

Part 1: International & National News

Q1. South Korean President Lee Jae-myung concluded a crucial 3-day state visit to India in April 2026. This visit is highly significant because it marks the first state visit by a South Korean President to India in how many years?

- A) 3 years
- B) 5 years
- C) 8 years
- D) 10 years

Correct Answer: C [8 years]

- **Explanation:** South Korean President Lee Jae-myung paid a high-profile state visit to India from April 19 to 21, 2026, which was widely summarized in policy reviews on April 24. This marked the first state visit by a South Korean head of state to New Delhi in 8 years. Accompanied by First Lady Kim Hea Kyung and a high-level business delegation, the visit aimed at upgrading the bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and bolstering supply chain resilience against global disruptions.

Q2. During the recent India-South Korea bilateral state visit concluded in April 2026, the two nations signed 16 critical Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). Which of the following areas was designated as a core focus sector for digital economy resilience?

- A) Space Tourism
- B) Deep-sea Mining
- C) Semiconductor Ecosystems
- D) Quantum Encryption Keys

Correct Answer: C [Semiconductor Ecosystems]

- **Explanation:** Out of the 16 crucial agreements signed between India and South Korea during President Lee Jae-myung's visit, a substantial emphasis was laid on creating a robust bilateral semiconductor ecosystem, green technology, and advanced manufacturing. Given South Korea's global dominance in memory chips (via giants like Samsung and SK Hynix) and India's Semicon India program, this collaboration seeks to integrate India into the global electronics supply chain.

Q3. In April 2026, India formally expressed its structural intent to host which upcoming edition of the Asian Games by officially approaching the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)?

- A) 2030
- B) 2034
- C) 2038
- D) 2042

Correct Answer: C [2038]

- **Explanation:** India has formally reached out to the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) to express structural interest in hosting the **2038 Asian Games**. This long-term sports diplomacy project is strategically designed to run parallel to and bolster India's ongoing bid to host the **2036 Summer Olympic Games**, showcasing infrastructural readiness, fiscal backing, and a growing domestic multi-sport culture.

Q4. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued comprehensive notices to the Central and State governments in April 2026 regarding private schools violating education norms. Which specific section of the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009, was cited as being violated due to non-adherence to NCERT/SCERT curriculum frameworks?

- A) Section 12
- B) Section 21
- C) Section 29
- D) Section 35

Correct Answer: C [Section 29]

- **Explanation:** The NHRC took serious note of complaints that several elite private educational institutions are discarding standard NCERT/SCERT textbooks in favor of commercial private publishers, driving up costs and violating educational equity. **Section 29 of the RTE Act, 2009**, explicitly lays down the curriculum and evaluation procedure, stating that the curriculum must be laid down by an academic authority authorized by the government (like NCERT/SCERT) to ensure standardized, stress-free, and inclusive education.

Q5. A critical report flagged by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on April 24, 2026, highlighted severe gaps in welfare implementation for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs). In which historical year was the infamous Criminal Tribes Act (1871) officially repealed, leading to these tribes being "de-notified"?

- A) 1947
- B) 1950
- C) 1952
- D) 1956

Correct Answer: C [1952]

- **Explanation:** De-notified Tribes (DNTs) are communities that were systematically branded as "born criminals" by the British colonial government under the draconian Criminal Tribes Act of 1871. Post-independence, the Government of India

officially **repealed this Act in 1952**, transforming them into "De-notified" tribes. The 2026 report flags that these communities still suffer from deep systemic stigma, lack basic caste/community certificates, and face massive administrative delays in gaining housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G).

Q6. According to satellite-monitored global data analyzed by environmental agencies in April 2026, major open landfills in which two Indian metropolitan cities were categorized among the top global "Methane Super Polluters"?

- A) Delhi and Kolkata
- B) Mumbai and Hyderabad
- C) Bengaluru and Chennai
- D) Ahmedabad and Pune

Correct Answer: B [Mumbai and Hyderabad]

- **Explanation:** Advanced satellite monitoring tools (such as Carbon Mapper) tracked immense, concentrated plumes of methane gas emanating from large-scale, unmanaged municipal solid waste dumps in **Mumbai and Hyderabad**. Methane (CH_4) is a short-lived climate pollutant but possesses a global warming potential 25 to 28 times more potent than carbon dioxide (CO_2) over a 100-year horizon, making landfill management a key priority for India's climate goals.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate Affairs

Q7. Which private fintech infrastructure company became the first-ever non-banking financial entity to be granted direct membership into the Reserve Bank of India's Centralised Payment System (CPS) for RTGS and NEFT?



