

Part 1: International Relations & National News

Q1. In an important financial stabilization move concluded on April 25, 2026, India approved the first withdrawal of ₹30 billion for which neighboring island country under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Maldives
- C) Bangladesh
- D) Mauritius

Correct Answer: B [Maldives]

- **Explanation:** To assist Male with critical macroeconomic stabilization and short-term liquidity management, the Government of India authorized a ₹30 billion (\$360 million equivalent) withdrawal for the **Maldives** under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This bilateral agreement acts as a financial safety net, allowing the Maldives Monetary Authority to swap its local currency for Indian Rupees or US Dollars at predetermined rates to address immediate foreign exchange strains.

Q2. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) finalized the statutory framework for the "Online Gaming Rules 2026," set to be strictly enforced from May 1, 2026. What is the fundamental legal distinction introduced under these rules?

- A) Games based in rural vs. urban settings
- B) Indian-developed games vs. foreign-origin games
- C) Skill-based gaming platforms vs. money-based gambling networks
- D) Mobile application gaming vs. desktop browser-based gaming

Correct Answer: C [Skill-based gaming platforms vs. money-based gambling networks]

- **Explanation:** To cleanse India's fast-growing digital gaming ecosystem of predatory financial practices, the new **Online Gaming Rules 2026** create a strict legal line between **skill-based games** and **money-based gambling/betting platforms**. The rules empower financial institutions to block digital transactions linked to unauthorized, non-compliant betting platforms, directly curbing cyber fraud, user exploitation, and financial addiction.

Q3. Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi held high-level regional diplomatic talks with Pakistan Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir in Islamabad on April 25, 2026. What was the central geopolitical objective of this diplomatic dialogue?

- A) Finalizing a cross-border trans-national railway line
- B) Facilitating diplomatic engagement and back-channel communication between the U.S. and Iran
- C) Organizing joint naval exercises in the Caspian Sea
- D) Drafting a bilateral defense pact on drone technology sharing

Correct Answer: B [Facilitating diplomatic engagement and back-channel communication between the U.S. and Iran]

- **Explanation:** The high-stakes meeting between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and Pakistan's military leadership focused primarily on Islamabad's continuous back-channel efforts to de-escalate geopolitical gridlocks and facilitate fresh diplomatic engagement between

Washington and Tehran, especially amidst prolonged friction points across West Asia.

Q4. The Election Commission of India (ECI) completed comprehensive post-poll scrutiny of election documents across Tamil Nadu and West Bengal following Phase 1 of polling. Which statutory register of the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961, maps the voter attendance and is primary to this scrutiny?

- A) Form 10B
- B) Form 16
- C) Form 17A
- D) Form 26

Correct Answer: C [Form 17A]

- **Explanation:** Post-poll scrutiny involves the verification of **Form 17A (Register of Voters)**, which records the exact signature or thumb impression of every citizen who voted at a polling station. General observers and candidate representatives cross-verify Form 17A alongside mock-poll certificates, diary logs of presiding officers, and EVM/VVPAT error logs to ensure no voting discrepancies occurred, ensuring clean elections without needing re-polls.

Q5. A high-resolution geospatial study published on April 25, 2026, identified 219 unstable "Hanging Glaciers" as severe hazards in which specific Himalayan river basin?

- A) Teesta Basin
- B) Alaknanda Basin
- C) Indus Basin
- D) Indus Basin

Correct Answer: B [Alaknanda Basin]

- **Explanation:** Glaciologists identified 219 highly unstable hanging glaciers within the

Alaknanda Basin (located in Uttarakhand). Unlike traditional glaciers, hanging glaciers cling to steep rock faces at extreme angles. Due to the Himalayas warming nearly three times faster than the global average, rapid freeze-thaw cycles weaken their base, elevating the structural threat of catastrophic ice avalanches and Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), reminiscent of the 2021 Chamoli disaster.

Q6. The Delhi High Court issued critical directives regarding the objective parameters utilized by the Sentencing Review Board (SRB) in granting premature release to long-term convicts. In Delhi, who heads the statutory Sentencing Review Board?

- A) Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court
- B) Lieutenant Governor of Delhi
- C) Delhi Home Minister
- D) Director General of Delhi Prisons

Correct Answer: C [Delhi Home Minister]

- **Explanation:** The Delhi High Court emphasized that the denial of premature release cannot be arbitrary and must follow objective criteria. The **Sentencing Review Board (SRB)** of Delhi is a statutory body chaired by the **Delhi Home Minister**, alongside senior judicial officers, the Delhi Home Secretary, Law Secretary, and DG (Prisons). It evaluates if a convict has transformed sufficiently to be reintegrated safely into society after completing basic mandatory terms (usually 14 years).

