performance-Linked Debt Relief

Correct Answer: B [Step-Up Loan (SuL) mechanism]

Explanation:

- **The Loan:** The World Bank approved a USD 225 million ($\approx \text{₹}2,080 \text{ crore}$) IBRD credit lines for upgrading \$800 \text{ km}\$ of state highways in Rajasthan.
- **The Innovation:** This project features India's first **Step-Up Loan (SuL) mechanism**. It features an initial 5-year grace period to ease the state's fiscal burden during the high-risk construction phase. Repayments then scale upward incrementally post-stabilization, aligning with long-term highway toll revenue cycles.

Q9. JSW Steel Limited has approved a strategic 50:50 Joint Venture (JV) with which international steel conglomerate to establish a 6 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant in Odisha?

- [A] ArcelorMittal (Luxembourg)

[B] POSCO Group (South Korea)

[C] Nippon Steel (Japan)

[D] Baosteel (China)

Correct Answer: B [POSCO Group (South Korea)]

Explanation:

- **The Deal:** JSW Steel Limited finalized a 50:50 JV with South Korea's **POSCO Group** to establish a greenfield **6 MTPA integrated steel plant** in Odisha.
- **Corporate Structure:** As part of the transaction architecture, the POSCO Group will acquire substantial equity shares in JSW's specialized subsidiary, **Saffron Resources Private Limited**. The alliance pairs India's massive domestic infrastructure demand with South Korea's high-end steel production tech.

Q10. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the creation of the 'Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)' to buffer escalating marine shipping costs. What is the value of the sovereign guarantee backed to this pool?

[A] ₹5,500 Crore

[B] ₹9,120 Crore

[C] ₹12,980 Crore

[D] ₹15,000 Crore

Correct Answer: C [₹12,980 Crore]

Explanation:

- **The Policy:** To shield Indian trade from global volatility and maritime trade disruptions, the Union Cabinet cleared the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)**.
- **The Structure:** The domestic insurance pool is fully backed by a **₹12,980 crore sovereign**

guarantee. This ensures stable maritime hull and cargo insurance coverage for Indian-flagged vessels, lowering dependency on international protection and indemnity (P&I) clubs.

Q11. Which premier market regulator relaxed operational norms for the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) in April 2026 by lowering minimum subscription limits for Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) instruments?

[A] RBI

[B] SEBI

[C] IRDAI

[D] PFRDA

Correct Answer: B [SEBI]

Explanation:

- **Regulatory Update:** The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approved a series of structural relaxations to deepen the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) ecosystem.
- **Changes:** SEBI extended the initial registration validity window for Not-for-Profit Organisations (NPOs) and systematically **lowered the minimum subscription requirements for ZCZP instruments.** This allows retail and mid-tier philanthropic funds to easily invest in verified social enterprises.

Part 4: Sports News

Q12. Who are leading the Indian shooting contingent at the prestigious ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 being held in Cairo, Egypt?

[A] Abhinav Shaw and Arjun Singh Cheema

[B] Sarabjot Singh and Anish Bhanwala

[C] Shiva Narwal and Sabeera Haris



[D] Manu Bhaker and Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar

Correct Answer: C [Shiva Narwal and Sabeera Haris]

Explanation:

- **The News:** Elite junior shooters **Shiva Narwal** and **Sabeera Haris** have been selected to lead India's contingent at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 in Cairo.
- **Profiles:** Shiva Narwal gained prominence after winning gold in the 10m air pistol team event at the 2023 Asian Games, while Sabeera Haris won a bronze medal in the mixed trap event at the 2025 ISSF World Cup. Their appointments reflect India's deep talent pool in international precision shooting sports.

Q13. Narayana Ramachandran (N. Ramachandran), who passed away recently, was a highly influential sports administrator. He formerly served as the National President of which apex sports body?

- [A] Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)
- [B] Indian Olympic Association (IOA)
- [C] All India Football Federation (AIFF)
- [D] Hockey India

Correct Answer: B [Indian Olympic Association (IOA)]

Explanation:

- **Obituary:** Renowned sports administrator **N. Ramachandran** passed away at the age of 78 in Chennai.
- **Legacy:** He was a major figure in Indian sports governance, serving as the **President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) from 2014 to 2017** and as the Patron/President of the World Squash

Federation (WSF). He was awarded the Olympic Order in 2014 for his contributions to the regional development of sports.

Part 5: Appointments & Resignations

Q14. In a major departure from traditional bureaucratic practices, who has been appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh?

