

Part 1: National & International News

Q1. A rare, fanged, mud-nesting frog species named *Limnonectes motijheel* was discovered by Indian scientists in April 2026. In which protected area was this discovery made?

- A) Kaziranga National Park, Assam
- B) Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand
- D) Periyar National Park, Kerala

Answer: B) Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation: Indian herpetologists discovered a unique species of fanged frog, *Limnonectes motijheel*, inside the dense, low-elevation evergreen canopy of the Namdapha Tiger Reserve in Arunachal Pradesh. A distinguishing characteristic of this species is its reproductive ecology: unlike typical amphibians that lay eggs directly in open water bodies, *Limnonectes motijheel* constructs specialized mud nests beneath dense leaf litter on the forest floor to incubate its eggs, protecting them from predators.

Q2. In April 2026, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) notified a 408.7 square kilometer area around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). This sanctuary is located in which state?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Assam
- D) Rajasthan

Answer: B) Uttar Pradesh

Explanation:

The MoEFCC issued a final gazette notification declaring 408.7 sq. km around the Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh as an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ). This notification restricts heavy industrialization, commercial mining, and polluting projects within the perimeter. The primary goal is to preserve the fragmented alluvial grassland corridors crucial for the survival of the swamp deer (*Rucervus duvaucelii*), or Barasingha, alongside local tribal communities.

Q3. The 7th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan was convened in April 2026 to enhance bilateral trade logistics. Where did this high-level summit take place?

- A) Thimphu, Bhutan
- B) Munnar, Kerala
- C) Guwahati, Assam
- D) New Delhi

Answer: B) Munnar, Kerala

Explanation: The 7th Joint Group of Customs (JGC) meeting between India and Bhutan was held in Munnar, Kerala. It served as a vital institutional mechanism to streamline cross-border land custom stations, introduce electronic data interchanges (EDI), and advance border trade infrastructure. A key operational highlight was intelligence sharing under the ongoing anti-smuggling framework named 'Operation Numkhor', led by the Commissionerate of Customs (Preventive), Kochi.

Q4. Archaeologists recently discovered a prehistoric sky-observation structure at the ancient archaeological site of Áspero. In which country is this Late Preceramic site located?

- A) Peru

- B) Greece
- C) Egypt
- D) Mexico

Answer: A) Peru

Explanation: Áspero is a well-known coastal Late Preceramic site belonging to the Norte Chico (Caral-Supe) civilization in Peru, recognized as one of the oldest civilizations in the Americas (flourishing before 3000 BC to 1800 BC). The discovery of an early astronomical sky-observation platform highlights their advanced spatial planning, understanding of solstices, and architectural coordination linked to fishing and agricultural cycles.

Q5. The Santiaguito Volcano, which experienced continuous minor explosions venting smoke and ash in April 2026, is an active dome complex located in which country?

- A) Indonesia
- B) Italy
- C) Guatemala
- D) Iceland

Answer: C) Guatemala

Explanation: Santiaguito is a highly active complex of lava domes located in western Guatemala, near the city of Quetzaltenango. It formed inside the massive trench left by the historic 1902 eruption of the Santa María Volcano. The dome complex has grown continuously since 1922 and is characterized by persistent, minor dacitic explosions, pyroclastic flows, and ash emissions monitored closely by central American volcanologists.

Part 2: Economics, Banking, and Corporate Affairs

Q6. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued a draft regulation in April 2026 to introduce 'Market Coupling' across the Indian power sector. What is the primary objective of this reform?

- A) Completely privatizing state-owned hydro-power plants
- B) Transitioning from a decentralized system to a single, centralized price benchmark to achieve 'One Grid, One Price'
- C) Levying a uniform carbon tax on solar energy developers
- D) Discontinuing the short-term open access mechanism

Answer: B) Transitioning from a decentralized system to a single, centralized price benchmark to achieve 'One Grid, One Price'

Explanation: CERC's draft market coupling regulation aims to unify the Indian electricity market. Currently, multiple power exchanges (like IEX, PXIL, and HPX) discover distinct clearing prices independently. Market coupling will pool the buy and sell bids from all exchanges into a centralized algorithm managed by a designated Market Coupling Operator. This creates a single, uniform market-clearing price across the nation, maximizing social welfare and optimizing transmission corridors.

