

## Part 1: International & National News

**Q1. Recently in April 2026, which space agency unveiled its operational roadmap for the "Roman Space Telescope" to investigate the mysteries of Dark Matter and Dark Energy?**

- A) ISRO
- B) ESA
- C) NASA
- D) JAXA

**Correct Answer: C [NASA]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) finalized and released its comprehensive timeline and scientific operational targets for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. Designed to unravel critical cosmic questions, the telescope features a field of view 100 times greater than that of the Hubble Space Telescope. Its primary mission goals include mapping the distribution of dark matter, measuring cosmic acceleration driven by dark energy, and performing a statistical census of exoplanets in the Milky Way galaxy using gravitational microlensing.

**Q2. The world marked the 40th anniversary of the catastrophic Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant disaster on April 26, 2026. In which present-day country is the Chernobyl site located?**

- A) Russia
- B) Ukraine
- C) Belarus
- D) Poland

**Correct Answer: B [Ukraine]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Chernobyl disaster occurred on April 26, 1986, making 2026 the exact 40th anniversary of what is widely

considered the worst civilian nuclear accident in history. The accident took place at No. 4 reactor in the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant, near the city of Pripyat in the Ukrainian SSR (now Ukraine). The explosion and subsequent fires released massive amounts of radioactive contamination into the atmosphere, spreading across western USSR and Europe. This anniversary brings renewed global focus on nuclear safety, containment structures, and the geopolitical vulnerabilities of nuclear sites.

**Q3. Which country has recently faced scrutiny for imposing heavy anti-dumping duties on solar cells and panels imported from manufacturing nations, including India, in late April 2026?**

- A) China
- B) United States
- C) Germany
- D) Australia

**Correct Answer: B [United States]**

**Detailed Explanation:** In late April 2026, the United States Department of Commerce advanced regulatory steps to solidify anti-dumping and countervailing duties on solar cell and panel imports from several nations, including India. The US administration cited the protection of its domestic clean-energy manufacturing base against subsidized foreign goods as the primary driver. This move has significant ramifications for Indian solar exporters who have heavily expanded their production capacities under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to cater to global green energy markets.

**Q4. The historic city of Dhar, which was recently selected for advanced funding and deployment under the Safe Cities project for cultural**

**preservation and urban surveillance, is located in which state?**

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Gujarat
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Maharashtra

**Correct Answer: C [Madhya Pradesh]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Dhar is an ancient city located in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. It was the historical capital of the Paramara dynasty (notably under King Bhoja). The city has been integrated into strategic urban development and security frameworks to manage high tourist inflows safely while preserving heritage structures like the Dhar Fort and Bhojshala monument.

**Q5. The Ministry of Home Affairs recently advanced the administrative framework for the creation of 5 new districts in which Union Territory, following the finalization of boundary lines in late April 2026?**

- A) Puducherry
- B) Jammu & Kashmir
- C) Ladakh
- D) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

**Correct Answer: C [Ladakh]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Following structural assessments to improve decentralized governance in high-altitude border regions, the Ministry of Home Affairs advanced the execution plan for establishing 5 new districts in the Union Territory of Ladakh: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang. This structural reform splits the massive administrative burden away from the standalone Leh and Kargil setups, facilitating targeted development, infrastructure development, and localized

governance essential for UPSC and SSC administrative geography segments.

## Part 2: Economics, Banking & Finance

**Q6. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officially revoked the banking licence of which of the following institutions under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with all banking operations ceasing in late April 2026?**

- A) Airtel Payments Bank
- B) Jio Payments Bank
- C) Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)
- D) Fino Payments Bank

**Correct Answer: C [Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL)]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Reserve Bank of India officially cancelled the banking license of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL) under Section 22(4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This final supervisory action followed prolonged, material non-compliance with regulatory guidelines, persistent supervisory concerns, and inadequate Know Your Customer (KYC) compliance. The RBI mandated that PPBL must completely cease all remaining banking operations, deposits, and wallet top-ups effective late April 2026, marking a monumental shift in India's digital banking ecosystem.