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

Q7. In late April 2026, the Indian Rupee (INR) experienced heavy external volatility and depreciated beyond a historic psychological low

of ₹94.01 against the US Dollar (\$). Which macroeconomic challenge was identified as the primary trigger for this sharp slide?

- A) Sudden suspension of electronic UPI systems
- B) Global crude oil prices breaching \$100 per barrel alongside sustained FPI outflows
- C) Historic contraction in India's agricultural output
- D) Sharp drop in sovereign gold reserves held by the RBI

Correct Answer: B [Global crude oil prices breaching \$100 per barrel alongside sustained FPI outflows]

- **Explanation:** The steep slide of the Rupee to ₹94.01/USD was triggered by geopolitical tensions in West Asia (threatening oil chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz), which pushed international crude prices above \$100/barrel. Because India imports nearly 85% of its crude requirements, this widened the Current Account Deficit (CAD), spiked imported inflation, and caused Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) to pull capital out toward safe-haven US dollar assets.

Q8. Under India's current foreign exchange policy framework, how is the exchange rate value of the Indian Rupee (INR) structurally determined?

- A) Fixed Exchange Rate System
- B) Managed Float Exchange Rate System
- C) Gold-Standard Pegged System
- D) Dual-Currency Band System

Correct Answer: B [Managed Float Exchange Rate System]

- **Explanation:** India utilizes a **Managed Float Exchange Rate System** (also known as a

dirty float). The market forces of demand and supply primarily determine the value of the Rupee against foreign currencies. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) actively intervenes in the spot and forward foreign exchange markets (selling dollars from its forex reserves) to curb excessive, speculative volatility and stabilize the macroeconomy.

Q9. According to trade data analyzed on April 25, 2026, India's imports from its Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners rose by 6% year-on-year to touch \$70.98 billion. Which regional trading bloc emerged as the largest driver of these inbound shipments?

- A) European Union (EU)
- B) MERCOSUR
- C) ASEAN
- D) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

Correct Answer: C [ASEAN]

- **Explanation:** The 6% surge in FTA imports to \$70.98 billion was heavily dominated by increased inflows of electronics, plastics, and chemicals from the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** bloc and Singapore. As of April 2026, India has operationalized 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and 6 Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) to strategically diversify external trade channels.

Q10. As per the latest "Asian Development Outlook" report, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has projected India's real GDP growth rate for the Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) at what percentage?

- A) 6.0%
- B) 6.5%
- C) 6.9%

D) 7.4%

Correct Answer: C [6.9%]

- **Explanation:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) fixed India's growth projection at 6.9% for FY27. The bank noted that while global headwinds and high commodity/crude oil prices present clear challenges, India's growth momentum remains robust, driven by public infrastructure spending, healthy corporate balance sheets, and a strong rebound in urban services and formal employment.

Q11. Which major digital payment firm received final clearance from the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) to manage pension funds under the National Pension System (NPS)?

- A) PPFAS Asset Management Company (PPFAS AMC)
- B) Zerodha Fund House
- C) Groww Asset Management
- D) Angel One Investment Advisors

Correct Answer: A [PPFAS Asset Management Company (PPFAS AMC)]

- **Explanation:** In an important structural expansion within India's retirement planning ecosystem, PPFAS AMC secured regulatory clearance from the PFRDA. This allows the asset management company to formally set up a pension fund architecture and manage long-term retirement capital under the National Pension System (NPS), introducing more retail investment choices.

Q12. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) introduced strict compliance protocols for commercial banks concerning "Nostro Accounts." Within what maximum time interval must banks completely reconcile all Nostro

account credits to counter cyber-fraud vulnerabilities?

- A) Within 30 minutes
- B) A gap not exceeding 24 hours
- C) Within 48 hours
- D) Within 7 working days

Correct Answer: B [A gap not exceeding 24 hours]

- **Explanation:** A Nostro account is an account that an Indian bank holds in a foreign currency in a foreign bank (e.g., State Bank of India holding a USD account with Citibank New York). To eliminate transactional blind spots exploited by international hackers, the RBI mandated a strict reconciliation window **not exceeding 24 hours** for all credits, ensuring swift detection of swift-code anomalies or unauthorized cross-border flows.

