

## 1. National News & Polity

**Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which was prominently debated in April 2026:**

1. The 10th Schedule was inserted into the Constitution by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985.
2. Under the current provisions, a merger of political parties is valid only if at least one-half of the members of the legislative party agree to the merger.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: A. 1 only**

**Explanation:** Statement 1 is correct. The Anti-Defection Law was passed by Parliament in 1985 and became effective via the 52nd Constitutional Amendment. Statement 2 is incorrect because the 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003, altered the rules; currently, at least **two-thirds (2/3)** of the members of a legislative party must agree to a merger to avoid disqualification, not one-half. This issue re-entered national discourse on April 27, 2026, due to high-profile cases testing whether a legislative majority can override the parent organizational party.

**Q2. Recently, the term "Orange Economy" was highlighted by NITI Aayog in its policy briefs. What does this term primarily refer to?**

- A. Large-scale cultivation of citrus fruits under the Atmanirbhar Krishi initiative

B. The economic sector driven by creative industries, culture, art, and digital content creation

C. The transition phase of commercial coal mines into renewable energy hubs

D. Capital investments under the PM-Mitra textile parks

**Answer: B. The economic sector driven by creative industries, culture, art, and digital content creation**

**Explanation:** The "Orange Economy" encompasses sectors whose primary goods and services are based on creativity, culture, and intellectual property (e.g., visual arts, film, design, and digital content ecosystems). Recent data from April 2026 highlights that YouTube's creative ecosystem alone contributed over ₹16,000 crore to India's GDP and supported nearly a million full-time jobs, prompting national strategy discussions to treat culture as a core economic growth driver.

**Q3. In April 2026, which infrastructure platform was launched by the Union Government in Mumbai as India's first major cooperative-led ride-hailing application?**

- A. Mumbai Ride
- B. Bharat Taxi
- C. Sahakar Cab
- D. Digital Auto-Sathi

**Answer: B. Bharat Taxi**

**Explanation:** Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched "Bharat Taxi" in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It is India's first cooperative-led ride-hailing platform designed for auto-rickshaws and cab drivers. Operating on a zero-commission model for registered drivers, it aims to counter heavy commission cuts by private aggregators. By late April 2026, it had

safely scaled past 25,000 rides a day with over 5 lakh registered customers.

**Q4. With reference to Indian road safety and legal rights, which fundamental article of the Constitution was expanded by judicial interpretations in April 2026 to firmly include the "Right to Safe Travel on Highways"?**

- A. Article 14
- B. Article 19(1)(d)
- C. Article 21
- D. Article 300A

**Answer: C. Article 21**

**Explanation:** Following *suo motu* representations on highway maintenance and structural blackspots, legal precedents solidified that the "Right to Safe Travel on Highways" is a direct extension of the Right to Life and Personal Liberty under Article 21. The interpretation mandates that state infrastructure agencies are strictly accountable for maintaining accident-free "rights of way."

## 2. International News & Relations

**Q5. In April 2026, the strategic island of Luzon was the focal point of regional maritime security drills. In which country is Luzon Island located?**

- A. Indonesia
- B. Philippines
- C. Japan
- D. Taiwan

**Answer: B. Philippines**

**Explanation:** Luzon is the largest and most populous island in the Philippines. It became a focal point of geopolitical monitoring and international maritime mapping strategies during late April 2026 amid ongoing territorial

alignment talks and security drills in the South China Sea.

**Q6. The historic "Strait of Hormuz," which faced severe shipping blockades and diplomatic negotiations involving global powers in April 2026, links which two bodies of water?**

- A. Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- B. Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman
- C. Black Sea and Sea of Marmara
- D. Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean

**Answer: B. Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman**

**Explanation:** The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most critical oil transit chokepoints, separating Iran from Oman and the UAE. In late April 2026, global energy markets reacted sharply to diplomatic proposals from Tehran offering to ease maritime restrictions in exchange for the lifting of economic blockades, positioning it at the top of international defense agendas.

**Q7. In April 2026, President Myriam Spiteri Debono dissolved the parliament of which European nation, calling for general elections on May 30, 2026?**

- A. Cyprus
- B. Malta
- C. Greece
- D. San Marino

**Answer: B. Malta**

**Explanation:** Maltese President Myriam Spiteri Debono dissolved the country's parliament on the official advice of Prime Minister Robert Abela, setting the national stage for snap general elections scheduled for late May 2026.

