

## 1. National News & Governance

**Q1. In late April 2026, the Union Government announced the inclusion of six strategically located border villages in Jammu & Kashmir's Kathua district under Phase II of which central initiative?**

- A. Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II)
- B. Border Area Development Programme (BADP)
- C. PM Border-Gram Samridhi Yojana
- D. Mission Frontier Amrit

**Answer: A. Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II):** **Explanation:** The Government of India expanded the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) to its second phase, integrating six remote border villages in the Kathua district of J&K. Launched originally as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, VVP focuses on infrastructure development, enhancing livelihood opportunities, and promoting tourism in frontier villages along the northern border, preventing migration and bolstering security.

**Q2. With reference to the 'New Delhi Declaration' currently being structured by India for an upcoming international summit, which area of global governance does it primarily target?**

- A. Global cryptocurrency tax frameworks
- B. Transboundary conservation of big cats
- C. Inter-governmental frameworks on semiconductor supply chains
- D. Maritime security guidelines for the Indo-Pacific

**Answer: B. Transboundary conservation of big cats** **Explanation:** The draft 'New Delhi Declaration' stems from India's leadership in

the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA). The declaration shifts big cat conservation from isolated national efforts to a unified global governance system. It focuses on ecological corridor connectivity, tracking transnational wildlife crime, and implementing the "One Health" approach to manage the human-animal-ecosystem interface.

**Q3. In April 2026, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MSJE) launched a new mobile application to systematically survey and map individuals engaged in act of begging across major urban clusters. What is the name of this application?**

- A. SMILE-Beggary Survey App
- B. PM REHAB Mobile Platform
- C. SAMARTH Comprehensive Mapping Tool
- D. SHRESHTA-Sathi Portal

**Answer: A. SMILE-Beggary Survey App**

**Explanation:** Launched during an institutional *Chintan Shivir* in Chandigarh, the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) Beggary Survey App allows real-time field data gathering, geographic profiling, and identity documentation. The objective is to transition from unorganized aid to institutional rehabilitation, skill training, and social security coverage.

**Q4. Consider the following statements regarding the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) whose governance framework was detailed in late April 2026:**

1. It is a specialized, legally binding environmental body of the United Nations.
2. It covers the protection of seven major big cats, including species like the Jaguar and

Puma, which are not native to India in the wild.

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: B. 2 only:** **Explanation:** Statement 1 is incorrect because the IBCA is an India-led global coalition launched in 2023 with headquarters in India; it is *not* a UN body. Statement 2 is correct. The alliance focuses on seven big cats: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma. Both Jaguar and Puma are included despite not living in wild habitats in India.

## 2. International News & Relations

**Q5. India and which democratic nation signed a "Historic Free Trade Agreement" in late April 2026, targeting tariff elimination on over 95% of trade lines alongside a massive \$20 Billion investment commitment?**

- A. United Kingdom
- B. Oman
- C. New Zealand
- D. Canada

**Answer: C. New Zealand:** **Explanation:** India and New Zealand concluded a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Under the deal, India will lower or phase out tariffs on 95% of product imports over time, balancing domestic sensitivities (such as dairy). Crucially, New Zealand has committed to facilitating close to \$20 billion in investments into India's infrastructure, green energy, and agribusiness sectors over the next 15 years.

**Q6. The high-level international climate forum known as the "Petersberg Climate Dialogue," which convened in April 2026 to resolve Global North-Global South climate finance impasses, acts as the primary ministerial stepping stone for which upcoming global summit?**

- A. COP31 Summit in Antalya, Türkiye
- B. G20 Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa
- C. UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi
- D. COP32 Summit in Belém, Brazil

**Answer: A. COP31 Summit in Antalya, Türkiye**

**Explanation:** The Petersberg Climate Dialogue is an annual informal ministerial meeting that sets the political tone for global climate negotiations. The April 2026 session acted as a bridge to align national agendas on climate finance targets and emission pledges ahead of the UN COP31 summit scheduled to be hosted in Antalya, Türkiye.

**Q7. The geopolitical hotspot "Somalia", which featured in international maritime safety maps in late April 2026 due to regional patrol realignments, shares its longest land border with which country?**

- A. Kenya
- B. Ethiopia
- C. Djibouti
- D. Eritrea

**Answer: B. Ethiopia:** **Explanation:** Positioned strategically in the Horn of Africa, Somalia shares its longest terrestrial land border with Ethiopia. It became a point of global mapping attention as the Indian Navy and international coalitions restructured anti-piracy patrolling lanes around the Gulf of Aden and the western Indian Ocean.