- A) Razorpay
- B) PayPoint India
- C) PhonePe
- D) Pine Labs

Correct Answer: B [PayPoint India]

- **Explanation:** In a groundbreaking structural shift for India's digital financial architecture, **PayPoint India** became the first private fintech firm to successfully onboard into the RBI's Centralised Payment System (CPS). Traditionally, fintechs had to rely on a commercial sponsor bank to route their Real-Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT) transactions. Direct access drastically reduces operational dependency, slashes transactional latency, and minimizes systemic settlement risks.

Q8. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) in April 2026 announced a major relaxation in the eligibility criteria for the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS). What is the newly revised age bracket for eligible candidates?

- A) 21-24 years
- B) 18-25 years
- C) 18-22 years
- D) 20-26 years

Correct Answer: B [18-25 years]

- **Explanation:** To expand the horizon of skill development and make the corporate workforce more dynamic, the MCA widened the eligible age bracket for the PMIS to **18-25 years**, altering the narrow 21-24 age filter established during the pilot run. Crucially, the expansion now actively targets and permits final-year undergraduate and

postgraduate students to seamlessly enter the corporate internship pipeline.

Q9. Under the operational structure of the Prime Minister's Internship Scheme (PMIS), how is the monthly stipend of ₹5,500 structured and disbursed to the interns?

- A) Entirely paid by the host corporate firm via CSR funds
- B) Entirely paid by the Central Government via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)
- C) ₹5,000 via Government DBT and ₹500 via Company Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds
- D) Split 50:50 between the Central Government and respective State Governments

Correct Answer: C [₹5,000 via Government DBT and ₹500 via Company Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds]

- **Explanation:** The PMIS utilizes an innovative public-private co-investment financial framework. To safeguard the economic welfare of youth during their 12-month corporate immersion, a total monthly stipend of ₹5,500 is disbursed. Out of this, **₹5,000 is directly credited** to the intern's Aadhaar-seeded bank account by the government using Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), while the remaining **₹500 is mandatory co-investment** from the host company's CSR allocation.

Q10. Global rating agency Moody's recently adjusted its economic projections for India, scaling down the real GDP growth forecast for the Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) to 6%. Which macroeconomic factor was cited as the principal driver for this cautious outlook?

- A) Sudden collapse of India's agricultural exports

- B) High international crude oil prices (\$90–100 per barrel) inflating import bills
- C) Unprecedented deflation in domestic service sectors
- D) Severe contraction in digital UPI payment volumes

Correct Answer: B [High international crude oil prices (\$90–100 per barrel) inflating import bills]

- **Explanation:** Moody's revised down its FY27 real GDP forecast to **6%** due to persistent external headwinds, primarily driven by international crude prices hovering between **\$90–100 per barrel**. This structural bottleneck widens India's current account deficit (CAD), sparks imported inflation, and softens domestic discretionary consumer spending. However, the RBI remains more buoyant, keeping its baseline projections near 6.9%.

Q11. Data released by the Ministry of Textiles highlighted that India's textile exports (including handicrafts) demonstrated high global resilience, growing by 2.1% to touch which milestone figure in the Fiscal Year 2025–26?

- A) ₹1,50,450 crore
- B) ₹2,10,320 crore
- C) ₹3,16,334.9 crore
- D) ₹4,25,900 crore

Correct Answer: C [₹3,16,334.9 crore]

- **Explanation:** Despite continuous geopolitical stresses affecting major international shipping channels, India's textile sector logged a positive turnaround. Total textile exports for FY 2025–26 rose to **Base Value: ₹3,16,334.9 crore**, marking an explicit 2.1% expansion compared to the

previous fiscal year's performance of ₹3,09,859.3 crore, underscoring strong demand in non-traditional bilateral markets.

Q12. The Reserve Bank of India's Central Fraud Registry (CFR) serves as a core institutional database for commercial banking security. What is the minimum threshold limit for a banking fraud case to be mandatorily logged into the CFR?

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

Correct Answer: C [₹1 lakh and above]

- **Explanation:** The CFR is a centralized operational database maintained by the RBI to facilitate early warning signals and cross-bank verification. Commercial banks, cooperative societies, and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) are statutorily required to report any incident of financial fraud involving an amount of **₹1 lakh and above** immediately upon internal classification, allowing the banking system to isolate rogue borrowers.