Q7. In April 2026, which global technology enterprise partnered with Tata Steel Limited to deploy the world's first large-scale EASyMelt (Electrically Assisted Syngas Smelter) system at its Jamshedpur plant?

- A) SMS Group (Paul Wurth S.A.), Germany
- B) POSCO, South Korea
- C) Nippon Steel, Japan
- D) ArcelorMittal, Luxembourg

Answer: A) SMS Group (Paul Wurth S.A.), Germany

Explanation: Tata Steel Limited signed a definitive commercial agreement with the SMS Group (Germany) to commission the world's first industrial-scale EASyMelt blast furnace configuration at its Jamshedpur facility in Jharkhand. This technology utilizes electrical plasma superheating alongside recycled blast furnace gas synthesis to slash carbon dioxide emissions by up to 60% in primary steel production, representing a significant milestone in heavy metallurgy decarbonization.

Q8. According to trade data tracking the global supply of critical elements, which country holds the world's largest known reserves of Uranium, despite ranking fourth in terms of actual annual extraction?

- A) Kazakhstan
- B) Canada
- C) Namibia
- D) Australia

Answer: D) Australia

Explanation: Global mineral audits show Australia holds the world's largest identified reserves of Uranium, accounting for roughly 28% of the global resource base. However, due to strict state-level regulatory policies and environmental mandates, its actual output ranks fourth. Kazakhstan remains the world's leading producer of uranium, followed by Canada and Namibia. Within India, Andhra Pradesh holds the largest share (~50%) of identified domestic uranium deposits.

Q9. The State Bank of India (SBI) announced its corporate blueprint to grow its total business balance sheet to equal what percentage of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by the year 2030?

- A) 15%
- B) 20%
- C) 25%
- D) 30%

Answer: C) 25%

Explanation: To match India's economic growth trajectory, India's largest public sector lender, State Bank of India (SBI), announced a strategic roadmap to scale its assets and cumulative balance sheet size to represent 25% of India's projected GDP by 2030. This expansion will be driven by localized digital credit delivery platforms, infrastructure lending, and rural co-wealth integrations.

Q10. In April 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced an advanced, unified e-mandate architecture. This framework primarily aims to streamline which banking service?

- A) Direct cash withdrawals from micro-ATMs
- B) Automatic, recurring electronic payment processing across diverse merchant applications
- C) Cross-border physical gold trade clearings
- D) Real-time settlement of bad loans under IBC

Answer: B) Automatic, recurring electronic payment processing across diverse merchant applications

Explanation: The RBI revamped e-mandate guidelines to simplify recurring transaction processing (such as insurance premiums, utility bills, and mutual fund SIPs). The unified system allows users to manage, alter, or revoke multi-platform standing instructions through a consolidated interface provided by their primary banking application, balancing financial security with consumer convenience.

Part 3: Government Schemes, Policies, and Governance

Q11. The Ministry of Communications recently revamped the 'Technology Development and Investment Promotion' (TDIP) Scheme. What is the financial outlay for this scheme for the 2026–2031 cycle?

- A) ₹105 crore
- B) ₹203 crore
- C) ₹500 crore
- D) ₹750 crore

Answer: B) ₹203 crore

Explanation: Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia launched the revised guidelines for the TDIP Scheme under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), allocating an outlay of ₹203 crore for the five-year block of 2026–2031. The primary objective of the scheme is to boost India's footprint in global telecom standardization bodies (such as the ITU and 3GPP). It funds technical research contributions, delegation travels, and leadership roles for Indian scholars to help steer global 6G and satellite technology frameworks.

Q12. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) notified the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Rules, 2026. Under these rules, which games are permitted?

- A) Online money gaming involving wagering and betting
- B) E-sports and purely skill-based social games with no real-money stakes
- C) Digital cryptocurrency dice rollers
- D) Unregulated fantasy leagues operated by offshore proxies

Answer: B) E-sports and purely skill-based social games with no real-money stakes

Explanation: MeitY notified the PROG Rules, 2026 (effective May 1, 2026), to operationalize the parent PROG Act, 2025. The rules strictly prohibit all forms of online money gaming, wagering, and promotional gambling advertisements. However, they establish a clear framework for registering and promoting non-real-money e-sports and competitive social games. The rules also establish a statutory two-tier grievance redressal mechanism overseen by the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI).