### 3. Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q8. Under Section 22 of which Act is the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) empowered to grant and cancel banking licenses, as seen in its recent regulatory actions against distressed urban co-operative banks?**

- A. Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- B. Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- C. Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets Act, 2002
- D. Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007

**Answer: B. Banking Regulation Act, 1949**

**Explanation:** Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, grants the RBI the statutory power to issue and cancel banking licenses across India based on capital adequacy and asset quality. This section is frequently cited in the RBI's ongoing cleaning up of non-compliant cooperative banks and microfinance institutions.

**Q9. In late April 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of ₹41.8 Lakh on which private sector bank for non-compliance with statutory Know Your Customer (KYC) guidelines?**

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Bandhan Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. Federal Bank

**Answer: B. Bandhan Bank**

**Explanation:** The RBI announced strict enforcement actions, including a fine of ₹41.8 lakh on Bandhan Bank for failing to rigorously adhere to prescribed regulatory norms concerning corporate KYC verification and risk management frameworks.

**Q10. As per the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) Framework updates in early 2026, what is the minimum percentage of debt that financial creditors must hold to initiate the newly fast-tracked, out-of-court hybrid debt resolution mechanism?**

- A. 33%
- B. 51%
- C. 66%
- D. 75%

**Answer: B. 51%**

**Explanation:** To ease the burden on the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), updated frameworks allow financial creditors holding more than 51% of the total admitted corporate debt to initiate out-of-court hybrid restructuring schemes, maximizing asset recovery timeframes.

### 4. Science, Technology & Environment

**Q11. The Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) that achieved a monumental technological milestone by attaining operational "criticality" is located at which site?**

- A. Narora, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu
- C. Kakrapar, Gujarat
- D. Kaiga, Karnataka

**Answer: B. Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu**

**Explanation:** Constructed entirely with indigenous technology by BHAVINI, the 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieved criticality. This milestone marks India's formal operational entry into Stage II of its core Three-Stage

Nuclear Power Programme, which utilizes plutonium-based Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.

**Q12. When a nuclear reactor is stated to have achieved a "Critical State," what does it scientifically signify?**

- A. The reactor's cooling system has completely failed, causing an imminent core meltdown.
- B. Each nuclear fission event causes exactly one more fission event on average ( $k = 1$ ), maintaining a self-sustaining, stable chain reaction.
- C. The fission rate is exponentially decreasing, forcing the plant to shut down.
- D. The system is producing more fissile material than its designated initial load.

**Answer: B. Each nuclear fission event causes exactly one more fission event on average ( $k = 1$ ), maintaining a self-sustaining, stable chain reaction.**

**Explanation:** In nuclear physics, criticality is the normal operational state of a nuclear reactor where the neutron population remains constant and the nuclear fission chain reaction is perfectly self-sustaining and controlled ( $k = 1$ ). It signifies that the reactor has successfully transitioned into its operational power-generation phase.

**Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the "Nilgiri Tahr," which featured in eco-conservation reviews in April 2026:**

- 1. It is the only mountain ungulate found in southern India.
- 2. It is classified as an indicator species for the health of the high-altitude Western Ghats ecosystem.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: C. Both 1 and 2**

**Explanation:** Both statements are scientifically accurate. The Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is endemic to the Western Ghats, primarily residing in open montane grassland habitats. As a vital indicator species, its population dynamics reflect the ecological health of the southern Indian cloud forests and high-altitude grasslands.

**Q14. In April 2026, the World Health Organization (WHO) prequalified a groundbreaking child-friendly formulation of Artemether-lumefantrine. This combination therapy is primarily used to treat which disease?**

- A. Tuberculosis
- B. Infant Malaria
- C. Kala-azar
- D. Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever

**Answer: B. Infant Malaria**

**Explanation:** The WHO prequalified a child-friendly, water-dispersible formulation of the standard Artemether-lumefantrine therapy. This two-drug combination targets malaria parasites in the bloodstream at different lifecycle stages, offering a therapeutic solution for newborns and infants.

**Q15. The emerging hybrid scientific field known as "Cyborg Botany," which gained prominence in late April 2026 research papers, refers to:**

- 1. Converting organic cash crops entirely into synthetic biofuels via gene splicing.

