

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the new "Comprehensive Deportation Policy for Illegal Migrants" formulated by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in April 2026:

1. It mandates all states to set up a district-level Special Task Force (STF) to detect and deport undocumented migrants.
2. The policy emphasizes that members of the same family should not be separated and must be housed together during the deportation process.

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) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) rolled out a comprehensive deportation policy to streamline the identification, detention, and deportation of illegal overstaying foreign nationals (primarily from neighboring countries like Bangladesh and Myanmar). Under this, a district-level STF is mandated to maintain a real-time ledger and submit monthly status reports. Crucially, on humanitarian grounds, the framework prohibits the separation of family units during administrative detention.

Q2. In April 2026, which state legislative assembly unanimously passed the 'Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill,

2026' providing up to life imprisonment for acts of sacrilege?

- A) Haryana
- B) Punjab
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: B) Punjab

Explanation:

The Punjab Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the *Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026*. It significantly stiffens the penal provisions enacted in previous iterations of desecration laws. For standard cases of sacrilege, the punishment ranges from 7 to 20 years with heavy fines. In instances involving criminal conspiracy intended to disrupt communal harmony, the law awards a minimum of 10 years extending to life imprisonment. All offenses under this amendment are categorized as cognizable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable.

Q3. South Korean President Lee Jae Myung arrived in New Delhi in April 2026 on a high-profile State Visit. Consider the following statements regarding India-South Korea relations:

1. This visit marked the formal conclusion of a Joint Strategic Vision under their Special Strategic Partnership.
2. The bilateral engagements heavily focused on advanced semiconductor manufacturing, technology transfers, and defense infrastructure supply chains.

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) Both 1 and 2

Explanation:

President Lee Jae Myung's official state visit to India culminated in both nations adopting a Joint Strategic Vision document to broaden their defense, supply chain, and clean energy footprints. The partnership capitalizes on South Korea's world-class engineering, manufacturing prowess, and advanced chip architectures, integrating them into India's growing industrial ecosystems and electronics production initiatives.

Q4. Chancellor Christian Stocker visited India in mid-April 2026, marking a significant milestone in bilateral relations. He is the head of government of which nation?

- A) Germany
- B) Austria
- C) Switzerland
- D) Belgium

Answer: B) Austria

Explanation:

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker visited India on an official state invite from PM Narendra Modi. This represents the first visit by an Austrian Chancellor to India in 42 years. The bilateral meetings resulted in the operationalization of a Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) to catalyze bilateral investments, alongside signing pacts spanning defense cooperation, skill development, counter-terrorism, and food safety standards.

Q5. Due to escalating geopolitical friction in West Asia in April 2026, several Gulf countries announced projects to expand pipelines and

maritime infrastructure to bypass which critical global choke point?

- A) Strait of Malacca
- B) Bab-el-Mandeb
- C) Strait of Hormuz
- D) Suez Canal

Answer: C) Strait of Hormuz

Explanation:

The Strait of Hormuz carries roughly 20% of the world's liquefied natural gas (LNG) and petroleum supplies. Amid volatile geopolitical conflicts involving regional powers, Gulf nations like Saudi Arabia and the UAE are expanding cross-country pipeline corridors leading directly toward the Red Sea or other coastal outlets to insulate global oil trade routes from any operational cutoff or blockade in the Strait.

Q6. A landmark study published in *BMJ Global Health* in April 2026 evaluated the economic impact of tobacco consumption across India. According to the study, approximately what percentage of Indian households could move up to a higher economic class by quitting tobacco?

- A) 5%
- B) 10%
- C) 20%
- D) 25%

Answer: B) 10%

Explanation:

The joint study by researchers from ICMR-NICPR and TISS revealed that approximately 10.6% (around 20.49 million) of Indian households could systematically transition to a higher economic stratum simply by diverting expenditure from tobacco products to nutrition, education, and healthcare. The study



highlighted that the poorest rural households bear the sharpest economic burn, dedicating over 6% of their total monthly income to tobacco products.

Part 2: Economics, Banking, and Corporate Affairs

Q7. In April 2026, which country emerged as India's top source of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows for the April–December period of the current fiscal year, according to data from the DPIIT?