- [A] Harsh Vardhan Shringla
- [B] Dinesh Trivedi
- [C] Mukul Roy
- [D] Jawhar Sircar

Correct Answer: B [Dinesh Trivedi]

Explanation:

- **The Appointment:** Former Union Railway Minister and veteran political leader **Dinesh Trivedi** has been officially designated as India's next High Commissioner to Bangladesh.
- **Strategic Shift:** This appointment marks a notable shift from the traditional practice of selecting career Indian Foreign Service (IFS) diplomats for critical neighboring desks. The political appointment highlights New Delhi's intent to deploy high-level political diplomacy to manage cross-border relations.

Q15. Dr. Ch. Sanjeeva Rao has been appointed to a senior administrative leadership role within the Indian Parliamentary machinery. Which position does he now occupy?

- [A] Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha
- [B] Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha
- [C] Additional Secretary to the Vice President

[D] Chief Vigilance Officer of Parliament

Correct Answer: B [Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha]

Explanation:

- **The Appointment:** The Hon'ble Chairman of the Rajya Sabha appointed **Dr. Ch. Sanjeeva Rao** as the **Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha**.
- **Profile:** A 1993-batch officer of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, Dr. Rao brings over three decades of internal legislative experience to the role, having previously served as Additional Secretary and Joint Secretary within the upper house administration.

Part 6: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

Q16. Which Indian botanist received the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) National Award at the National ECHO Youth Innovation Summit 2026 for developing an AI-powered invasive plant detection application?

- [A] Dr. Madhav Gadgil
- [B] Alim Yusuf
- [C] Dr. K. Kasturirangan
- [D] Sunita Narain

Correct Answer: B [Alim Yusuf]

Explanation:

- **The Award:** Kerala-based young botanist **Alim Yusuf** won the prestigious **WWF National Award** at the National ECHO Youth Innovation Summit in Hyderabad.
- **The Innovation:** Yusuf was recognized for developing an AI-powered mobile application titled "**NeophyteID**". Developed at the Malabar Botanical Garden and Institute for Plant Sciences (MGBIPS) in

Kozhikode, the app uses an advanced Machine Learning architecture (YOLOv11) to instantly identify approximately 100 invasive plant species affecting local ecosystems.

Q17. Which Indian actress was honored with the prestigious South Asian 'Person of the Year' award by the Harvard University South Asian Association (SAA) in April 2026?

- [A] Alia Bhatt
- [B] Sayani Gupta
- [C] Priyanka Chopra
- [D] Radhika Apte

Correct Answer: B [Sayani Gupta]

Explanation:

- **The Honor:** Bollywood actress **Sayani Gupta** was named the South Asian '**Person of the Year**' by the Harvard University South Asian Association.
- **Recognition:** The annual award recognizes individuals whose work significantly influences global perceptions of South Asian talent, representation, and independent storytelling across the arts, public service, and activism.

Q18. Who was crowned the winner of the 61st edition of the Femina Miss India 2026 beauty pageant held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha?

- [A] Nikita Porwal
- [B] Sadhvi Satish Sail
- [C] Rajnandini Pawar
- [D] Sini Shetty

Correct Answer: B [Sadhvi Satish Sail]

Explanation:

- **The Pageant:** The grand finale of Femina Miss India 2026 was hosted in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **The Winner: Sadhvi Satish Sail**, representing the state of Goa, was crowned **Femina Miss India 2026**, succeeding previous titleholder Nikita Porwal. Rajnandini Pawar from Maharashtra secured the first runner-up position.

Q19. A new cultural anthology titled "Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India," which showcases India's diverse traditions and hidden tourism destinations, was launched by which personality?

- [A] PM Narendra Modi
- [B] NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery
- [C] Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- [D] External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar

Correct Answer: B [NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery]

Explanation:

- **The Book Launch:** Suman Bery, the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, officially launched the cultural anthology titled "**Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India**". The volume serves as a strategic documentation of India's living intangible heritage, micro-festivals, and eco-tourism potential to support the 'Dekho Apna Desh' framework.

Part 7: Defense, Science & Technology

Q20. Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan formally flagged off the "Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0." What is the nature and track of this high-altitude military-civilian event?

[A] A 500-km desert cycling marathon along the Longewala border

[B] A 113-km high-altitude endurance expedition across the Char Dham corridor

[C] A 50-km deep-sea diving exercise off the Andaman coast

[D] A 250-km winter skiing challenge in Gulmarg

Correct Answer: B [A 113-km high-altitude endurance expedition across the Char Dham corridor]

Explanation:

- **The Event:** CDS General Anil Chauhan flagged off the **Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0** at Badrinath, Uttarakhand.
- **The Track:** It is a gruelling **113-kilometer high-altitude endurance expedition** organized by the Indian Army in partnership with IconMetrix. Running across the Char Dham corridor, it covers three sacred Kedar regions: Kalpeshwar, Rudranath, and Tungnath.
- **Scheme Link:** Executed under the government's **Vibrant Village Programme**, the challenge aims to map new heritage trails, promote adventure tourism, and generate local employment in remote border outposts.