- Integrating living plants with electronic sensors and materials to create cybernetic networks capable of detecting environmental anomalies.
- Using advanced robotic drones to completely automate the cross-pollination of endangered flora.
- Constructing artificial synthetic trees that mechanically absorb carbon dioxide.

**Answer: 2. Integrating living plants with electronic sensors and materials to create cybernetic networks capable of detecting environmental anomalies.**

**Explanation:** Cyborg Botany is an advanced interdisciplinary frontier combining materials science, electronic engineering, and plant biology. It embeds microscopic electronic components into living plants, transforming them into living sensors that can monitor and report real-time changes in soil toxicity, moisture levels, and temperature.

## 5. Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q16. The Union Government launched the "Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) 2.0" digital application in late April 2026. Which Ministry is the nodal agency for this initiative?**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- Ministry of Home Affairs
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

**Answer: B. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

**Explanation:** The Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) is a flagship program driven by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The 2.0 app was introduced to modernize real-

time reporting, institutional coordination, and citizen access to de-addiction and counseling services under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR).

**Q17. The "Jiyo Parsi Scheme," which saw new registrations during special enrollment camps in April 2026, is a central sector scheme launched to address what issue?**

- Financial loans for minority-led startups
- Arithmetical preservation and stabilization of the declining Parsi population in India
- Restoring ancient Parsi architectural landmarks
- Overseas educational scholarships for minority students

**Answer: B. Arithmetical preservation and stabilization of the declining Parsi population in India**

**Explanation:** The Jiyo Parsi Scheme is an initiative run by the Ministry of Minority Affairs. It aims to arrest the demographic decline of the Parsi community using scientific medical treatments (including IVF), counseling, and social support structures.

**Q18. The "Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan" (PM-AASHA) scheme expanded its procurement footprint in Chhattisgarh and Bihar in April 2026. What is the main objective of PM-AASHA?**

- Providing direct cash transfers to landless agricultural laborers
- Ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for pulses, oilseeds, and copra through robust procurement operations
- Subsidizing solar-powered water pumps under the PM-KUSUM network

D. Providing crop insurance against climate disasters

**Answer: B. Ensuring remunerative prices to farmers for pulses, oilseeds, and copra through robust procurement operations**

**Explanation:** PM-AASHA is an umbrella scheme aimed at ensuring farmers receive fair prices for their produce. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution expanded its operations in late April 2026 by launching a structured pulse procurement drive under the Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission in Bihar.

## 6. Defense News & Military Exercises

**Q19. The 7th edition of the joint military training exercise "Exercise Dustlik 2026" was conducted at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area. Which two nations are the participating members?**

- A. India and Kazakhstan
- B. India and Uzbekistan
- C. India and Kyrgyzstan
- D. India and Tajikistan

**Answer: B. India and Uzbekistan**

**Explanation:** Exercise Dustlik is a bilateral military exercise conducted between the armies of India and Uzbekistan. The 2026 edition took place in Uzbekistan, focusing on counter-terrorism operations, tactical combat drills, and military cooperation in mountainous terrains.

**Q20. "Project DANTAK," which marked its foundation milestones in late April 2026, is a historic overseas infrastructure project managed by which Indian organization?**

- A. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)
- B. Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

C. Indian Army Corps of Engineers

D. Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

**Answer: B. Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**

**Explanation:** Project DANTAK was established on April 24, 1961, under an agreement between the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, and the King of Bhutan. Executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), it has been central to developing Bhutan's early infrastructure connectivity, including constructing the Paro International Airport and key national highway corridors.

## 7. Appointments & Resignations

**Q21. Who was appointed to succeed Suman Bery as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog, with the official tenure beginning in May 2026?**

- A. Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- B. Dr. Ashok Lahiri
- C. Prof. B. Ravindran
- D. Dr. Rajiv Kumar

**Answer: B. Dr. Ashok Lahiri**

**Explanation:** Prominent economist Dr. Ashok Lahiri was cleared to succeed Suman Bery as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog. He takes office on May 1, 2026, making him the second-highest authority in the apex policy think-tank after the Prime Minister.

**Q22. In April 2026, Ali al-Zaidi was designated as the Prime Minister-designate of which Middle Eastern country following consensus shifts within the leading parliamentary Coordination Framework?**

- A. Syria
- B. Iraq
- C. Lebanon

D. Yemen

**Answer: B. Iraq**

**Explanation:** Iraqi President Nizar Amidi officially named Ali al-Zaidi as the Prime Minister-designate. This appointment followed the withdrawal of candidacies by former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and incumbent Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani.