- A) Mauritius
- B) USA
- C) Singapore
- D) UAE

Answer: C) Singapore

Explanation:

Data released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) confirmed that Singapore maintained its pole position as the leading origin of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) equity inflows into India, clocking USD 17.6 billion during the April–December window. It outpaced other competitive jurisdictions and traditional tax havens.

Q8. The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a domestic insurance pool called the 'BMI Pool' with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore. What does 'BMI' stand for?

- A) Bharat Micro Insurance
- B) Bharat Maritime Insurance
- C) Bureau of Monetary Investments
- D) Banking Sector Mutual Indemnity

Answer: B) Bharat Maritime Insurance

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet cleared the establishment of the *Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI Pool)* backed by a ₹12,980 crore sovereign guarantee. The strategic move aims to shield Indian trade vessels from exorbitant global premium hikes and arbitrary coverage dropouts enforced by foreign protection and indemnity clubs, especially along high-risk, volatile maritime corridors.

Q9. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) regulations in April 2026. What is the revised minimum investment threshold for retail investors participating in Social Impact Funds via the Social Stock Exchange (SSE)?

- A) ₹10,000
- B) ₹5,000
- C) ₹1,000
- D) ₹50,000

Answer: C) ₹1,000

Explanation:

To foster grass-roots retail participation within the Social Stock Exchange (SSE) eco-system, SEBI drastically trimmed the minimum ticket investment size required for social impact AIFs from the older limit of ₹2 lakh down to just ₹1,000. This step democratizes impact investing, channeling small public savings into certified non-profit and social welfare enterprises.

Q10. In April 2026, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) appointed whom as its Acting Director General to lead its primary investigative arm?

- A) Ansuman Pattanaik
- B) Rakesh Bhanot

- C) Ravneet Kaur
- D) Sanjay Verma

Answer: B) Rakesh Bhanot

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India officially designated financial analyst and veteran advisor Rakesh Bhanot as the Acting Director General. He steps into the shoes of Ansuman Pattanaik, who transitioned into the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as an Additional Secretary. Bhanot specializes in handling high-stakes cartel investigations and complex anti-trust corporate litigation.

Q11. According to recent trade assessments for the completed fiscal cycle, which nation has consolidated its position as India's largest overall trading partner based on the cumulative value of total trade imports and exports?

- A) USA
- B) United Arab Emirates
- C) China
- D) Saudi Arabia

Answer: C) China

Explanation:

Despite targeted domestic manufacturing pushes, China solidified its position as India's largest trading partner based on total volume metrics (exports plus imports). While India's exports to China remain modest, heavy domestic reliance on Chinese Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs), telecom hardware, solar panels, and specialized industrial components drove up import values.

Part 3: Government Schemes and Policies

Q12. The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III). What is the newly revised extension deadline and the updated financial outlay?

- A) March 2027; ₹75,000 crore
- B) March 2028; ₹83,977 crore
- C) December 2029; ₹90,000 crore
- D) June 2028; ₹80,250 crore

Answer: B) March 2028; ₹83,977 crore

Explanation:

The Union Cabinet formally extended the timeline of PMGSY-III from its earlier limit to March 2028 for completing rural roads and bridges across plain and hilly stretches (with certain specialized hill bridge works getting a buffer until March 2029). To ensure unhindered connectivity between rural habitations, primary healthcare units, and Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), the fiscal allocation was raised to ₹83,977 crore.

Q13. The Ministry of Textiles recently introduced a unique craft-empowerment initiative titled "Vishwa Sutra". What is the core design philosophy anchoring this project?

- A) Training 50,000 women in modern synthetic textile milling
- B) Reimagining 30 traditional Indian handloom weaves drawing design inspiration from 30 different countries
- C) Completely subsidizing electric power looms across North-Eastern states



D) Setting up 10 mega textile hubs across coastal special economic zones

Answer: B) Reimagining 30 traditional Indian handloom weaves drawing design inspiration from 30 different countries

Explanation:

Launched via the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and NIFT, the *Vishwa Sutra* ("Weaves of India for the World") initiative works on a '30×30' structural template. It takes 30 foundational indigenous Indian handloom weaves and fuses them with design aesthetics, motifs, and silhouettes inspired by 30 distinct nations. The goal is to elevate rural women artisans into global high-fashion networks under the '5F' (Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign) national framework.