### 3. Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q8. According to the 20th edition of "The Wealth Report 2026" released by global property consultant firm Knight Frank, what is India's global rank regarding its ultra-wealthy population?**

- A. 3rd
- B. 5th
- C. 6th
- D. 10th

**Answer: C. 6<sup>th</sup> :** **Explanation:** In the Wealth Report 2026, India placed 6th globally with an estimated 19,877 Ultra-High Net-Worth Individuals (UHNWIs—those with net assets of \$30 million or more). The United States topped the chart, followed by China, Germany, and the UK. However, when counting billionaires alone, India ranks 3rd globally with 207 billionaires, trailing only the US and China.

**Q9. At the 38th Foundation Day of SEBI, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman officially rolled out "Mission Jagrook". What is the primary objective of this mission?**

- A. Restructuring the digital listing criteria for tier-2 city MSMEs
- B. Safeguarding retail investors against algorithmic manipulation and rising cyber fraud in financial markets
- C. Auditing non-performing corporate green bonds
- D. Regulating cross-border venture capital inflows

**Answer: B. Safeguarding retail investors against algorithmic manipulation and rising cyber fraud in financial markets**

**Explanation:** Launched on SEBI's 38th Foundation Day, "Mission Jagrook" is an aggressive investor awareness and cybersecurity containment project. It addresses market risks arising from complex derivatives trading by retail individuals and protects the digital infrastructure of stock exchanges from systemic cyber threats.

**Q10. The National Statistical Office (NSO) is developing a new monthly high-frequency economic indicator named the "Index of Service Production" (ISP). Which of the following components is explicitly excluded from its current data compilation methodology due to structural informal tracking limits?**

- A. Communication and Hotels
- B. Banking and Insurance
- C. Informal unincorporated services sector
- D. Wholesale and Retail trade

**Answer: C. Informal unincorporated services sector:** **Explanation:** While the ISP mirrors the concept of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for tracking short-term services performance, its approach paper notes that it draws from organized datasets (like GSTN and MCA-21). Consequently, it excludes the informal services sector, which accounts for nearly 33% of the total Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's service ecosystem.

**Q11. In April 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the license of which specific financial entity due to persistent regulatory non-compliance, capital inadequacy, and severe asset depreciation?**

- A. Paytm Payments Bank
- B. Airtel Payments Bank
- C. Fino Payments Bank
- D. India Post Payments Bank

**Answer: A. Paytm Payments Bank**

**Explanation:** Following extended regulatory warnings, supervisory reviews, and a failure to rectify operational and KYC compliance windows under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, the RBI formally cancelled the operational license of Paytm Payments Bank to ensure financial ecosystem stability.

## 4.Science,Technology& Environment

**Q12. In late April 2026, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) officially commissioned an advanced X-Band Dual-Polarization Doppler Weather Radar (DWR). Where is this high-altitude facility located?**

- A. Munnar, Kerala
- B. Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra
- C. Ooty, Tamil Nadu
- D. Cherrapunji, Meghalaya

**Answer: B. Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra**

**Explanation:** The X-Band Dual-Polarization DWR was commissioned at IITM's High Altitude Cloud Physics Laboratory (HACPL) in Mahabaleshwar, Maharashtra. This specialized radar provides deep data on cloud microphysics, precipitation dynamics, and convective storm tracking, which helps refine rain-formation models over the Western Ghats.

**Q13. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), along with the National Biodiversity Authority, launched a 5-year project for "Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments." Which critical tiger reserve is the core implementation zone for this project?**

- A. Bandipur Tiger Reserve
- B. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

- C. Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve
- D. Kanha Tiger Reserve

**Answer: B. Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve**

**Explanation:** The project is deployed in the Sathyamangalam landscape of Tamil Nadu. This area serves as a critical wildlife corridor connecting the Eastern and Western Ghats. The five-year institutional capacity building project focuses on mitigating human-wildlife conflict, protecting genetic diversity, and preventing habitat fragmentation.

**Q14. Tech giant Google announced an expansive Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) project to establish its first major specialized "AI Data Hub" and advanced cloud computing campus in India. Which city has been chosen as the site for this facility?**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Noida

**Answer: B. Visakhapatnam**

**Explanation:** Google selected Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, to set up its premier AI Data Hub campus. Representing a major digital infrastructure investment, this center will house high-density cloud infrastructure tailored for machine learning workloads, cybersecurity systems, and data analytics, boosting the region's profile as a global tech hub.