**Q7. Who has been officially named to succeed Suman Bery as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, with the formal takeover scheduled for May 2026?**

- A) Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- B) Dr. Ashok Lahiri
- C) Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- D) Prof. Ramesh Chand

**Correct Answer: B [Dr. Ashok Lahiri]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Renowned economist and former member of the 15th Finance Commission, Dr. Ashok Lahiri, has been appointed as the new Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog. He succeeds Suman Bery, who completed his four-year tenure. As the administrative head of the government's premier policy think tank, Dr. Lahiri will lead long-term policy formulation, cooperative federalism initiatives, and structural economic reforms.

**Q8. Under the newly advanced 'Utkarsh 2029' strategic framework, which project has been prioritized by the Reserve Bank of India to completely modernize India's currency management and distribution infrastructure?**

- A) Project Sa-Mudra
- B) Project E-Kuber 2.0
- C) Project Currency-X
- D) Project Mint-Modern

**Correct Answer: A [Project Sa-Mudra]**

**Detailed Explanation:** As part of its 'Utkarsh 2029' medium-term strategy, the RBI launched "Project Sa-Mudra". The initiative focuses on the complete automated modernization of currency management, including setting up state-of-the-art automated storage and processing centers, enhancing counterfeit detection via deep learning algorithms, and re-engineering the logistics of currency distribution across bank chests nationwide.

**Q9. In its updated Asian Development Outlook report released in mid-to-late April 2026, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) projected India's GDP growth rate for the Financial Year 2026-27 (FY27) at what percentage?**

- A) 6.5%

- B) 6.7%

- C) 6.9%

- D) 7.2%

**Correct Answer: C [6.9%]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) updated its growth metrics, projecting India's economic growth at 6.9% for FY27. The ADB attributed this steady momentum to robust domestic demand, expanding manufacturing capacity under PLI schemes, massive public spending on infrastructure, and a recovery in rural consumption. However, it cautioned against downside risks stemming from geopolitical tensions in Western Asia affecting oil prices and global supply chain fragmentation.

**Q10. Which prominent alternate asset management firm received formal approval from SEBI in April 2026 to launch comprehensive Portfolio Management Services (PMS) targeting institutional investors?**

- A) Kotak Alternative Assets
- B) Bajaj Alternate Investment Management
- C) HDFC AMC Alternatives
- D) Nippon India Alternates

**Correct Answer: B [Bajaj Alternate Investment Management]**

**Detailed Explanation:**

Bajaj Alternate Investment Management (a subsidiary of Bajaj Finserv) secured regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to commence its Portfolio Management Services (PMS). This allows the firm to offer customized investment portfolios, alternative assets, and structured equity strategies to High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs) and institutional investors, altering the



competitive landscape of the Indian asset management industry.

### Part 3: Appointments & Corporate Governance

**Q11. Who has been sworn in as the first-ever woman Chief Justice of the Andhra Pradesh High Court following a presidential appointment order?**

- A) Justice Indira Banerjee
- B) Justice Hima Kohli
- C) Justice Lisa Gill
- D) Justice B.V. Nagarathna

**Correct Answer: C [Justice Lisa Gill]**

**Detailed Explanation:** In a historic milestone for the Indian judiciary, Justice Lisa Gill was appointed and sworn in as the first woman Chief Justice of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh. The appointment, made by the President of India under Article 217 of the Constitution, underscores a progressive push toward gender diversity in the higher judiciary. Prior to this landmark elevation, she served with distinction as a senior judge, handling massive caseloads across civil and constitutional matters.