Q13. The Supreme Court of India directed a high-powered committee, chaired by a retired judge, to formulate a nationwide blueprint for making prisons disabled-friendly. Who is the chairperson of this committee?

- A) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat
- B) Justice D. Y. Chandrachud
- C) Justice Hima Kohli
- D) Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul

Answer: A) Justice S. Ravindra Bhat

Explanation: The Supreme Court directed a high-powered panel headed by Justice S. Ravindra Bhat to address institutional accessibility gaps in Indian prisons. The committee is tasked with designing infrastructure upgrades, assistive technology support systems, and healthcare accommodations to align detention facilities with the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, protecting the basic human dignity of disabled inmates.

Q14. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs revised the eligibility parameters for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS) for 2026. What is the newly designated age bracket under these guidelines?

- A) 16–22 years
- B) 18–25 years
- C) 21–28 years
- D) 20–30 years

Answer: B) 18–25 years

Explanation: The revised 2026 guidelines for the Prime Minister Internship Scheme adjust the eligible age bracket to 18–25 years. Additionally, final-year undergraduate and postgraduate students can now apply provided they submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their institution. The scheme offers a monthly stipend of ₹9,000 alongside a one-time operational grant of ₹6,000 to improve youth employability through direct placement opportunities within India's top 500 companies.

Part 4: Science, Technology, and Environment

Q15. Federal Express Corporation (FedEx) and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M) successfully executed India's first intra-city commercial drone delivery trial. In which city was this flight trial conducted?

- A) Chennai
- B) Bengaluru
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Pune

Answer: B) Bengaluru

Explanation: FedEx, in collaboration with the FedEx SMART Centre at IIT Madras, successfully completed India's first intra-city mid-mile drone delivery flight trial in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) validated an autonomous cargo transit route connecting Electronic City Phase II to a logistics site near Bangalore International Airport,

demonstrating the viability of drone integrations for reducing urban delivery times and carbon footprints.

Q16. The Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT Ropar) launched India's first fully integrated agricultural intelligence ecosystem. What is its main function?

- A) Providing a single window for automated tractor loans
- B) Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to deliver hyper-local predictive analytics for smart farming, pest detection, and water management
- C) Developing genetically modified wheat strains
- D) Standardizing prices for chemical fertilizers

Answer: B) Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to deliver hyper-local predictive analytics for smart farming, pest detection, and water management

Explanation: IIT Ropar developed and launched India's first integrated Agricultural Intelligence Ecosystem. This AI-powered platform processes data from internet-of-things (IoT) soil sensors, satellite imagery, and regional weather stations to provide farmers with predictive alerts on crop health, soil moisture anomalies, and localized pest infestations, supporting water conservation and chemical optimization.

Q17. In medical science, World Haemophilia Day is observed to raise awareness about inherited bleeding disorders. What is the genetic inheritance pattern of Hemophilia A and B?

- A) Autosomal Dominant
- B) X-linked Recessive
- C) Y-linked Chromosomal
- D) Mitochondrial DNA-based

Answer: B) X-linked Recessive

Explanation: Hemophilia A (Factor VIII deficiency) and Hemophilia B (Factor IX deficiency) are inherited as X-linked recessive disorders. The defective genes are located on the X chromosome. Because males possess only one X chromosome (XY), inheriting a single defective copy results in the condition. Females (XX) typically act as asymptomatic carriers unless both of their X chromosomes carry the mutation.

Q18. NASA's planetary exploration vehicle, the Curiosity Rover, celebrated a milestone of continuous data transmission from Mars. In which Martian landscape feature did Curiosity land?

- A) Jezero Crater
- B) Gale Crater
- C) Olympus Mons
- D) Valles Marineris

Answer: B) Gale Crater

Explanation: NASA's Curiosity Rover landed inside the Gale Crater on Mars on August 6, 2012. Its core mission is to determine if Mars ever possessed environmental conditions capable of supporting microbial life. The newer Perseverance Rover, by contrast, operates inside the Jezero Crater to search for ancient signs of biosignatures.