**Q15. Geologists and archaeologists in India recently discovered a new fossil bed that significantly enriches the study of the "Quaternary Period." The Quaternary Period is split into which two distinct geological epochs?**

- A. Miocene and Pliocene
- B. Pleistocene and Holocene



- C. Paleocene and Eocene
- D. Cretaceous and Jurassic

**Answer: B. Pleistocene and Holocene**

**Explanation:** The Quaternary Period is the current and most recent of the three periods of the Cenozoic Era. It covers the last 2.6 million years and is divided into the Pleistocene Epoch (the ice age era) and the Holocene Epoch (the current post-glacial epoch that began around 11,700 years ago, characterized by human civilization).

## 5. Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q16. The comprehensive youth exchange and cultural exposure program "Yuva Sangam Phase VI" opened its institutional registrations in April 2026. Which central initiative is this program organized under?**

- A. Digital India Mission
- B. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- C. Skill India Mission
- D. Startup India Standup India

**Answer: B. Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**

**Explanation:** Yuva Sangam is a continuous youth exchange program running under the *Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* initiative. Anchored by the Ministry of Education, it connects young higher education students and professionals aged 18–30 across paired states through multidimensional exposure tours focusing on tourism, traditions, development, and people-to-people connections.

**Q17. The "Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY" health insurance scheme, which featured in data reviews in late April 2026, guarantees a fully cashless health insurance cover of up to what amount per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization?**

- A. ₹2 Lakh
- B. ₹5 Lakh
- C. ₹7 Lakh
- D. ₹10 Lakh

**Answer: B. ₹5 Lakh**

**Explanation:** The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) provides a health cover of ₹5,000,000 (₹5 Lakh) per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization across impaneled public and private hospitals. Recent discussions focus on reducing Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOPE), which currently accounts for nearly 47% of total health spending in India.

**Q18. What is the maximum permissible individual deposit limit per customer holding an account in a specialized "Payments Bank" in India?**

- A. ₹1 Lakh
- B. ₹2 Lakh
- C. ₹5 Lakh
- D. ₹10 Lakh

**Answer: B. ₹2 Lakh**

**Explanation:** Under the regulatory guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, payments banks are restricted to accepting demand deposits up to a maximum balance limit of ₹2,000,000 (₹2 Lakh) per individual customer. They are legally barred from issuing credit cards or granting loans.

## 6. Defense News & Military Platforms

**Q19. In late April 2026, India's Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (VRDE), a laboratory under the DRDO, completed trials for specialized military vehicles. What is the minimum level of**

**indigenous content achieved by VRDE in these newly engineered defense platforms?**

- A. 45%
- B. 65%
- C. 85%
- D. 95%

**Answer: B. 65%: Explanation:** The vehicles engineered by VRDE reached an initial indigenous component level of 65%. In line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat defense vision, manufacturing roadmaps aim to transition this configuration to 90% indigenization over subsequent production cycles, reducing reliance on imported line-replaceable defense assemblies.

**Q20. The 13-member Indian Junior Shooting Team finished on top of the medal standings, securing 5 Gold medals at the ISSF Junior World Cup 2026. Which country hosted this tournament in late April 2026?**

- A. Germany
- B. India
- C. Egypt
- D. South Korea

**Answer: C. Egypt**

**Explanation:** The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Cup Rifle / Pistol / Shotgun 2026 was hosted in Cairo, Egypt, from April 19 to 27, 2026. India finished at the top of the medal standings, winning 16 medals total (5 Gold, 6 Silver, and 5 Bronze).

## 7. Appointments & Corporate Leadership

**Q21. In late April 2026, who was officially cleared by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) to take over as the next**

**chairperson of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)?**

- A. Manoj Soni
- B. S. K. Mishra
- C. Rekha Sharma
- D. Praveen Kumar

**Answer: D. Praveen Kumar**

**Explanation:** Praveen Kumar was appointed to lead the PESB, the body responsible for selecting top management personnel and managing appointments for Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs).

**Q22. Who was appointed as the new Director General of naval operations at the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy) in late April 2026?**

- A. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti
- B. Vice Admiral AN Pramod
- C. Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh
- D. Vice Admiral Gurcharan Singh

**Answer: B. Vice Admiral AN Pramod**

**Explanation:** Vice Admiral AN Pramod took charge as the Director General of Naval Operations (DGNO). This role is central to managing maritime deployments, coastal defense networks, and naval anti-piracy strategies across the Indian Ocean Region.