## 8. Awards, Honors & Recognition

**Q23. In April 2026, Union Minister Jayant Chaudhary formally launched Asia's first "UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development." Which country hosts this new international academic chair?**

- A. India
- B. Singapore
- C. Japan
- D. South Korea

**Answer: A. India**

**Explanation:** The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launched India's (and Asia's) first-ever UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development. This initiative aims to build training frameworks that transition women into technical fields like robotics, defense production, and semiconductor manufacturing.

**Q24. Professor Gobardhan Das, an internationally recognized molecular immunologist, was honored in late April 2026 for his research contributions spanning nearly three decades. His core scientific research focuses on the pathogenesis of which major infectious disease?**

- A. Malaria

B. Tuberculosis (TB)

C. HIV/AIDS

D. Covid-19 Variants

**Answer: B. Tuberculosis (TB)**

**Explanation:** Professor Gobardhan Das received widespread institutional accolades for his research into how *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* interacts with the human immune system. His work has contributed to new target frameworks for TB vaccines and treatments.

## 9. Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) & Business Accords

**Q25. In late April 2026, Rocklink India Private Limited inaugurated India's first integrated recycling plant dedicated entirely to Lithium-ion batteries and rare-earth magnets. In which state is this facility located?**

- A. Gujarat
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Maharashtra

**Answer: B. Uttar Pradesh**

**Explanation:** Rocklink India Private Limited established India's first commercial, integrated e-waste recycling hub in Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh. The plant specializes in processing end-of-life electric vehicle batteries and reclaiming rare-earth magnets, supporting India's critical mineral security goals.

**Q26. Air India signed a major commercial codeshare agreement in April 2026 to expand flight connectivity into Central Asia. Which carrier is the partner airline in this agreement?**

- A. Uzbekistan Airways



- B. Air Astana
- C. Azerbaijan Airlines
- D. FlyDubai

**Answer: B. Air Astana**

**Explanation:** Air India announced a comprehensive codeshare agreement with Kazakhstan's flag carrier, Air Astana. This commercial partnership expands route connectivity and booking options between major Indian travel hubs and Central Asian networks.

## 10. Important Days, Art, Culture & Anniversaries

**Q27. Every year on April 26, the international community marks the anniversary of the worst industrial nuclear accident in history. Which disaster does this observe?**

- A. Fukushima Daiichi Disaster
- B. Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster
- C. Three Mile Island Accident
- D. Kyshtym Disaster

**Answer: B. Chernobyl Nuclear Disaster**

**Explanation:** April 26, 2026, marked exactly 40 years since the 1986 catastrophic nuclear explosion at Unit 4 of the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Pripyat, Ukraine. The anniversary renewed international policy discussions on the long-term management of nuclear exclusion zones and containment sarcophagi.

**Q28. The cultural initiative "Soul Threads," which launched unique design exhibitions in late April 2026, was driven by which apex national enterprise to revitalize traditional rural Indian crafts?**

- A. Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC)
- B. Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCIC)
- C. TRIFED
- D. National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT)

**Answer: B. Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCIC)**

**Explanation:** The Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India (CCIC) launched "Soul Threads." This cultural initiative is designed to connect traditional rural master weavers and tribal artisans directly with contemporary global fashion designers, cutting out middlemen to improve rural incomes.

**Q29. The "National Level Advanced Agriculture Festival 2026" (*Advanced Krishi Mela*), showcasing agricultural technology from laboratory research to commercial market linkage, was hosted in which state in April 2026?**

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Gujarat
- D. Punjab

**Answer: B. Madhya Pradesh**

**Explanation:** The National Advanced Agriculture Festival-Exhibition and Training Camp was organized in Raisen, Madhya Pradesh. The event featured hundreds of technical stalls showing drone-based pesticide spraying, micro-irrigation management software, and financial programs for Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).

**Q30. The "International Day of Sport for Development and Peace" (IDSDP), which is**

highlighted in current affairs reviews during April, is observed annually on which date?

- A. April 4
- B. April 6
- C. April 14
- D. April 24

**Answer: B. April 6**

**Explanation:** Officially declared by the United Nations General Assembly, April 6 is celebrated globally as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. It highlights the role that sports can play in fostering community cooperation, human rights advancement, and cross-border peace initiatives.