Part 3: Government Schemes & Bilateral MoUs

Q13. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia released the revised operational guidelines for the Technology Development and Investment Promotion (TDIP) Scheme. What is the total financial outlay approved for this scheme over its five-year implementation block (2026–2031)?

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

D) ₹1,000 crore

Correct Answer: B [₹203 crore]

- **Explanation:** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications launched the revised TDIP guidelines with an allocated budget of **₹203 crore** spanning from 2026 to 2031. The scheme is explicitly engineered to incentivize Indian deep-tech startups, MSMEs, and academic institutions to build indigenous Intellectual Property (IP) in ultra-advanced fields like **5G Advanced and 6G infrastructure**, assuring strategic autonomy over telecom hardware.

Q14. The Ministry of Minority Affairs recently inked a high-impact Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Patna to impart specialized tech-training to 600 minority youths under which flagship Central Government scheme?

- A) PM-JANMAN
- B) PM VIKAS
- C) PM-DAKSH
- D) PM-SVAIDHI

Correct Answer: B [PM VIKAS (Pradhan Mantri Virasat Ka Samvardhan)]

- **Explanation:** Under the institutional umbrella of the **PM VIKAS** scheme, the Ministry of Minority Affairs partnered with IIT Patna to provide specialized, fully funded residential training in **Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Business Analytics** to 600 select youths from Bihar. This move represents an evolutionary shift in minority skill programs away from traditional vocational trades toward high-end, digital-economy skill sets.

Q15. Union Minister C. R. Patil launched the 9th edition of India International Water Week

(IIWW-2026). During the launch, it was announced that India has constructed over 60 lakh artificial recharge and water conservation structures, with a target to reach 1 crore structures by which fast-approaching deadline?

- A) May 2026
- B) December 2026
- C) March 2027
- D) Plan End 2030

Correct Answer: A [May 2026]

- **Explanation:** Spearheaded by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the 9th IIWW-2026 focused extensively on "Climate-Resilient Water Management." The Union Minister highlighted that under intensive community-led watershed management programs, 60 lakh artificial recharge structures have been successfully deployed, and the administrative machinery is on track to cross the **1 crore structures milestone by May 2026** to prepare for erratic monsoon cycles.

Q16. Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's NAMASTE Scheme, a sanitation worker who transitions successfully into a business owner utilizing mechanized cleaning equipment is formally termed as a:

- A) Swachh Grahi
- B) Safai Mitra
- C) Sanipreneur
- D) Eco-Vanguard

Correct Answer: C [Sanipreneur]

- **Explanation:** The **NAMASTE** Scheme (National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem) aims to achieve zero fatalities in hazardous sanitation work. A core economic pillar of this scheme is the creation of



"Sanipreneurs"—sanitation workers who are provided with capital subsidies, low-interest bank loans, and rigorous technical training to purchase specialized vacuum loaders and robotic cleaning equipment, transforming them from manual laborers into technology-driven service providers.

Part 4: Defense & Environment News

Q17. The Ministry of Defence signed a critical procurement contract worth ₹975 crore with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) and Electro Pneumatics & Hydraulics for the indigenous acquisition of "TRAWL Systems". What is the primarily designed tactical role of this hardware?

- A) Low-altitude anti-drone jamming
- B) Minefield breaching for heavy main battle tanks
- C) Deep-sea acoustic surveillance
- D) Automated satellite communications tracking

Correct Answer: B [Minefield breaching for heavy main battle tanks]

- **Explanation:** The ₹975 crore contract falls under the highest-priority **Buy (Indian-IDDMM)** defense procurement category. Developed originally by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the **TRAWL Assembly** is specialized heavy mechanical equipment attached to the front of the Indian Army's **T-72 and T-90 Main Battle Tanks**. It systematically clears path corridors through dense anti-tank minefields, allowing military columns to maneuver safely without catastrophic asset losses.

Q18. The 4th edition of the bilateral diving and maritime security exercise, IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, commenced on April 21, 2026. Which Indian Naval Ship (INS) was deployed to Colombo, Sri Lanka, to participate in this joint security framework?

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

Correct Answer: B [INS Nireekshak]

- **Explanation:** INS Nireekshak, the Indian Navy's highly specialized Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, docked at Colombo Port for **IN-SLN DIVEX 2026** (running April 21–27, 2026). The exercise focuses heavily on tactical deep-sea diving, underwater rescue, and technical maritime interdiction, aligning perfectly with India's overarching **MAHASAGAR** geopolitical vision (*Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions*) for the Indian Ocean.