## 8. Awards, Honors & Recognition

**Q23. In late April 2026, Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU) in Pune partnered with UNESCO to launch Asia's first specialized academic chair. What is the core mandate of this chair?**

- A. Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Quantum Cryptography

B. Climate Resilience and Hydro-Meteorological Mapping

C. Gender Inclusion and Skill Development

D. Heritage Architecture Restoration and Digital Archiving

**Answer: C. Gender Inclusion and Skill Development**

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship announced that the first-ever UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development in Asia has been established at SSPU, Pune. The chair aims to address gender disparities in workforces by building training models that help women enter high-value, tech-driven sectors like automation, defense engineering, and data science.

**Q24. The prestigious "Sir David Attenborough Global Conservation Award" for the year 2026 was conferred upon which Indian wildlife biologist for her work in community-led preservation of endangered birds?**

A. Dr. Purnima Devi Barman

B. Dr. Latika Nath

C. Divya Mudappa

D. Krithi Karanth

**Answer: A. Dr. Purnima Devi Barman**

**Explanation:** Noted wildlife biologist Dr. Purnima Devi Barman, leader of the 'Hargila Army' in Assam, was awarded the Sir David Attenborough Global Conservation Award for 2026. The honor recognizes her community-driven models that saved the Greater Adjutant Stork from local extinction.

## 9. MoUs & Business Agreements

**Q25. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) signed a strategic**

**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with an AI platform to translate traditional medical research into multiple Indian regional languages. Which AI platform is the partner in this agreement?**

A. Bhashini AI

B. Anuvadini AI

C. Sarvam AI

D. BharatGPT

**Answer: B. Anuvadini AI: Explanation:** CCRAS paired with Anuvadini AI, an AI-driven translation ecosystem developed under the aegis of the Ministry of Education. The partnership aims to automatically translate ancient Ayurvedic treatises, research papers, and formulations into Scheduled regional languages, making traditional medical knowledge more accessible.

**Q26. India's first commercial, high-capacity indigenous plant designed to convert "Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate" was greenlit for construction at Lakhanpur. In which state is this facility located?**

A. Jharkhand

B. Odisha

C. Chhattisgarh

D. Madhya Prade: **Explanation:** The landmark Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate gasification industrial asset is slated to be set up at Lakhanpur in Odisha. The project aligns with the National Coal Gasification Mission, which aims to clean-utilize abundant domestic coal reserves to manufacture chemical components used in mining explosives and fertilizers, reducing import costs.

## 10. Important Days, Culture & Anniversaries



**Q27. Every year on April 28, the global community observes the "World Day for Safety and Health at Work." What is the historical international agency that establishes and drives this annual observance?**

- A. World Health Organization (WHO)
- B. International Labour Organization (ILO)
- C. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- D. World Economic Forum (WEF)

**Answer: B. International Labour Organization (ILO)** **Explanation:** Observed annually on April 28 since 2003 by the ILO, the World Day for Safety and Health at Work promotes the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases globally. It raises awareness about creating a safety-first culture in industrial environments to reduce work-related injuries and fatalities.

**Q28. Every 10 years, an event called the "Exposition of the Sacred Relics of Saint Francis Xavier" draws millions of pilgrims. In which Indian state is this event held?**

- A. Kerala
- B. Goa
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Maharashtra

**Answer: B. Goa:** **Explanation:** Saint Francis Xavier (1506–1552) was a pioneering missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). His mortal remains are housed in a silver casket inside the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa. The decennial public exposition of his remains is a significant cultural and religious event for the state.

**Q29. April 28, 2026, marked the birth anniversary of Madhusudan Das, a towering**

**freedom fighter, lawyer, and social reformer. He is affectionately remembered as the architect of which modern Indian state?**

- A. West Bengal
- B. Odisha
- C. Bihar
- D. Assam

**Answer: B. Odisha:** **Explanation:** Born on April 28, 1848, Madhusudan Das (popularly known as *Utkal Gourab* or the Glory of Utkal) was a foundational leader who worked to unify Odia-speaking regions, culminating in the creation of Odisha as a separate province on April 1, 1936. He was also the first graduate and advocate from Odisha.

**Q30. The premier regional football governing council, the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF), officially announced in late April 2026 that the upcoming SAFF Women's Championship 2026 will be hosted in India. Which stadium will host the matches?**

- A. Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata
- B. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Fatorda) Stadium, Goa
- C. Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
- D. DY Patil Stadium, Navi Mumbai

**Answer: B. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Fatorda) Stadium, Goa:** **Explanation:** SAFF confirmed that India is set to host the SAFF Women's Championship 2026 from May 24 to June 7, 2026. All matches of this regional soccer tournament will be played at the Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (Fatorda) Stadium located in Margao, Goa.