**Q12. The Government of India has constituted a high-level expert panel in late April 2026 to assess the market risks and systemic financial vulnerabilities arising from the deployment of the private AI platform 'Mythos'. Who is the chairperson of this newly formed panel?**

- A) The SEBI Chairperson
- B) The RBI Governor
- C) The State Bank of India (SBI) Chief (Challa Sreenivasulu Setty)
- D) The Union Finance Secretary

**Correct Answer: C [The State Bank of India (SBI) Chief (Challa Sreenivasulu Setty)]**

**Detailed Explanation:** To safeguard Indian financial markets against systemic disruptions caused by high-frequency algorithmic trading and private AI modeling platforms like 'Mythos', the Ministry of Finance constituted an expert committee chaired by the Chairman of the State Bank of India (C.S. Setty). The panel's mandate is to study operational risks, capital market vulnerabilities, and data protection loopholes, and suggest regulatory safeguards to prevent AI-driven flash crashes.

**Q13. Swati Mujumdar has been appointed to lead Asia's first-ever "UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development". Which Indian institution will host this prestigious international chair?**

- A) Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune
- B) Delhi Skill and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU)
- C) IIT Madras
- D) TISS Mumbai

**Correct Answer: A [Symbiosis Skills and Professional University (SSPU), Pune]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Formally launched in April 2026 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development has been established at SSPU, Pune, under the leadership of Pro-Chancellor Swati Mujumdar. The chair focuses on bringing women into technical sectors like semiconductor manufacturing, robotics, and advanced defense tech through global research collaborations and structured vocational frameworks.

## Part 4: Sports News

**Q14. Which Indian cricketer became the first player in Indian Premier League (IPL) history to smash 800 boundaries (fours) during a match played in late April 2026?**

- A) Rohit Sharma
- B) Shikhar Dhawan
- C) Virat Kohli
- D) David Warner

**Correct Answer: C [Virat Kohli]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Continuing his historic run in T20 cricket, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) batter Virat Kohli became the first player in IPL history to cross the milestone of hitting 800 fours. Kohli already holds the record for the highest run-scorer in the tournament's history. This landmark solidifies his statistical dominance in short-format cricket.

**Q15. Gurbax Singh Grewal, who sadly passed away in late April 2026, was a legendary Indian sports personality associated with which sport?**

- A) Cricket
- B) Field Hockey
- C) Athletics
- D) Football

**Correct Answer: B [Field Hockey]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Gurbax Singh Grewal was an iconic former Indian national field hockey player and coach who contributed extensively to India's domestic dominance in the sport during the mid-to-late 20th century. Known for his tactical acumen as a deep defender, his passing is deeply mourned by the Indian hockey community.

**Q16. In late April 2026, which IPL franchise created a historic T20 record by successfully pulling off the highest run-chase in the history of the Indian Premier League by chasing down 262 runs?**

- A) Punjab Kings (PBKS)
- B) Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR)
- C) Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH)
- D) Mumbai Indians (MI)

**Correct Answer: A [Punjab Kings (PBKS)]**

**Detailed Explanation:** In a match that rewrote T20 record books, Punjab Kings (PBKS) successfully chased down a target of 262 runs set by the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) at the Eden Gardens. Powered by explosive centuries and high strike rates, PBKS surpassed the previous world record for the highest successful run chase in all T20 cricket history, hitting an unprecedented number of sixes in a single innings.

## Part 5: Defense News & MoUs

**Q17. "Project DANTAK", which recently celebrated its anniversary and announced strategic road expansions across challenging Himalayan terrain in April 2026, is an overseas project managed by which organization?**

- A) Indian Army
- B) Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- C) NHAI
- D) DRDO

**Correct Answer: B [Border Roads Organisation (BRO)]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Project DANTAK was established on May 24, 1961, as an agreement between the government of India and the Kingdom of Bhutan to construct vital

institutional infrastructure and connectivity lines. Managed by India's Border Roads Organisation (BRO), the project rolled out major highway upgrades linking remote areas of Bhutan to the Indian border in late April 2026, boosting local economic integration and bilateral defense logistics.

**Q18. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to travel to which international city to represent India at the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Defense Ministers' Meeting?**

- A) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- B) Astana, Kazakhstan
- C) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- D) Dushanbe, Tajikistan

**Correct Answer: B [Astana, Kazakhstan]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Kazakhstan holds the rotating presidency of the SCO. The SCO Defense Ministers' Meeting in Astana focuses on regional anti-terror frameworks, maritime security in the Indian Ocean, and joint cyber-defense platforms, serving as a critical pillar for UPSC international relations.

