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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

# April 2026

Exam-ready facts only · 421 items from 23 days

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

**Big themes · Facts To Remember 369 · National Affairs 105 · Banking and Finance 81**

Most mentioned · RBI · Reserve Bank · ANSWERS · West Asia · SEBI



### GIANT KILLERS

#### NABARD GRADE A 2026

ENROLLED IN CLARITY NABARD MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>1</b><br/><b>188.75</b><br/>SURAJ RAVINDRA</p> |  <p><b>2</b><br/><b>185</b><br/>LOKESH CHANDRAN</p> |  <p><b>3</b><br/><b>185</b><br/>VIVEK</p> |  <p><b>4</b><br/><b>184.50</b><br/>KAPIL PATLYA</p> |  <p><b>5</b><br/><b>183.75</b><br/>SIDDHANT KHESARWANI</p> |  <p><b>6</b><br/><b>182</b><br/>LALIT KUMAR</p> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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**6** OF THE  
TOP 10

Six of the ten highest scorers in NABARD Grade A 2026 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors compile this book every day.

# Contents

Names, numbers and tables only, topic by topic — 421 items from 23 days of April 2026. Every entry is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader.

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## THE MONTH IN NUMBERS

# April 2026 at a glance

23 daily compilations, 573 items across 6 topics — Facts To Remember weighed the most. Read the charts first: they tell you where this month's questions will come from.

23

daily compilations

573

items covered

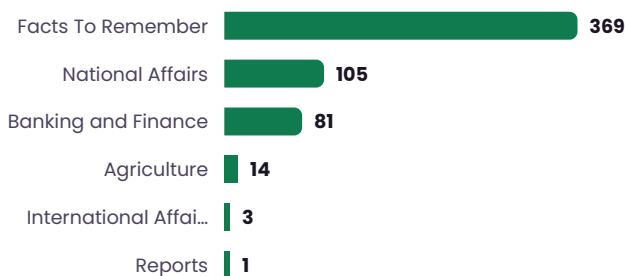
6

topics

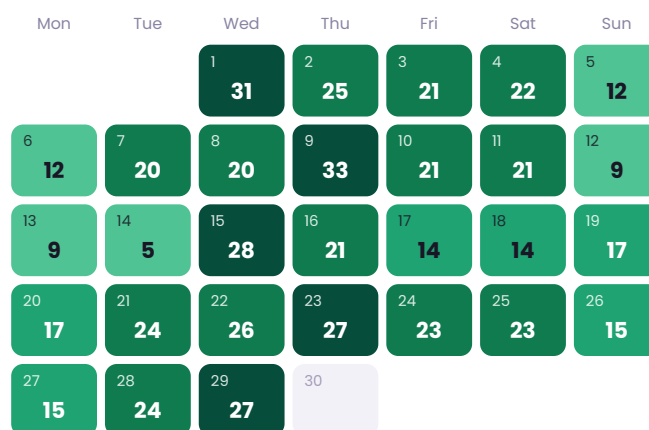
236

data tables

## Items by topic



## Items per day



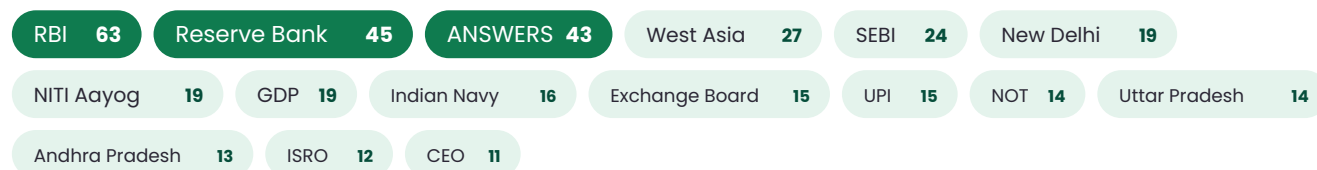
Darker = a heavier day. Two-day posts are split across their days.

## Where the items sat

● Other exams 573 (100%)

## Most mentioned this month

How many items each name appeared in. Know these cold.



"Read less, revise more, in the last thirty days."