Q19. In April 2026, Indian Navy's frontline patrol vessel INS Sunayna executed high-level port calls in Jakarta, Indonesia. This strategic forward deployment was carried out under which operational maritime security initiative?

- A) Exercise Malabar
- B) Operation Samudra Setu
- C) IOS SAGAR Initiative
- D) Project 75-I

Correct Answer: C [IOS SAGAR Initiative]

- **Explanation:** INS Sunayna successfully arrived in Jakarta after concluding diplomatic and operational port visits to Phuket (Thailand) and Malé (Maldives).

This deployment is part of India's **SAGAR** paradigm (*Security and Growth for All in the Region*), specifically leveraging Indian Ocean Shield (IOS) patrols to conduct joint maritime exercises, map hydrographic routes, and foster interoperability with friendly ASEAN navies.

Q20. Shekha Jheel, a vital sanctuary hosting dozens of rare migratory bird species along the Central Asian Flyway, was officially designated as a Ramsar Site in April 2026. This newly added wetland ecosystem is located in which state?

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

Correct Answer: B [Uttar Pradesh]

- **Explanation:** With the inclusion of Shekha Jheel, located in western Uttar Pradesh, the state's total Ramsar site tally climbs to 12, while India's national total reaches 99 Ramsar sites. Shekha Jheel serves as an irreplaceable wintering habitat for migratory birds (such as the Bar-headed goose and Painted stork) traveling along the Central Asian Flyway, offering a composite ecosystem of deep wetlands, floating vegetation, and surrounding grasslands.

Part 5: Science, Technology & Environment Awards

Q21. The prestigious 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize, frequently referred to as the "Green Nobel Prize," created historic institutional precedent in its latest award cycle. What made the 2026 announcement completely unique?

- A) It was awarded entirely to indigenous tribal youths under 18

B) It featured the first all-female lineup of global laureates since 1989

C) All six awardees belonged to South Asian countries

D) It was awarded exclusively for marine plastic cleaning technologies

Correct Answer: B [It featured the first all-female lineup of global laureates since 1989]

- **Explanation:** The 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize recognized six extraordinary grassroots environmental leaders from across the globe, featuring an **all-female lineup of winners** for the first time since 1989. The prize honors sustained, high-risk community activism aimed at protecting endangered biomes, fighting illegal open-cast mining, and enforcing climate litigation at the municipal level.

Q22. India's dry-cell and battery market leader, Eveready Industries India Ltd. (EIL), officially operationalized India's only active, fully indigenous alkaline battery manufacturing greenfield facility in April 2026. In which district is this plant located?

- A) Samba district, Jammu & Kashmir
- B) Latur district, Maharashtra
- C) Patna district, Bihar
- D) Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: A [Samba district, Jammu & Kashmir]

- **Explanation:** Inaugurated by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, this advanced greenfield manufacturing plant in **Samba (J&K)** represents a massive leap forward for **import substitution**. India currently imports a massive chunk of its high-drain alkaline batteries from China and Southeast Asia. Localizing end-to-end production of high-

energy-density alkaline batteries (critical for modern IoT devices and smart locks) greatly increases supply chain resilience.

Q23. In April 2026, scientists announced the discovery of three new dragonfly species in Northeast India. Two of these—the Clouded Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna nuboides*) and the Siang Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna sigotaayo*)—were discovered in which ecological zone?

- A) Karimganj, Assam
- B) Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh
- C) Khasi Hills, Meghalaya
- D) Dzukou Valley, Nagaland

Correct Answer: B [Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh]

- **Explanation:** The Clouded Boghawker and Siang Boghawker were discovered and documented around micro-wetlands in the remote **Siang Valley of Arunachal Pradesh**. Concurrently, a third species—the Long-tailed Boghawker (*Sarasaeschna dosdewaensis*)—was discovered in the Karimganj district of Assam. Dragonflies are exceptional bio-indicators of aquatic ecosystem health, and these discoveries underscore the intact biodiversity of the Indo-Burma hotspot.

Part 6: Sports, Appointments & Obituaries

Q24. In the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour tournament held at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai, which Indian player clinched the men's singles title by defeating South Korea's Jeongmin Ryu?

- A) Saurav Ghosal
- B) Mahesh Mangaonkar
- C) Suraj Kumar Chand

D) Abhay Singh

Correct Answer: C [Suraj Kumar Chand]

- **Explanation:** Playing exceptional tactical squash on his home turf at the Indian Squash Academy in Chennai, **Suraj Kumar Chand** defeated South Korea's rising star Jeongmin Ryu in a grueling final match. This remarkable victory marks the **fourth Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour title** of Suraj Kumar Chand's career, cementing his position in international rankings.