Part 3: Defense, Science & Technology

Q13. The 11th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting between India and Egypt was successfully concluded in Cairo. Which significant maritime bilateral mechanism was launched during this high-level defense dialogue?

- A) Joint Air Defense Interception Exercises
- B) Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks
- C) Bilateral Cyber Warfare Simulation
- D) Red Sea Anti-Piracy Special Command

Correct Answer: B [Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks]

- **Explanation:** The 11th JDC in Cairo marked a major milestone in India's West Asia and North Africa (WANA) outreach strategy by formally launching **Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks**.



This institutional mechanism focuses on securing crucial maritime trade lanes, exchanging intelligence on asymmetric threats, and enhancing operational cooperation across the sensitive Red Sea and Western Indian Ocean regions.

Q14. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated the 66th Raising Day of "Project DANTAK" on April 25, 2026. This historic project represents a crucial pillar of India's developmental diplomacy with which neighbor country?

- A) Nepal
- B) Bhutan
- C) Myanmar
- D) Bangladesh

Correct Answer: B [Bhutan]

- **Explanation:** Established on April 25, 1961, under a historic agreement between the King of Bhutan and India's Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, **Project DANTAK** is a prominent symbol of Indo-Bhutan friendship. Constructed by the BRO, it has built Bhutan's foundational infrastructure—including pioneering highways, airfields like Paro Airport, telecom networks, and hospitals—greatly boosting socioeconomic development and strategic military mobility in the eastern Himalayas.

Q15. Frontline sail training ship INS Sudarshini commenced a major global deployment in April 2026. What is the primary operational objective of this long-range voyage?

- A) Testing indigenous anti-ship ballistic missiles
- B) Undertaking deep-sea hydrographic mapping of the Arctic

C) Fostering maritime seamanship training, cultural diplomacy, and global goodwill

D) Patrolling the Malacca Strait against active pirate cells

Correct Answer: C [Fostering maritime seamanship training, cultural diplomacy, and global goodwill]

- **Explanation:** INS Sudarshini is a three-masted sail training ship of the Indian Navy. Its global deployment is a soft-power maritime initiative designed to train young naval officers in traditional, complex celestial navigation and seamanship while making diplomatic port calls globally to showcase India's rich maritime heritage and strengthen international naval ties.

Q16. The Ministry of Communications announced the successful commercial deployment of indigenous "Silicon Photonics Technology." What fundamental technological bottleneck does this innovation solve?

- A) It replaces copper wires with high-tensile carbon nanotubes
- B) It uses light photons instead of electrical signals to transmit data within microchips, boosting processing speeds
- C) It creates biological computing units using artificial DNA strings
- D) It shields underwater internet cables from electromagnetic pulses (EMPs)

Correct Answer: B [It uses light photons instead of electrical signals to transmit data within microchips, boosting processing speeds]

- **Explanation:** Silicon Photonics is a disruptive technology that blends the optical processing power of light (photons) with standard silicon integrated circuits. By replacing traditional electrical copper

interconnects with micro-laser pathways inside chips, it eliminates heat generation, drastically reduces latency, and multiplies data transmission speeds by magnitudes—a vital requirement for modern 5G/6G data centers and AI processing clusters.

Q17. India's first-ever commercial-scale "Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate" industrial project was formally greenlit for setup. In which specific location is this strategic plant being established?

- A) Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh
- B) Lakhanpur, Odisha
- C) Dhanbad, Jharkhand
- D) Neyveli, Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: B [Lakhanpur, Odisha]

- **Explanation:** To decrease reliance on expensive gas imports, India is setting up its first **Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate project at Lakhanpur, Odisha**. The facility will gasify local low-grade domestic coal to synthesize ammonium nitrate, which is used extensively as a base material in manufacturing industrial explosives for the mining and infrastructure sectors, advancing the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

Q18. The Union Government updated the guidelines under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) regarding the precious metals market. Which statutory body regulates and issues operational licenses to banks authorized to import bulk gold and silver into India?

- A) Indian Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA)
- B) Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)
- C) Enforcement Directorate (ED)

D) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)

Correct Answer: B [Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)]

- **Explanation:** Under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the **DGFT** is the statutory agency responsible for formulating and managing guidelines for the import and export of goods. The DGFT maintains and regularly updates the specific roster of scheduled commercial banks authorized to import raw gold and silver bullion, ensuring strict alignment with foreign exchange stability guidelines.