Q14. The Ministry of Power and the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) released India's long-term nuclear power roadmap. What is the target nuclear power capacity India aims to achieve by the year 2047?

- A) 25 GW
- B) 50 GW
- C) 100 GW
- D) 150 GW

Answer: C) 100 GW

Explanation:

CEA Chairman Ghanshyam Prasad announced that India has codified an ambitious roadmap to raise its base nuclear power generation from the current level of approximately 8.8 GW up to 100 GW by 2047. This tenfold scaling incorporates a combination of domestic Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs), international collaboration for large-scale facilities, and

modular Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) to feed clean baseload electricity into the national grid.

Q15. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) is rolling out draft rules to officially introduce a separate fuel category to curb crude oil import bills. Which fuel variant is being introduced?

- A) M15 Fuel
- B) E85 Fuel
- C) Hydrogen-H2O Blend
- D) Compressed Bio-Butane

Answer: B) E85 Fuel

Explanation:

Following the nationwide rollout of E20 (20% ethanol blending), the government has initiated legislative groundwork via draft notifications to bring **E85 fuel** (an advanced blend consisting of up to 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline) into commercial distribution. The rollout targets flex-fuel passenger vehicles and specialized engines to leverage domestic grain and sugarcane agricultural surplus.

Part 4: Science, Technology, and Environment

Q16. According to a long-term ecological simulation study mapping climate trajectories, carbon storage capacity in India's forests is projected to nearly double by which year?

- A) 2050
- B) 2075
- C) 2100
- D) 2150

Answer: C) 2100

Explanation:

An environmental modeling study indicated that India's net forest carbon stock could climb significantly (by 35% to 97%) by the year 2100, driven by shifting rainfall distributions and elevated carbon fertilization in arid/semi-arid woodland patches. However, environmentalists cautioned that higher carbon stocks do not automatically translate to improved biodiversity or ecosystem health due to concurrent climate stressors and uniform plantation risks.

Q17. Which state in India has achieved a national milestone by becoming the absolute first to design and systematically execute a comprehensive "Marine Spatial Plan" (MSP) to manage its blue economy?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Kerala
- C) Odisha
- D) Tamil Nadu

Answer: C) Odisha

Explanation:

Odisha pioneered the domestic execution of Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). This framework provides a data-driven spatial structure that balances multi-sectoral coastal demands—such as artisanal fishing, commercial shipping routes, offshore renewable energy installations, and delicate marine conservation setups (like olive ridley nesting zones)—preventing usage conflicts and ensuring sustainable coastal management.

Q18. Scientists are increasingly testing "Gene Drive" technology to combat vector-borne diseases across vulnerable belts in India. What is the primary operational mechanism of a Gene Drive in malaria eradication?

- A) Spraying genetically engineered plant proteins over stagnant wetlands
- B) Modifying hereditary mechanisms using CRISPR to ensure a specific targeted gene is passed down to nearly 100% of offspring, either suppressing population numbers or making vectors immune to parasites
- C) Developing synthetic vaccines that alter human white blood cells
- D) Using industrial sound waves to disrupt mosquito mating cycles

Answer: B) Modifying hereditary mechanisms using CRISPR to ensure a specific targeted gene is passed down to nearly 100% of offspring, either suppressing population numbers or making vectors immune to parasites

Explanation:

Gene Drive technology bypasses traditional Mendelian inheritance rules. By leveraging precision gene-editing tools like CRISPR, scientists alter mosquito genomes so that a specific trait (such as female infertility or resistance to the *Plasmodium* malaria parasite) is universally inherited by all subsequent generations. This can selectively collapse local disease-carrying vector populations or block transmission chains.

Q19. In a move to enhance passenger safety and prevent accidental falls from moving commuter coaches, the Indian Railways recently introduced closed-door, non-AC EMU rakes. These advanced train configurations were primarily rolled out for which operational segment?