Q21. In April 2026, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted its second milestone test flight for the Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Mission at Sriharikota. What is the name of this test?

[A] TV-D1 Pad Abort Test

[B] Integrated Air Drop Test-02 (IADT-02)

[C] Reusable Launch Vehicle Test (RLV-LEX-3)

[D] Crew Module Recovery Trial-04

Correct Answer: B [Integrated Air Drop Test-02 (IADT-02)]

Explanation:

- **The Space Milestone:** ISRO successfully completed the **second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02)** at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- **The Mechanism:** The test utilized an Indian Air Force heavy-lift aircraft to drop a simulated 5-tonne Gaganyaan Crew Module from a high altitude. It verified the multi-stage parachute deployment sequences, apex cover separation, and deceleration dynamics necessary to safeguard Indian astronauts during their final re-entry phase.

Q22. Which premium technology institute has established the "Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence for AI-Enabled Geological and Mining Systems" to deploy artificial intelligence in India's mining sector?

- [A] IIT Bombay
- [B] IIT Kharagpur
- [C] IIT Madras
- [D] ISM Dhanbad

Correct Answer: B [IIT Kharagpur]

Explanation:

- **The Launch:** IIT Kharagpur has set up the specialized *Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence for AI-Enabled Geological and Mining Systems*.
- **Core Mandate:** The apex research node will focus heavily on deploying deep learning algorithms for advanced mineral exploration, automated mine safety planning, predictive maintenance of heavy machinery, and real-time ESG

(Environmental, Social, and Governance) analytics across public and private mining concessions in India.

Q23. In a major boost to the domestic semiconductor industry, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified the establishment of India's first commercial chip fabrication plant as an SEZ. Which company is setting up this plant at Dholera, Gujarat?

- [A] Foxconn India Semiconductor
- [B] Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited (TSMPL)
- [C] Vedanta Electronics Limited
- [D] Larsen & Toubro Advanced Technologies

Correct Answer: B [Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited (TSMPL)]

Explanation:

- **The Milestone:** The Ministry of Commerce and Industry officially notified the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) status for India's first mega chip fabrication plant.
- **Key Stats:** Built by TSMPL (a subsidiary of the Tata Group) at the **Dholera SEZ in Gujarat**, the facility involves a massive investment of **₹91,000 crore**. It marks India's entry into commercial front-end semiconductor wafer manufacturing.

Part 8: Government Schemes & MoUs

Q24. The Ministry of Textiles unveiled a new global promotional initiative titled "Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World" during an event in Bhubaneswar. This scheme aligns with which operational framework?

- [A] National Technical Textiles Mission

[B] 5F Framework (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign)

[C] SAMARTH Scheme Phase-2

[D] PM MITRA Park Allocation

Correct Answer: B [5F Framework (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign)]

Explanation:

- **The Initiative:** The Ministry of Textiles launched “**Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World**” at a cultural showcase in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- **Mandate:** The initiative aims to elevate Indian handloom heritage onto global luxury platforms by integrating traditional handloom weaves with contemporary international design. It highlights 30 distinct heritage weaves from various states, aligning with the Prime Minister's **5F framework** to accelerate textile export volumes.

Q25. To drive India's comprehensive artificial intelligence strategy, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) constituted the "IndiaAI Governance Executive Group (AIGEG)". Who is the designated Chairperson of this apex group?

[A] S. Krishnan (Secretary, MeitY)

[B] Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister, MeitY)

[C] Jitin Prasada (MoS, MeitY)

[D] B. Ravindran (IIT Madras)

Correct Answer: B [Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister, MeitY)]

Explanation:

- **The Governance Framework:** MeitY formed the **IndiaAI Governance Executive Group**

(**AIGEG**) to supervise the structural roll-out of the IndiaAI Mission.

- **The Leadership Structure:** The group is chaired by the Union Minister for Electronics & IT, **Ashwini Vaishnaw**. Minister of State Jitin Prasada serves as the Vice Chairperson, while MeitY Secretary S. Krishnan acts as the Member Convener. The body coordinates policy guidelines on AI data privacy, computed hardware access, and safe algorithmic deployments.

Q26. The Union Government expanded the scope of the "Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (RELIEF)" scheme to buffer MSME exporters against regional shipping instability. Which two nations were added as newly eligible destination regions?

