

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. On April 22, 2026, the global community observed the 56th anniversary of Earth Day. What is the official global theme designated for Earth Day 2026?

- A) Planet vs. Plastics
- B) Our Power, Our Planet
- C) Invest in Our Planet
- D) Restore Our Earth

Answer: B) Our Power, Our Planet

Explanation: April 22, 2026, marks the 56th anniversary of Earth Day, celebrated globally since its inception in 1970. The 2026 theme, "Our Power, Our Planet," emphasizes civic mobilization, local community innovation, and accelerating the transition to clean, decentralized renewable energy. It focuses on human agency and public action to safeguard ecosystems.

Q2. Aligarh district's Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary has been officially designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site. This inclusion elevates the total number of Ramsar sites in which state to 12?

- A) Bihar
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) West Bengal

Answer: C) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced that the Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 99th Ramsar Site under the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. This increases Uttar Pradesh's

total count of Ramsar sites to 12. Shekha Jheel is a critical stopover on the Central Asian Flyway.

Q3. In April 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) proposed an amendment to the IT Rules. What is its primary focus?

- A) Banning the usage of all non-custodial cryptocurrency wallets
- B) Introducing stricter compliance, mandatory watermarking, and source-tracing for AI-generated synthetic content
- C) Regulating cross-border e-commerce transactions under digital escrow
- D) Mandatory facial authentication for creating standard email accounts

Answer: B) Introducing stricter compliance, mandatory watermarking, and source-tracing for AI-generated synthetic content

Explanation: To curb the unchecked proliferation of hyper-realistic deepfakes and algorithmic misinformation, MeitY proposed an amendment to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules. The rules mandate that any AI-generated text, image, or video must carry an immutable, machine-readable digital watermark, and intermediaries must trace the original creator of such synthetic alterations.

Q4. India and Germany convened a high-level bilateral meet in April 2026 to formalize a key strategic roadmap. What is the central pillar of this newly aligned partnership?

- A) Setting up a joint space lab in the Andaman Sea
- B) Deepening the Defence-Industrial Partnership for co-developing advanced conventional submarines and military propulsion hardware

C) Eliminating double taxation on digital gaming applications

D) Establishing a sovereign rare-earth mineral reserve in Bavaria

Answer: B) Deepening the Defence-Industrial Partnership for co-developing advanced conventional submarines and military propulsion hardware

Explanation: India and Germany signed a comprehensive Defence-Industrial Partnership roadmap to transition from a buyer-seller relationship to joint engineering and manufacturing. Germany is India's largest trading partner in the European Union, with bilateral trade exceeding \$50 billion. The pact focuses on technology transfers for conventional submarines (under Project-75I) and advanced aircraft engines.

Q5. The Supreme Court-appointed National Board for Wildlife (SC-NBWL) ordered an ecological assessment to balance wildlife protection with the traditional rights of which specific demographic group?

A) Deep-sea artisanal fishermen in the Gulf of Mannar

B) Pastoralists and nomadic herders dependent on protected forestlands

C) Shifting cultivators practicing Jhum farming in Mizoram

D) Forest dwellers extracting tendu leaves in Bastar

Answer: B) Pastoralists and nomadic herders dependent on protected forestlands

Explanation: The SC-NBWL ordered a multi-disciplinary study to formalize access arrangements for traditional pastoral communities navigating protected forest reserve perimeters. This development aligns

with the United Nations declaring 2026 as the **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists**, highlighting the ecological role played by nomadic grazing practices.

Q6. The first phase of the rollout for the upcoming Census 2027 commenced across eight States and UTs. What are the names of the two official digital mascots unveiled for this exercise?

A) Suraksha and Pragati

B) Pragati and Vikas

C) Digital Bharat and Sankalp

D) Aadhaar and Unnati

Answer: B) Pragati and Vikas

Explanation: The Ministry of Home Affairs announced the preliminary rollout of the field methodology for Census 2027, featuring India's first-ever digital data capture and self-enumeration framework. The secure web-based portal is operational in 16 regional languages, and the government unveiled two animated mascots, "Pragati" (Progress) and "Vikas" (Development), to lead the public awareness campaigns.