Part 5: Defense, Appointments, and Sports

Q19. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a capital procurement contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics India to source 'TRAWL Assemblies'. This hardware is integrated into which defense asset?

- A) Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles
- B) T-72 and T-90 Main Battle Tanks
- C) Stealth Guided Frigates
- D) Unmanned Fighter Jets

Answer: B) T-72 and T-90 Main Battle Tanks

Explanation: The MoD finalized a domestic procurement contract for TRAWL Assemblies designed for the Indian Army's T-72 and T-90 Main Battle Tanks. Developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), a TRAWL assembly is a heavy mechanical attachment mounted to the front of a tank. It clears safe paths through active minefields by detonating or displacing buried anti-tank mines, protecting the armored column during advances.

Q20. The Goldman Environmental Prize 2026 announced its annual list of laureates, recognizing grassroots environmental champions. What makes the 2026 group unique in the history of the prize?

- A) Every winner is under the age of 18
- B) It features an unusual all-women group of six environmentalists from six geographic regions
- C) All projects focused exclusively on space debris removal
- D) Winners were selected through a global online public voting system

Answer: B) It features an unusual all-women group of six environmentalists from six geographic regions

Explanation: The 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize (often called the Green Nobel) made history by honoring an all-women cohort of six grassroots organizers. These laureates were recognized for leading community-driven efforts to protect ecosystems against illegal

logging, plastic pollution, and industrial encroachment across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Islands, North America, and South and Central America.

Q21. The Indian Navy's specialized diving support and submarine rescue vessel arrived at the port of Colombo in April 2026 to join joint bilateral exercises. What is the name of this ship?

- A) INS Nireekshak
- B) INS Kalvari
- C) INS Vikrant
- D) INS Sharda

Answer: A) INS Nireekshak

Explanation: INS Nireekshak arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to conduct joint diving training operations with the Sri Lanka Navy. Outfitted with deep-submergence rescue vehicles (DSRVs), decompression chambers, and specialized dynamic positioning systems, the ship helps strengthen maritime safety, search-and-rescue interoperability, and India's 'MAHASAGAR' security vision for the Indian Ocean Region.

Q22. The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup 2026, which provides a global platform for young competitive shooting talent, commenced in April 2026. Which city is hosting this tournament?

- A) New Delhi, India
- B) Cairo, Egypt
- C) Baku, Azerbaijan
- D) Munich, Germany

Answer: B) Cairo, Egypt

Explanation: The ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 opened in Cairo, Egypt, drawing top junior marksmen from across the globe. India fielded a sizable contingent across rifle, pistol, and shotgun categories, in line with its ongoing focus on developing youth shooting sports ahead of major international competitions.

Q23. World Para Athletics officially designated the host city for the prestigious 2027 Para Athletics Championships. Which city has secured the hosting rights?

- A) Kobe, Japan
- B) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- C) Paris, France
- D) Dubai, UAE

Answer: B) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Explanation: World Para Athletics announced that Tashkent, Uzbekistan, will host the 2027 Para Athletics Championships. This marks the first time the premier para-athletics event will be held in Central Asia, supporting sports infrastructure development and accessibility across the region.

Part 6: Art, Culture, Festivals, and Days

Q24. Every year, UNESCO coordinates global observations for World Book and Copyright Day on April 23. Which city has been designated as the World Book Capital for the year 2026?

- A) Strasbourg, France
- B) Rabat, Morocco
- C) Guadalajara, Mexico
- D) Accra, Ghana

Answer: B) Rabat, Morocco

Explanation: UNESCO designated **Rabat, Morocco**, as the World Book Capital for 2026. Observed annually on April 23, World Book and Copyright Day honors literary figures like William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes. Rabat was selected for its commitment to literacy expansion, local publishing development, and digital library access programs. The designated theme for the South African celebrations is "*Read, Make Your Star Shine.*"

Q25. April 23 is celebrated annually as English Language Day under a United Nations initiative. This date is chosen to mark both the birth and death anniversary of which writer?