Q25. Dr. Gopalrao Patil passed away at the age of 94 in Latur, Maharashtra. Apart from being a prominent public representative who served in the Rajya Sabha from 1994 to 2000, he was highly revered nationally in which professional domain?

- A) Aerospace Engineering
- B) Paediatrics and Child Healthcare
- C) Agricultural Economics
- D) Classical Hindustani Music

Correct Answer: B [Paediatrics and Child Healthcare]

- **Explanation:** Dr. Gopalrao Patil was a highly renowned **paediatrician** who dedicated decades of his life to rural child healthcare networks in Marathwada before and during his political tenure. As a BJP Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha (1994–2000), he played an instrumental role in shaping parliamentary consultative committees on public health, railways, and commerce.

Q26. IIT Madras made a unique sports-tech push in India by introducing a fast-paced, 3-sided soccer variant on campus, hosting its first inter-college tournament. What is the official name of this game?

- A) Tri-Soccer
- B) OmegaBall
- C) DeltaFootball
- D) 3D-Kicks

Correct Answer: B [OmegaBall]

- **Explanation:** IIT Madras pioneered the formal introduction of **OmegaBall** in India. Unlike traditional football, OmegaBall is played on a circular field with **three goals and three teams** on the pitch simultaneously. There are no offsides, and the game dynamics are explicitly designed to be ultra-fast, high-scoring, and visually engaging, attracting substantial interest from sports analytics and tech enthusiasts.

Part 7: Books, Culture & Important Days

Q27. A highly discussed book released in late April 2026 titled "Do You Know Your Hinduism?" explores the deep pluralistic foundations and historical evolutions of the faith. Who is the author of this book?

- A) Shashi Tharoor
- B) Rajmohan Gandhi
- C) Amish Tripathi
- D) Devdutt Pattanaik

Correct Answer: B [Rajmohan Gandhi]

- **Explanation:** Authored by the acclaimed historian and biographer **Rajmohan Gandhi** (grandson of Mahatma Gandhi), the book **"Do You Know Your Hinduism?"** provides an analytical, deeply researched, and inclusive exploration of Hindu philosophy. The text examines the coexistence of various schools of thought, challenging modern reductionist

interpretations and emphasizing historical texts' core messages of universal peace.

Q28. World Book and Copyright Day is celebrated globally every year on April 23. Which international organization officially sponsors this day to promote reading, publishing, and intellectual property protection?

- A) WIPO
- B) UNESCO
- C) WTO
- D) UNICEF

Correct Answer: B [UNESCO]

- **Explanation:** UNESCO officially established **April 23** as World Book and Copyright Day in 1995 to pay a worldwide tribute to books and authors (it marks the death anniversary of iconic writers like William Shakespeare and Miguel de Cervantes). The day focuses heavily on fostering a love for reading among youth while defending the economic and legal rights of creators via copyright frameworks.

Q29. Kendu Leaf, frequently mentioned in regional tribal economic updates in April 2026, is legally designated as the "Green Gold" of which Indian state due to its immense role in generating livelihood revenue for forest-dwellers?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Odisha
- D) Jharkhand

Correct Answer: C [Odisha]

- **Explanation:** Kendu leaf (*Diospyros Melanoxylon*), also known as Tendu leaf, is a

nationalized forest product widely referred to as the "Green Gold of Odisha." It is used primarily for wrapping bidis. The collection, processing, and trade of Kendu leaves are tightly regulated by the state government to prevent corporate exploitation of tribal gatherers, ensuring that profits are directly distributed back as welfare bonuses to millions of forest-dwelling families.

Q30. The historic Lower Lake (Chota Talaab), which was recently subject to stringent NGT intervention regarding environmental pollution, forms an inseparable part of the Bhoj Wetland Ramsar Site. In which city is this ecosystem situated?

- A) Udaipur
- B) Bhopal
- C) Indore
- D) Hyderabad

Correct Answer: B [Bhopals]

- **Explanation:** The Lower Lake (Chota Talaab) and the contiguous Upper Lake (Bada Talaab) together comprise the famous **Bhoj Wetland**, a designated Ramsar site of international importance located in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) directed the state pollution control board to execute high-resolution geospatial mapping (using precise latitude and longitude coordinates) to identify and completely choke off illegal sewage inflows threatening the urban wetland's fragile biodiversity.