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## FIGURES THE PAPER LOVES

# April 2026 by the numbers

The month's biggest figures with the line they came from. Say each one with its scheme or report before you turn the page.

## ₹19,200 crore

Fiscal Backing: The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹19,200 crore to the mission, cementing its status as a flagship i...

The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) · 17 & 18 April 2026

## ₹20 lakh

Risk Mitigation: By moving to an absolute system-wide cap, the RBI prevents "stacking"—where a borrower takes ₹20 lak...

RBI Revised Amendment Directions on Capital Market Exposures · 1 April 2026

## \$750 million

The Reality Check: After a peak of \$750 million in 2022, investment fell 70% by 2025 due to a "sharp correction" as i...

Southeast Asia's Agri-Tech Opportunity: Lessons from India · 3 April 2026

## ₹48.95 crore

As of January 31, 2026, the DICGC had already proactively paid out ₹48.95 crore of the total insured deposits based o...

RBI Cancels Licence of The Shirpur Merchants' Co-operative Bank · 7 April 2026

## ₹62,408 crore

Export Record: Seafood exports hit ₹62,408 crore in 2025, dominated by frozen shrimp exports to the US and China.

Advancing India's Fisheries Sector: Scaling the Blue Economy · 8 April 2026

## ₹40,000 crore

B) MUFG Bank (The Japanese lender invested nearly ₹40,000 crore for a 20% stake.)

Answers · 15 April 2026

## ₹6 lakh

Monetisation Target: A cumulative target of ₹6 lakh crore was set for the 4-year period (2022-2025), with NMP 2.0 ext...

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 · 19 & 20 April 2026

## ₹1.87 trillion

India's fertiliser subsidy bill crossed ₹1.87 trillion by February 2026, exceeding the Budget's revised estimates eve...

Fixing India's Fertiliser Subsidy · 19 & 20 April 2026

## \$103 billion

Trade Milestone: Bilateral trade reached \$103 billion in 2024-25, a 17% year-on-year increase.

The India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) · 23 April 2026

## \$100 million

Speculation Control: On March 27, 2026, the RBI capped the "Net Open Position" in INR for banks at \$100 million to pr...

RBI State of the Economy · 24 & 25 April 2026

## READ IT THE WAY TOPPERS DO

# How to use this book

This sheet is for the last lap: every item is cut down to the names, numbers and tables the paper actually asks. Work topic by topic, then close the book and take the test at the end of each topic.

**1****Read a topic**

Cards first, in order. Mark every number and every proper noun as you go.

**2****Cover and recall**

Cover the bullets with your hand and recite the item from its title alone.

**3****Take the test**

Fill the blanks at the end of the topic from memory, then check the answers.

**4****Come back**

Tick the tracker below. Revisit weak topics on day 3 and day 7.

## Your revision tracker

Tick as you go. Day 3 and day 7 recalls are what move a fact from short-term to exam-day memory.

| TOPIC                            | READ                     | RECALL +3                | RECALL +7                | TEST                     | NOTES |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| <b>Facts To Remember (369)</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| <b>National Affairs (105)</b>    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| <b>Banking and Finance (81)</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| <b>Agriculture (14)</b>          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| <b>International Affairs (3)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |
| <b>Reports (1)</b>               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |       |

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS · 105

**IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026**

1 April 2026

- The Indian Navy hosted the IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) Table-Top Exercise (TTX) 2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Kochi.
- Timeline: Conducted in early 2026 under India's renewed chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS).
- Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): Launched by India in 2008, it is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime cooperation among the navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.
- Simulated Environment: Unlike live-fire exercises, IMEX TTX 2026 used a war-gaming environment in Kochi, allowing for complex, multi-scenario contingencies without the cost or logistical constraints of ship deployment.

| Exam          | Focus Area                                                      | Relevance Level |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE      | GS-2 International Relations; GS-3 Internal Security (Maritime) | High            |
| Defence Exams | Naval Exercises and IOR Security Architecture                   | Very High       |

**Humpback Whale (Megaptera novaeangliae)**

1 April 2026

- A young humpback whale nicknamed "Timmy" has gained international attention after being stranded for a third time in the shallow waters of the Baltic Sea off Germany's coast.
- Identification: The underside of a humpback's tail (fluke) features unique black-and-white pigment patterns, serving as a "biological fingerprint" for researchers.