- A) High-speed Bullet Train corridors
- B) Long-distance luxury Rajdhani routes
- C) Suburban and short-distance passenger routes catering to daily commuters

D) Freight and heavy industrial logistics corridors

Answer: C) Suburban and short-distance passenger routes catering to daily commuters

Explanation:

To eliminate the high casualty rate associated with passengers falling from open doorways of overcrowded suburban trains, Indian Railways designed non-AC closed-door EMUs. These coaches utilize automatic sliding doors linked directly to the train's braking systems, ensuring the locomotive cannot pull out of a station platform unless all doors are securely locked, all while preserving standard ventilation channels for cost-effective mass transit.

Part 5: Awards, Honors, Appointments, and Sports

Q20. Who was honored with the prestigious 11th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award in April 2026 for outstanding global contributions to climate-resilient agriculture and natural resource management?

- A) Dr. Rattan Lal
- B) Professor Himanshu Pathak
- C) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
- D) Dr. Mahalingam Govindaraj

Answer: A) Dr. Rattan Lal

Explanation:

World-renowned soil scientist and World Food Prize laureate Dr. Rattan Lal was conferred with the 11th Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Award by former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu. The honor recognizes Dr. Lal's decades of research into soil carbon sequestration, conservation agriculture practices, and sustainable food security models that help farming communities adapt to volatile global climate cycles.

Q21. Indian film *Boong* made international headlines by securing a major accolade at the 2026 British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards. This film primary highlights the cultural landscape and socio-political nuances of which Indian state?

- A) Assam
- B) Manipur
- C) Nagaland
- D) Meghalaya

Answer: B) Manipur

Explanation:

The critically acclaimed cinematic masterpiece *Boong*, directed by Lakshmipriya Devi, clinched a historic win at the 2026 BAFTA awards, placing Northeast Indian regional cinema on the global map. The story follows the journey of a young boy in Manipur and explores themes of childhood, identity, and the social fabric of the border state.

Q22. In sports, who became the first Indian woman cyclist to complete a historic expedition to the Mount Everest Base Camp in April 2026?

- A) Deborah Herold
- B) Sabita Mahato
- C) Preeti Maske
- D) Mahitha Mohan

Answer: B) Sabita Mahato

Explanation:

Cyclist and mountaineer Sabita Mahato achieved a milestone by becoming the first Indian woman to cycle successfully up to the grueling altitude of the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal. The expedition tested physical endurance across high-altitude terrain,

promoting sustainable adventure sports and female representation in extreme cycling.

Q23. Who among the following technology scholars from India was appointed as a prominent expert to the newly reconstituted United Nations High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence in early 2026?

- A) Professor B. Ravindran
- B) Dr. Arogyaswami Paulraj
- C) Nandan Nilekani
- D) Dr. Vinton Cerf

Answer: A) Professor B. Ravindran

Explanation:

Professor B. Ravindran, the head of the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI) at IIT Madras, was appointed to the United Nations High-Level Advisory Body on AI. His role focuses on global AI governance architectures, mitigating algorithmic bias, and ensuring developing economies have equitable access to safe, open-source machine learning frameworks.

Part 6: Art, Culture, Festivals, and Days

Q24. Every year, India celebrates National Civil Services Day on 21 April. What is the historical significance associated with this specific date?

- A) It marks the day the first Indian civil servant, Satyendranath Tagore, cleared the imperial exam
- B) It commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's historic 1947 address to the first batch of administrative probationers at Metcalfe House, where he referred to civil servants as the "steel frame of India"

C) It marks the day the Union Public Service Commission was formally incorporated into the Indian Constitution

D) It is the birth anniversary of administrative reformer Lord Ripon

Answer: B) It commemorates Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's historic 1947 address to the first batch of administrative probationers at Metcalfe House, where he referred to civil servants as the "steel frame of India"

Explanation:

April 21 is celebrated nationwide as Civil Services Day to honor the contributions of administrative officers to the nation's governance. On this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of independent India's civil servants at Metcalfe House, Delhi, calling them the "steel frame" tasked with maintaining national integration and driving public welfare. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has organized this event annually since 2006.