Part 2: Economics, Banking, and Corporate Affairs

Q7. According to a performance ledger released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, which commodity export from India reached an all-time record high in valuation during the last fiscal cycle?

A) Finished leather goods

B) Seafood exports

C) Synthetic cotton yarn

D) Indigenous defense avionics

Answer: B) Seafood exports

Explanation: India's seafood exports touched an all-time record high, driven by a sharp rise in frozen shrimp and processed fish shipments to the United States, China, and the European Union. Enhanced infrastructure subsidies via the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and strict quality control adherence helped consolidate India's global market position.

Q8. Which public sector installation under the Western Railway Zone was officially recognized as India's first "Water Neutral" railway depot?

- A) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad
- B) Borivali EMU Car Shed, Mumbai
- C) Hazrat Nizamuddin Depot, Delhi
- D) Shalimar Maintenance Yard, Kolkata

Answer: A) Kankaria Coaching Depot, Ahmedabad

Explanation: The Kankaria Coaching Depot under the Ahmedabad Division of Western Railway achieved complete water neutrality. By leveraging an advanced wastewater treatment methodology known as **Phytoremediation** (using specialized plants to extract and neutralize pollutants), the depot recycles and reuses its entire washing discharge, saving approximately 1.60 lakh liters of fresh water daily.

Q9. The board of HDFC Life Insurance officially approved a leadership extension for which corporate executive to continue serving as its Managing Director and CEO?

- A) Vibha Padalkar
- B) Keki Mistry
- C) Deepak Parekh
- D) Renuka Ramnath

Answer: A) Vibha Padalkar

Explanation: extended the tenure of Vibha Padalkar as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company. Under her leadership, the insurer expanded its digital distribution networks and managed structural transitions following corporate mergers within the HDFC ecosystem.

Q10. A major global technology transition was finalized as John Ternus was announced to succeed Tim Cook. He will take over as the CEO of which technology company?

- A) Microsoft
- B) Alphabet Inc.
- C) Apple Inc.
- D) Intel Corporation

Answer: C) Apple Inc.

Explanation: In a major corporate leadership transition, John Ternus is set to succeed Tim Cook as the Chief Executive Officer of Apple Inc., effective September 1, 2026. Tim Cook will transition into the role of Executive Chairman of the Board. This marks a new era for the tech giant, which holds a market valuation exceeding \$4 trillion.

Q11. Which Indian financial infrastructure platform signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) to co-develop the next iteration of cross-border retail payment corridors?

- A) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- B) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)
- C) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC)
- D) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Answer: B) Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)

Explanation: The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI, entered into a strategic pact with the BIS Innovation Hub. The partnership aims to build open-source blueprints for connecting diverse national instant payment systems (like India's UPI) using central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and advanced liquidity bridges, reducing cross-border remittance costs.

Part 3: Government Schemes, Policies, and State News

Q12. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched an initiative that has been nominated for the prestigious global WSIS Prizes 2026 under the "Enabling Environment" category. What is the name of this initiative?

- A) Samridh Gram Initiative
- B) Bharat Net Pro
- C) Gramin Wi-Fi Kranti
- D) Digital Chaupal

Answer: A) Samridh Gram Initiative

Explanation: The DoT's **Samridh Gram Initiative** has earned international recognition with a nomination at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2026. Financed via the Telecom Technology Development Fund (TTDF) and anchored on BharatNet's FTTH broadband connectivity, this initiative deploys a 'Phygital' model through *Samridhi Kendras* (one-stop service centers) to bring digital health, e-governance, and e-education directly to rural gram panchayats.

Q13. The Meghalaya Cabinet approved the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026. This landmark legal reform repeals an older

2005 Act to grant full official state language status to which two indigenous languages?

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

Answer: A) Khasi and Garo

Explanation: By exercising powers conferred under Article 345 of the Constitution of India, the Meghalaya Cabinet approved the *Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026*. This historic step grants full official status to **Khasi and Garo** alongside English, repealing the Meghalaya State Language Act of 2005, which had previously relegated these native indigenous tongues to the status of "associate" languages.