[A] UAE and Saudi Arabia

[B] Egypt and Jordan

[C] South Africa and Kenya

[D] Greece and Italy

Correct Answer: B [Egypt and Jordan]

Explanation:

- **The Policy Update:** The Ministry of Commerce expanded the **RELIEF** Scheme framework.
- **New Geographies:** **Egypt and Jordan** have been officially added as eligible destinations.
- **Scheme Benefits:** Operated via the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC), the RELIEF scheme provides small-and-medium exporters with specialized maritime insurance coverage, emergency freight cost reimbursements, and relaxed export credit terms to shield them from high logistics costs caused by regional supply chain friction.

Part 2: Environment, Art, Culture & Important Days

Q27. Every year on April 18, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and ICOMOS commemorate World Heritage Day. What was the official global theme for the year 2026?

- [A] Heritage and Climate Change Resilience
- [B] Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures
- [C] Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters
- [D] Discover and Experience Cultural Diversity

Correct Answer: C [Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters]

Explanation:

- **The Day: World Heritage Day** (International Day for Monuments and Sites) is celebrated every year on **April 18**.
- **2026 Theme:** The theme for 2026 is "Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters".
- **Focus:** The global campaign highlights the urgent need to protect intangible traditions, local folklore, and historical monuments in regions vulnerable to climate disasters and geopolitical conflict.

Q28. During a major cultural event in Mumbai, Nishita Yogesh Antarkar was formally crowned "Miss Sake India 2026." What is the primary purpose behind this unique cultural selection?

- [A] To promote Indian organic wine exports to Europe
- [B] To popularize Japanese sake culture and strengthen India-Japan cultural ties

[C] To act as a brand ambassador for India's Ministry of AYUSH

[D] To lead a nationwide anti-addiction public awareness campaign

Correct Answer: B [To popularize Japanese sake culture and strengthen India-Japan cultural ties]

Explanation:

- **The Event:** Trained Kathak dancer and business owner **Nishita Yogesh Antarkar** won the title of **Miss Sake India 2026** during the third edition of the cultural pageant held in Mumbai.
- **Bilateral Context:** Organized by Hirohama India, the platform selects a cultural ambassador to represent India globally, focusing on exploring shared culinary traditions, tourism networks, and deepening bilateral cultural ties between India and Japan.

Q29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mandya (popularly known as the "Sugar City") in Karnataka and jointly released a commemorative book titled 'Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram'. Who co-authored/released this work alongside the PM?

- [A] Siddaramaiah (CM of Karnataka)
- [B] H. D. Deve Gowda (Former Prime Minister)
- [C] Thawarchand Gehlot (Governor of Karnataka)
- [D] Basavaraj Bommai (Former CM)

Correct Answer: B [H. D. Deve Gowda (Former Prime Minister)]

Explanation:

- **The Event:** During a development visit to Mandya, Karnataka, PM Narendra Modi

presented a 9-point citizen-driven development agenda for "Viksit Karnataka".

- **Book Release:** At the event, PM Modi, along with former Prime Minister **H. D. Deve Gowda**, jointly released the book titled '**Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram**' at the Sri Adichunchanagiri Mutt. The book details the philosophical and spiritual traditions of these ancient Sanskrit hymns.

Q30. The National Fire Service Week in India concluded on April 20, 2026. What was the official nationwide awareness theme adopted for the 2026 campaign?

- [A] Fire Prevention through Digital Automation
- [B] Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention
- [C] Industrial Fire Safety and Risk Mitigation Protocols
- [D] Learn Fire Safety, Prevent Major Disasters

Correct Answer: B [Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention]

Explanation:

- **The Event:** In India, National Fire Service Week is observed annually from **April 14 to April 20** to honor the firemen who lost their lives during the historic Bombay Dock explosion of 1944.
- **2026 Theme:** The campaign operated under the official theme: "**Safe School, Safe Hospital & Fire Safety Aware Society – Together for Fire Prevention**". It focuses on conducting audits and fire safety drills across schools, medical centers, and public high-rise residential complexes.

Key Takeaway for Revision

For aspirants tracking current affairs trends, the events of April 20, 2026, highlight three major themes:

1. **Infrastructure Modernization & Tech Alliances:** India's push into semiconductor manufacturing (Tata Dholera SEZ) and international tech alliances (Pax Silica).
2. **Innovative Finance:** The rise of specialized financing models, such as the World Bank's Step-Up Loan (SuL) for Rajasthan and SEBI's Social Stock Exchange relaxations.
3. **Strategic Legal/Administrative Moves:** Notable policy and structural updates, including the Punjab Sacrilege Bill and political appointments to critical diplomatic posts.