Q25. In April 2026, historians and cultural organizations commemorated the historic 500-year anniversary of which defining military conflict that shaped the medieval architectural and political landscape of Northern India?

- A) First Battle of Tarain
- B) First Battle of Panipat
- C) Battle of Khanwa
- D) Battle of Plassey

Answer: B) First Battle of Panipat

Explanation:

April 21, 1526, marked the **First Battle of Panipat**, where Babur defeated the forces of Ibrahim Lodi, bringing an end to the Delhi



Sultanate and establishing the Mughal Empire in India. April 21, 2026, marks exactly 500 years since this event. This anniversary prompted academic symposia and cultural exhibitions examining its impact on military technology (such as the introduction of gunpowder artillery to the region) and subsequent architectural developments.

Q26. Which prominent 8th-century Indian philosopher, theologian, and consolidator of the Advaita Vedanta school of non-dualism was widely commemorated across various traditional cultural centers on 21 April 2026?

- A) Ramanujacharya
- B) Madhvacharya
- C) Adi Shankaracharya
- D) Basaveshwara

Answer: C) Adi Shankaracharya

Explanation:

Born in Kalady, Kerala, Adi Shankaracharya traveled across the Indian subcontinent to propagate **Advaita Vedanta** (which posits the absolute oneness of the individual soul, Atman, with the ultimate reality, Brahman). Cultural institutions commemorated his philosophical contributions, his commentaries on the Prasthanatrayi (Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, and Brahma Sutras), and his establishment of the four foundational mathas at Sringeri, Puri, Dwaraka, and Badrinath.

Q27. The state government of Meghalaya recently accorded official state language status to which indigenous languages alongside English?

- A) Khasi and Garo
- B) Jaintia and Mizo
- C) Bodo and Karbi

D) Lepcha and Bhotia

Answer: A) Khasi and Garo

Explanation:

In a major step for cultural preservation, the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly finalized legal formalities to accord official language status to **Khasi and Garo** within the state administration. This addresses a long-standing local demand and strengthens documentation, linguistic preservation, and localized governance in the tribal hill councils.

Part 7: Books, Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), and Obituaries

Q28. India and Austria signed several bilateral Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in April 2026. Which of the following sectors was NOT part of the signed agreements?

- A) Audio-visual co-production and cultural exchange
- B) Food safety and standardizations
- C) Deep-sea polymetallic nodule mining
- D) Counter-terrorism intelligence sharing and defense training

Answer: C) Deep-sea polymetallic nodule mining

Explanation:

During the 17th session of the India–Austria Joint Economic Commission (IAJEC) held in New Delhi, the two nations signed a range of MoUs covering audio-visual co-production, food safety frameworks, defense collaborations, and vocational skill-mapping. Austria, a landlocked European nation, is not involved in deep-sea polymetallic mining ventures with India.



Q29. A new biographical study titled *The Architect of the Green Revolution*, which details the administrative hurdles, policy shifts, and agricultural breakthroughs of independent India, was released in April 2026. This book centers on the life of which individual?

- A) Dr. Verghese Kurien
- B) Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
- C) C. Subramaniam
- D) Baba Amte

Answer: B) Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

Explanation:

Released to coincide with modern agricultural policy reviews, *The Architect of the Green Revolution* explores the life, scientific research, and policy advocacy of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan. The narrative documents his work during the food crises of the 1960s, his collaborations with Norman Borlaug, and his long-term focus on guaranteeing fair pricing and sustainable practices for smallholder farmers.

Q30. On 21 April 2026, the scientific community held a memorial service for an eminent Indian space scientist who passed away earlier in the month, honoring his work on India's early remote-sensing satellite payloads and communication transponders. Who was this pioneer?

- A) Dr. K. Kasturirangan
- B) Dr. Pramod Kale
- C) Dr. UR Rao
- D) Dr. G. Madhavan Nair

Answer: B) Dr. Pramod Kale

Explanation:

Dr. Pramod Kale was an early pioneer of ISRO who worked closely with Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

during the foundational years of India's space program. He made significant contributions to the landmark Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) project and the development of INSAT and IRS satellite architectures. His career helped shape India's modern telecommunications and earth-observation capabilities.