Q14. The Gujarat Police department introduced a specialized artificial intelligence tool to improve investigation quality and conviction rates in drug-related crimes. What is the name of this AI platform?

- A) DRUG-TRACK AI
- B) NARIT-AI
- C) KHOJ-NARC
- D) CAUGHT-AI

Answer: B) NARIT-AI

Explanation: To address low conviction rates in narcotics cases caused by procedural errors and documentation lapses during field raids, the Gujarat Police operationalized **NARIT-AI**. This platform guides investigating officers through real-time legal checklists under the NDPS Act, automates chain-of-custody logging for seized contraband, and cross-references multi-state criminal databases.



Q15. The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), announced the establishment of India's first-ever dedicated "Petroglyph Conservation Park". Where is this park being set up?

- A) Bhimbetka, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Sindhu Ghat (Leh), Ladakh
- C) Hampi, Karnataka
- D) Edakkal, Kerala

Answer: B) Sindhu Ghat (Leh), Ladakh

Explanation: India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park is being established at Sindhu Ghat in Leh, Ladakh, running alongside the Indus River. Archaeologists have mapped over 400 prehistoric rock-art sites in the area, featuring ancient hunting scenes, animal iconography, and early epigraphs carved in Sanskrit, Chinese, and Arabic scripts. The park will institutionalize protection for these vulnerable open-air heritage sites.

Part 4: Science, Technology, and Environment

Q16. India's semiconductor ecosystem reached a milestone with the approval of its first "3D Glass Packaging" semiconductor manufacturing facility under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). In which state is this facility being established?

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

Answer: C) Odisha

Explanation: While initial mega-fabs focused on Gujarat and Assam, the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) expanded its footprint by

approving India's first state-of-the-art **3D Glass Packaging** semiconductor facility in Odisha. Glass substrates are replacing traditional silicon or organic packages in high-performance computing because they offer superior thermal stability, higher interconnect density, and better energy efficiency for AI microchips.

Q17. According to global energy transition statistics published in April 2026, India's clean energy surge achieved a milestone in solar capacity addition, outpacing which major global economy's annual additions for the first time?

- A) Germany
- B) United States of America
- C) Japan
- D) Australia

Answer: B) United States of America

Explanation: Driven by aggressive deployment mandates, utility-scale desert installations, and solar rooftop pushes, India added an unprecedented ~38 GW of solar capacity in a single cycle. This surge pushed India's annual solar additions ahead of the United States for the first time, reflecting a shift in global renewable infrastructure expansion.

Q18. A landmark judicial accountability question emerged in April 2026 following the resignation of a high court judge during an ongoing inquiry. The removal procedure of a judge of a High Court or the Supreme Court in India is initiated under which constitutional provisions?

- A) Article 72 and Article 161
- B) Article 124(4) and Article 217
- C) Article 143 and Article 226
- D) Article 105 and Article 194

Answer: B) Article 124(4) and Article 217

Explanation: The resignation of Justice Yashwant Varma during an active probe raised questions about accountability mechanisms. Under Article 124(4) (for Supreme Court judges) and Article 217 (for High Court judges), a judge can be removed by an order of the President passed after an address by each House of Parliament supported by a special majority, following a formal investigation under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.

Q19. In environmental science, researchers are tracking the widespread contamination of "PFAS" across water bodies. Why are PFAS colloquially referred to as "forever chemicals"?