Part 4: Governance & Government Schemes

Q19. The Government of Bihar launched its first-ever structured pulse procurement drive under the Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission. Which central umbrella procurement scheme underpins this structural agricultural price support mechanism?

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) PM-AASHA
- C) PM-PRANAM
- D) PM-KUSUM

Correct Answer: B [PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan)]

- **Explanation:** Bihar's new initiative is structured under the central **PM-AASHA** umbrella scheme, specifically utilizing its Price Support Scheme (PSS) component. The mission guarantees that farmers growing pulses (like Masoor, Chana, and Arhar) can sell their yield directly to state agencies at the official Minimum Support Price (MSP). This reduces exploitation by middlemen, builds a robust national buffer stock, and



incentivizes crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy.

Q20. In an important urban transit expansion update on April 25, 2026, the Union Cabinet formally approved the "Jaipur Metro Phase 2" infrastructure project. What is the total approved financial outlay for this urban corridor development?

- A) ₹5,050.25 crore
- B) ₹8,400.00 crore
- C) ₹13,037.66 crore
- D) ₹18,500.10 crore

Correct Answer: C [₹13,037.66 crore]

- **Explanation:** The Union Cabinet approved ₹13,037.66 crore for Phase 2 of the Jaipur Metro project. This phase involves building a high-capacity 41-kilometer metro transit corridor designed to link key industrial zones, educational hubs, and highly populated residential suburbs, reducing vehicular emissions and traffic congestion in the historic city.

Q21. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) launched the first-ever "Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises" (ASISSE). What is the main objective of this survey?

- A) To track the daily market capitalization of IT companies on the BSE
- B) To compile high-resolution, formal data on the economic contributions and employment patterns of the services sector to improve GDP computation
- C) To register foreign digital nomads operating within India
- D) To regulate the pricing models of private e-commerce applications

Correct Answer: B [To compile high-resolution, formal data on the economic contributions and employment patterns of the services sector to improve GDP computation]

- **Explanation:** The services sector contributes over 53% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA), yet it historically lacked a comprehensive annual data-gathering framework similar to the manufacturing sector's Annual Survey of Industries (ASI). The new ASISSE fills this gap by collecting formal, granular business data from registered service enterprises (logistics, healthcare, hospitality, education), allowing for highly accurate GDP calculations and evidence-based policymaking.

Q22. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) announced a massive investor awareness campaign called "Mission Jagrook." Which specific demography is this initiative primarily targeting?

- A) High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) trading in derivatives
- B) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) entering Indian debt markets
- C) Rural and Tier-2/Tier-3 city retail investors entering capital markets
- D) Corporate compliance officers managing IPO roadshows

Correct Answer: C [Rural and Tier-2/Tier-3 city retail investors entering capital markets]

- **Explanation:** Due to a massive surge in retail trading accounts from smaller Indian towns via digital apps, SEBI launched **Mission Jagrook**. The nationwide educational campaign aims to protect first-generation retail investors from illegal financial advisories, fraudulent "pump-and-dump" social media schemes, and high-risk

speculative trading without proper financial literacy.

Part 5: Sports & Awards

Q23. Who achieved the extraordinary global feat of becoming the first Indian woman to cycle successfully to the Mount Everest Base Camp in Nepal?

- A) Arunima Sinha
- B) Premlata Agrawal
- C) Divya Singh
- D) Bhavani Deorukhakar

Correct Answer: C [Divya Singh]

- **Explanation:** Divya Singh created sports history by becoming the first Indian woman to successfully cycle the extremely rugged, high-altitude alpine terrain leading up to the **Mount Everest Base Camp** in Nepal. This grueling journey required exceptional physical endurance, mountain navigation skills, and extreme altitude acclimatization, highlighting Indian women's growing presence in global adventure sports.

Q24. In the official "Flying Training Organisation (FTO) Rankings" released by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), which academy clinched the Rank 1 spot for outstanding safety compliance and pilot training efficiency?

- A) Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)
- B) National Flying Training Institute (NFTI)
- C) Madhya Pradesh Flying Club
- D) Bombay Flying Club

Correct Answer: A [Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA)]

- **Explanation:** Located in Fursatganj (Uttar Pradesh), IGRUA was ranked **Rank 1** by the DGCA in its comprehensive evaluation of flight schools. The academy was recognized for its advanced glass-cockpit training aircraft, state-of-the-art flight simulators, strict maintenance logs, and high safety standards, making it a premier incubator for commercial pilots in South Asia.