- A) Geoffery Chaucer
- B) William Shakespeare
- C) Charles Dickens
- D) John Milton

Answer: B) William Shakespeare

Explanation: English Language Day was established by the UN Department of Global Communications in 2010 to celebrate multilingualism and cultural diversity. April 23 was selected because it is traditionally recognized as the birth and death anniversary of William Shakespeare. To mark the 2026 occasion, the UN Movie Society presented the 3rd Annual "*Shakespeare at the UN*" project, featuring multilingual performances of his plays to highlight shared human values.

Q26. A new plant species characterized by a bell-shaped, bluish-purple flower and a distinct yellow tongue-like patch inside, named *Stauranthera aureoglossa*, was discovered in April 2026. In which state was this species found?

- A) Sikkim

- B) Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Mizoram

Answer: B) Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation: Botanists discovered *Stauranthera aureoglossa*, a new perennial herb species, growing on damp rocks near streams in the Kamle and Upper Subansiri districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The specific epithet "*aureoglossa*" translates to "golden tongue," describing the prominent yellow patch inside its bluish-purple flower. The discovery underscores the rich plant biodiversity of the Eastern Himalayan ecosystem.

Part 7: Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), Birth/Death Anniversaries

Q27. Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan visited Sri Lanka in April 2026. During this state visit, India announced the completion of Phase III of which development project?

- A) Jaffna Cultural Centre Infrastructure
- B) Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses for estate workers)
- C) Trincomalee Oil Tank Farm Revamping
- D) Mannar Wind Power Transmission Line

Answer: B) Indian Housing Project (4,000 houses for estate workers)

Explanation: During Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan's official visit to Colombo, India and Sri Lanka signed multiple MoUs on healthcare and community development. Key announcements included the completion of Phase III of the Indian Housing Project, which constructed 4,000 homes for estate workers in plantation areas, alongside an expansion of the

Ceylon Estate Workers Education Trust (CEWET) scholarship program.

Q28. April 23, 2026, marks the death anniversary of legendary Indian filmmaker Satyajit Ray, who passed away on this day in 1992. In which year was he awarded the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor?

- A) 1985
- B) 1992
- C) 1999
- D) 2001

Answer: B) 1992

Explanation: Satyajit Ray, renowned for cinematic masterpieces like the *Apu Trilogy* and *Charulata*, received both an Academy Honorary Award (Oscar) for lifetime achievement and the Bharat Ratna in 1992, shortly before his passing on April 23. His work helped introduce Indian cinema to the global stage.

Q29. On April 23, 1858, a historic Indian freedom fighter passed away due to injuries sustained while fighting British forces during the 1857 rebellion. Who was this leader, often called the 'Lion of Bihar'?

- A) Kunwar Singh
- B) Tantia Tope
- C) Mangal Pandey
- D) Nana Saheb

Answer: A) Kunwar Singh

Explanation: Veer Kunwar Singh, the zamindar of Jagdispur (modern-day Bhojpur district, Bihar), led resistance forces during the Indian Rebellion of 1857. At nearly 80 years of age, he recorded victories against British troops using guerrilla warfare tactics. He succumbed to injuries on April 23, 1858, and is remembered

for his military leadership during the early freedom struggle.

Q30. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued rules in April 2026 introducing 'Truck Mounted Attenuators' (TMAs). What is the primary purpose of this safety device?

- A) Automatically measuring truck weight to prevent overloading at toll plazas
- B) Absorbing and dissipating kinetic energy during a collision to protect maintenance workers and vehicle occupants in road work zones
- C) Monitoring exhaust emissions using laser diagnostics
- D) Providing satellite-based navigation tracking for commercial fleets

Answer: B) Absorbing and dissipating kinetic energy during a collision to protect maintenance workers and vehicle occupants in road work zones

Explanation: MoRTH mandated the deployment of Truck Mounted Attenuators (TMAs) on slow-moving or stationary highway maintenance vehicles. A TMA is a energy-absorbing structural cushion fitted to the rear of a truck. In the event of a high-speed collision, it collapses structurally to absorb the impact force, protecting road crews working ahead of the vehicle and reducing injuries for the occupants of the striking vehicle.