- A) They can multiply infinitely when exposed to standard sunlight
- B) They possess highly stable carbon-fluorine bonds that resist natural chemical, physical, and biological degradation processes, allowing them to persist in the environment for centuries
- C) They are made from fossilized radioactive isotopes
- D) They remain permanently glowing when dissolved in saline water

Answer: B) They possess highly stable carbon-fluorine bonds that resist natural chemical, physical, and biological degradation processes, allowing them to persist in the environment for centuries

Explanation: Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are synthetic chemicals used since the 1940s in waterproof coatings, firefighting foams, and non-stick cookware. Because the carbon-fluorine bond is one of the strongest in organic chemistry, these compounds do not break down naturally. They bioaccumulate in aquatic life and have been detected in over 45% of tap water systems globally, posing long-term health risks.

Part 5: Defense, Appointments, and Sports

Q20. Who among the following military officers officially assumed charge as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army in April 2026?

- A) Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth
- B) Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani
- C) Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi
- D) Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar

Answer: A) Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth

Explanation: Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth officially took over as the Vice Chief of the Indian Army, succeeding the previous incumbent. Prior to this appointment, Lt Gen Seth served as the Southern Army Commander and has commanded the strike corps and prestigious armored formations, bringing extensive operational expertise to army headquarters.

Q21. The Indian Navy commissioned 'INS Taragiri' into active fleet service. INS Taragiri is the fourth stealth platform built under which capital warship acquisition project?

- A) Project 15B (Visakhapatnam-class)
- B) Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)
- C) Project 28 (Kamorta-class)
- D) Project 75 (Kalvari-class)

Answer: B) Project 17A (Nilgiri-class)

Explanation: INS Taragiri, a guided-missile stealth frigate displacing approximately 6,670 tonnes, was commissioned into the Indian Navy. Designed by the Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), it is the fourth ship of Project 17A (Nilgiri-class). These warships feature advanced radar suppression geometry, indigenous surface-to-air missile

configurations, and integrated anti-submarine suites.

Q22. The Indian Navy inducted its third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) developed under the secretive Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project. What is the name of this submarine?

- A) INS Aridhaman
- B) INS Vagir
- C) INS Khanderi
- D) INS Karanj

Answer: A) INS Aridhaman

Explanation: The Indian Navy strengthened its strategic nuclear triad with the induction of **INS Aridhaman**, the country's third indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). Developed under the ATV project following its predecessors, INS Arihant and INS Arighaat, INS Aridhaman is larger, carries longer-range K-series submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), and features advanced reactor configurations.

Q23. In sports, who became India's 95th chess Grandmaster (GM) by successfully crossing the required 2500 Elo rating threshold and securing his final GM norm?

- A) Aronyak Ghosh
- B) Bharath Subramaniam
- C) Aditya Mittal
- D) Pranesh M

Answer: A) Aronyak Ghosh

Explanation: Aronyak Ghosh became India's 95th Grandmaster after crossing the definitive 2500 Elo rating barrier and fulfilling his final GM norm requirements at an international tournament. This milestone reflects the growing

depth of India's talent pool in global chess, following icons like India's first GM, Viswanathan Anand.

Q24. Major international headlines were made in global intelligence circles as Roman Gofman was appointed as the new chief of which country's premier external intelligence agency?

- A) CIA (USA)
- B) MI6 (United Kingdom)
- C) Mossad (Israel)
- D) KGB (Russia)

Answer: C) Mossad (Israel)

Explanation: Roman Gofman was appointed as the head of Mossad, Israel's national intelligence agency. His appointment comes during a period of complex regional security challenges and shifting geopolitical alignments in West Asia, tasking him with steering the agency's external covert intelligence operations and strategic security protocols.

Part 6: Art, Culture, Festivals, and Days

Q25. April 22 is globally observed as Earth Day. Which historical event or catalyst directly inspired U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson to organize the very first Earth Day in the year 1970?

- A) The signing of the Montreal Protocol
- B) The 1969 devastating Santa Barbara oil spill and massive student anti-war protests
- C) The publication of Charles Darwin's journal
- D) The Chernobyl nuclear accident

Answer: B) The 1969 devastating Santa Barbara oil spill and massive student anti-war protests



Explanation: The idea for the first Earth Day was conceived by Senator Gaylord Nelson after witnessing the environmental destruction caused by the massive 1969 oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Realizing he could fuse the momentum of student anti-war protests with public concern over air and water pollution, he organized a nationwide environmental teach-in on April 22, 1970, which led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Air Act.