**Q19. In late April 2026, a major Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC) and which premier university to build an advanced research curriculum for global maritime corridors?**

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
- B) University of Delhi (DU)
- C) IIT Bombay
- D) Indian Maritime University (IMU)

**Correct Answer: B [University of Delhi (DU)]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Center for Maritime Economy and Connectivity (CMEC), operating under the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), formalised an MoU with the University of Delhi. This alliance will develop specialized post-graduate and research modules tracking the economic and geopolitical developments along the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) and the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

## Part 6: Awards, Honors, Books & Authors

**Q20. In late April 2026, who was conferred with the prestigious global "Green Champion Award" for leading massive community-driven mangrove restoration projects across the Sundarbans?**

- A) Jadav Payeng
- B) Dr. Purnima Devi Barman
- C) Alok Shukla
- D) Suman Das

**Correct Answer: D [Suman Das]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Environmental activist Suman Das was awarded the international Green Champion Award 2026 for successfully restoring over 1,500 hectares of degraded mangrove forests in the Sundarbans region. The restoration utilized native species and directly engaged local women's self-help groups, building climate resilience against frequent cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal.

**Q21. The highly anticipated historical biography titled "The Architect of Indraprastha: Reclaiming Delhi's Ancient Foundations" was released in April 2026. Who is the author of this book?**

- A) Shashi Tharoor

- B) Sanjeev Sanyal
- C) William Dalrymple
- D) Upinder Singh

**Correct Answer: B [Sanjeev Sanyal]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Economist and historian Sanjeev Sanyal released his latest historical work, "*The Architect of Indraprastha*". The book blends archaeological data, geological records of the changing Yamuna river course, and textual analysis from the Mahabharata to reconstruct the urban planning, fort boundaries, and political history of ancient Delhi.

## Part 7: Government Schemes & Initiatives

**Q22. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution launched a structured, assured-price pulse procurement framework in Chhattisgarh under which central umbrella scheme in April 2026?**

- A) PM-KISAN
- B) PM-AASHA
- C) PM-FBY
- D) PM-KRISHI

**Correct Answer: B [PM-AASHA]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The central government expanded procurement operations under the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) by launching the first-ever structured pulse procurement initiative under the *Atmanirbhar Pulses Mission* in Chhattisgarh. The initiative ensures a Minimum Support Price (MSP) directly to tribal and small-scale farmers for tur, urad, and masoor, aiming to break import dependencies by 2028.

**Q23. Which Indian state formally launched the phase-II deployment of the "Banglar Yuva Sathi**

**Scheme" in late April 2026, offering targeted skill stipends and entrepreneurial credit lines to unemployed youth?**

- A) Tripura
- B) Assam
- C) West Bengal
- D) Odisha

**Correct Answer: C [West Bengal]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Government of West Bengal expanded the "Banglar Yuva Sathi Scheme" to provide monthly skill-training stipends of ₹1,500 along with subsidized credit lines up to ₹2 Lakhs for registered youth looking to set up micro-enterprises. The program is linked with local industrial training institutes (ITIs) to match regional labor requirements.

**Q24. Which central ministry is the nodal implementation agency for the "Jiyo Parsi Scheme", which recorded its highest-ever quarterly portal registration numbers following intensive outreach camps in April 2026?**

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of Minority Affairs
- D) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

**Correct Answer: C [Ministry of Minority Affairs]**

**Detailed Explanation:** The Jiyo Parsi Scheme is a Central Sector Scheme implemented by the **Ministry of Minority Affairs**. Launched to arrest the demographic decline of the Parsi (Zoroastrian) community in India, the scheme provides financial assistance for advanced IVF treatments, childcare support, and family counseling. The recent surge in registrations followed digitized mobile outreach units across Maharashtra and Gujarat.