Q25. The Ministry of Culture launched a unique nationwide visual arts and multimedia competition called "VM Frames." This initiative celebrates the 150th anniversary of which iconic literary masterpiece?

- A) Gitanjali by Rabindranath Tagore
- B) Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- C) Discovery of India by Jawaharlal Nehru
- D) Godan by Munshi Premchand

Correct Answer: B [Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay]

- **Explanation:** To mark the 150th anniversary of the composition of India's National Song, Vande Mataram (originally written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in his pathbreaking political novel *Anandamath*), the Ministry of Culture launched the 'VM Frames' competition. The program encourages digital creators, filmmakers, and painters to capture the historic spirit of the freedom struggle through contemporary digital art.

Part 6: Important Days, Culture & Anniversaries

Q26. World Malaria Day is observed globally every year on April 25. Which unique biological organism serves as the definitive vector for

transmitting the malaria parasite (*Plasmodium*) to humans?

- A) Female *Aedes aegypti* mosquito
- B) Male *Culex* mosquito
- C) Female *Anopheles* mosquito
- D) Tsetse Fly

Correct Answer: C [Female *Anopheles* mosquito]

- **Explanation:** World Malaria Day (celebrated April 25) highlights global efforts to control and eliminate malaria. The disease is caused by the *Plasmodium* parasite and is transmitted to humans exclusively through the bite of an infected **female *Anopheles* mosquito**, which requires a blood meal to develop its eggs. Tracking this vector is essential for implementing public health strategies worldwide.

Q27. International Delegate's Day is celebrated on April 25 to honor the crucial role of diplomats in global governance. This specific date marks the historic opening of which landmark international conference in 1945?

- A) The Treaty of Versailles Conference
- B) The San Francisco Conference (UNCIO)
- C) The Yalta Conference
- D) The Bretton Woods Conference

Correct Answer: B [The San Francisco Conference (UNCIO)]

- **Explanation:** April 25 marks the anniversary of the **San Francisco Conference** (United Nations Conference on International Organization) which began on **April 25, 1945**. Delegates from 50 nations gathered in the wake of WWII to draft and sign the UN Charter, laying the foundational framework for the United Nations. The day recognizes

the impact of diplomats in preventing global conflicts through multilateral dialogue.

Q28. National DNA Day is celebrated annually on April 25 to honor a transformative milestone in modern molecular biology. Which groundbreaking scientific event occurred on this day in 1953?

- A) The successful cloning of Dolly the sheep
- B) The publication of the double-helix structure of DNA by Watson and Crick in 'Nature' journal
- C) The completion of the Human Genome Project
- D) The discovery of the PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) technique

Correct Answer: B [The publication of the double-helix structure of DNA by Watson and Crick in 'Nature' journal]

- **Explanation:** National DNA Day commemorates the historic day in **April 1953** when James Watson, Francis Crick, Maurice Wilkins, Rosalind Franklin, and colleagues published their pioneering papers on the **double-helix structure of DNA** in the journal *Nature*. This breakthrough revolutionized medicine, forensic science, and agriculture by unlocking the fundamental code of life.

Q29. Celebrated on the last Saturday of April (falling on April 25, 2026), World Veterinary Day recognizes the contributions of veterinary professionals. What international agency is the global standard-setting body for animal health?

- A) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)
- B) World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)
- C) Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- D) CITES Secretariat

Correct Answer: B [World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)]

- **Explanation:** The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**, formerly known as the OIE (Office International des Epizooties), is the intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It coordinates global responses to zoonotic diseases (illnesses that jump from animals to humans, like Avian Influenza or Rabies), ensuring global health security under a unified "One Health" approach.

Q30. The state of Andhra Pradesh marked a legal milestone on April 25, 2026, when a special gazette notification confirmed the completion of all judicial and administrative buildings inside its capital city. Which city holds exclusive legal status as the capital of Andhra Pradesh?

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Kurnool
- C) Vijayawada
- D) Amaravati

Correct Answer: D [Amaravati]

- **Explanation:** Through official legislative processes and administrative execution, **Amaravati** functions as the singular, constitutional capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The complete integration of the state high court, legislative assembly, and central secretariat infrastructure within Amaravati brings structural certainty to the state's urban development plans and governance framework.