Q26. The Ministry of Textiles, along with NIFT, expanded the "Vishwa Sutra Initiative". What is the foundational objective of this cultural project?

- A) Creating a centralized online portal for tracking synthetic yarn prices
- B) Fusing 30 traditional, diverse Indian handloom weaves with design motifs and aesthetics inspired by 30 different global nations to elevate indigenous weavers to international platforms
- C) Completely replacing traditional handlooms with automated solar looms within three months
- D) Imposing a blanket ban on silk imports from East Asia

Answer: B) Fusing 30 traditional, diverse Indian handloom weaves with design motifs and aesthetics inspired by 30 different global nations to elevate indigenous weavers to international platforms

Explanation: The *Vishwa Sutra* initiative, executed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) and the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, centers on the Prime Minister's '5F' (Farm to Fibre to Fabric to Fashion to Foreign) vision. By cross-pollinating 30 indigenous Indian weaves with international design aesthetics, the project aims to place rural

handloom products on global high-fashion runways.

Q27. The annual 'Thrissur Pooram' festival, celebrated in April, features a vibrant cultural display of percussion ensembles, caparisoned elephants, and parasol exchanges. In which state is this festival celebrated?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Andhra Pradesh
- D) Karnataka

Answer: B) Kerala

Explanation: Thrissur Pooram is held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple in Thrissur, Kerala. Formulated by Sakthan Thampuran (the Maharaja of Cochin) in the late 18th century, it features friendly competition between the two temple groups—Thiruvambadi and Paramekkavu—manifested through the *Kudamattom* (rhythmic exchange of colorful umbrellas) and the *Elanjithara Melam* (traditional orchestra).

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

Q28. The second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited was delivered to the Indian Navy. What is the historical significance of its name, 'INS Malwan'?

- A) It is named after a mountain peak in the Himalayas where a critical radar post sits
- B) It draws its name from a historic coastal town in Maharashtra linked to the maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

C) It is named after the first naval chief of independent India

D) It honors an ancient Indus Valley port discovered near Lothal

Answer: B) It draws its name from a historic coastal town in Maharashtra linked to the maritime heritage of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

Explanation: The delivery of INS Malwan marks progress in the Navy's shallow-water defense capabilities. Measuring 80 meters and displacing 1,100 tons, the vessel is engineered for anti-submarine warfare in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine-laying missions. Its name honors the historic fort town of Malwan in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra, celebrating the legacy of the Maratha Navy.

Q29. A new book tracking independent India's space diplomacy and strategic global alignments, titled *Orbiting Autonomy: India's Space Leap and the Global Order*, was released in late April 2026. Who authored this work?

A) Dr. S. Somanath

B) Ambassador Shivshankar Menon

C) Dr. A. R. Upadhyaya

D) Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma

Answer: D) Dr. Amit Kumar Sharma

Explanation: The book *Orbiting Autonomy* analyses how India moved away from a reliance on foreign launch facilities to establish itself as a provider of commercial satellite launch services. It examines the country's space program through a geopolitical lens, charting transitions from early technological sanctions to participating in global space governance frameworks.

Q30. The scientific and environmental community held a commemorative tribute for environmental activist and author Dr. Robert Bullard, who passed away recently. Dr. Bullard was widely recognized across the globe as the father of which environmental movement?

A) The Deep Ecology Movement

B) The Environmental Justice Movement

C) The Chipko Movement

D) The Greenbelt Movement

Answer: B) The Environmental Justice Movement

Explanation: Dr. Robert Bullard passed away leaving a legacy as the undisputed "Father of Environmental Justice." His research in the late 1970s and 1980s exposed how toxic waste facilities, chemical plants, and heavy industrial landfills were disproportionately placed near low-income communities and minority neighborhoods. His work institutionalized the global framework that access to a clean, safe, and unpolluted environment is a fundamental human right.