**Q25. The flagship national integration student tour exchange program, "Yuva Sangam Phase VI", commenced its cross-border state tours in late April 2026. This initiative operates under the umbrella of which vision?**

- A) Digital India
- B) Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat
- C) Make in India
- D) Skill India

**Correct Answer: B [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Yuva Sangam is a continuous youth exchange program under the **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** initiative led by the Ministry of Education. Phase VI focuses on connecting students and young professionals from the North-Eastern states with various other states across India through immersive multi-day exposure tours emphasizing the 5 Ps: Paryatan (Tourism), Parampara (Tradition), Pragati (Development), Parasparik Sampark (People-to-People connect), and Prodyogiki (Technology).

## Part 8: Science, Tech, Art, Culture & Festivals

**Q26. India's first large-scale commercial Anode Material production facility, vital for building domestic Lithium-Ion battery supply chains, was commissioned by Himadri Speciality Chemical Limited in which state?**

- A) Gujarat
- B) Tamil Nadu
- C) West Bengal
- D) Karnataka

**Correct Answer: C [West Bengal]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Himadri Speciality Chemical Limited commissioned India's first

operational anode material production facility at Mahistikry, Hooghly district, West Bengal. With an initial capacity of 200 Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), the plant will produce synthetic anode materials necessary for manufacturing Lithium-Ion cells locally, directly reducing reliance on imports from China.

**Q27. Rocklink India Private Limited inaugurated India's first fully integrated commercial-grade Lithium-Ion Battery and Rare Earth Magnet recycling plant in which state in late April 2026?**

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Uttar Pradesh
- C) Telangana
- D) Andhra Pradesh

**Correct Answer: B [Uttar Pradesh]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Rocklink India Private Limited launched India's premiere commercial recycling unit for e-waste, specifically targeting lithium-ion battery packs and rare-earth magnets (neodymium) at Sikandrabad, Bulandshahr district, Uttar Pradesh. The plant extracts high-purity battery-grade cobalt, lithium, and nickel salts alongside rare earth elements from discarded EVs and electronic waste, supporting circular economy regulations.

**Q28. Prasar Bharati's Akashvani (All India Radio), in collaboration with the MyGov portal, launched nationwide creative contests in late April 2026 to celebrate 90 years of public broadcasting under which theme?**

- A) Voice of a Billion: Akashvani@90
- B) Akashvani @90 – The New Rhythm of Bharat
- C) Digital Radio: Connecting Bharat
- D) Swara to Digital: Radio @90

**Correct Answer: B [Akashvani @90 – The New Rhythm of Bharat]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Marking 90 years since the inception of organized public service broadcasting in India, Prasar Bharati launched the "Signature Tune-Making Contest and Jingle-Making Contest" on the MyGov platform. The central theme, "Akashvani @90 – The New Rhythm of Bharat", invites citizens to redesign public radio identifiers to incorporate modern electronic music assets while preserving traditional folk instruments.

## Part 9: Important Days, Anniversaries & Milestones

**Q29. World Intellectual Property Day is observed globally every year on April 26. What was the central focus theme designated for World IP Day?**

- A) IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future
- B) Women and IP: Accelerating Innovation and Creativity
- C) IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity
- D) IP and Green Innovation

**Correct Answer: C [IP and the SDGs: Building Our Common Future with Innovation and Creativity]**

**Detailed Explanation:** Celebrated every year on April 26 by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Intellectual Property Day highlights how patents, copyrights, trademarks, and designs influence daily life. The theme focuses on mapping intellectual property tools against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing how legal protection accelerates green technologies, healthcare equity, and food security.

**Q30. April 29 is celebrated globally as which of the following international days, established by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and recognized by UNESCO?**

- A) International Dance Day
- B) World Theatre Day
- C) International Music Day
- D) World Heritage Day

**Correct Answer: A [International Dance Day]**

**Detailed Explanation:**

International Dance Day is observed every year on April 29 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre (1727–1810), the creator of modern ballet. Created by the Dance Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the day promotes the art form of dance globally, breaking political, cultural, and ethnic barriers through a universal rhythmic language. It features prominently in competitive exams tracking cultural days.