**Exercise Dweep Shakti**

1 April 2026

- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC): Established in 2001, it is India's first and only Theater Command, where all three services operate under a single unified commander.
- Timeline: Concluded in early 2026 under the aegis of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).
- Multi-Domain Interoperability: The services tested unified communication protocols to ensure real-time data sharing between fighter jets, warships, and ground troops.

| Exam | Focus Area | Relevance Level |
|------|------------|-----------------|
|------|------------|-----------------|

|               |                                                                   |           |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| UPSC CSE      | GS-3 Internal Security; Role of Armed Forces; Strategic Geography | High      |
| Defence Exams | Joint Exercises, Theater Commands, and Maritime Strategy          | Very High |

**NASA's Artemis II**

1 April 2026

- NASA's Artemis II mission, scheduled for launch on April 1, 2026, marks the first time in over 50 years that humans will venture beyond low-Earth orbit. Unlike the Apollo missions, Artemis II is a "proving flight"—a 10-day journey designed to test the systems required for a sustained human presence on the Moon.
- Historic "Firsts": The mission includes the first woman, the first person of color, and the first international partner to travel to the lunar vicinity.
- The "Long Game": This mission is a stepping stone for the Artemis Base Camp at the lunar South Pole, intended as a permanent testbed for future missions to Mars.
- Space Launch System (SLS): A 322-foot super-heavy rocket, the most powerful since the Saturn V, designed to carry crew and heavy cargo to deep space.

**CONCEPTUAL MCQs**

1 April 2026

- Q1. How does the Artemis II mission differ fundamentally from the Apollo missions of the 1960s and 70s?

| Exam            | Focus Area                                                         | Relevance Level |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 Science & Tech - Space Missions and International Cooperation | Very High       |
| SSC / State PCS | Science & Technology - Space Exploration Jargon and Facts          | High            |

**Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026**

2 April 2026

- Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014: The original law that bifurcated Andhra Pradesh to create Telangana. It designated Hyderabad as the joint capital for 10 years, ending in 2024.
- The "Why": To provide statutory (legal) backing to the capital city, ending years of legal and political uncertainty. It gives the decision retroactive effect from June 2, 2024.

- The Lok Sabha has passed the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026, officially recognizing Amaravati as the "sole and permanent" capital of Andhra Pradesh.
- Statutory Backing: When a decision is backed by an Act of Parliament, it becomes much harder to overturn or alter through executive orders by future state governments.

| Exam           | Focus Area                                                               | Relevance Level |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE       | GS-2 Polity: Centre-State Relations, Reorganisation of States, Art 3 & 4 | Very High       |
| State PCS (AP) | All sections regarding state governance and history                      | Critical        |

### Purvanchal Mahotsav 'Maati-9' Festival

2 April 2026

- Diaspora (Girmitya History): A significant part of the Purvanchali population migrated to nations like Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, and Trinidad in the 19th century. This festival honors their role in keeping the culture alive globally.
- MAATI-9 is a premier cultural festival dedicated to the Purvanchal region (Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and parts of Jharkhand).
- Cultural Preservation: The festival provides a platform for local artisans and folk performers to showcase traditional music and crafts that are often overshadowed by modern pop culture.

| Exam           | Focus Area                                         | Relevance Level |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE       | GS-1 Art & Culture; GS-2 Social Justice (Diaspora) | Moderate        |
| State PCS      | Regional Festivals and Cultural Heritage           | High            |
| SSC / Railways | Static GK - Folk Arts and Regional Festivals       | High            |

### The Nagoya Protocol & IRCCs

2 April 2026

- The Nagoya Protocol: A 2010 supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It focuses on the "third pillar" of the CBD: the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from genetic resources.
- Primary Law: The Biological Diversity Act, 2002, which predates the Nagoya Protocol but was updated to align with it.
- Q2: B (Explanation: The NBA is the statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to regulate access to India's resources.)
- The Milestone: India has emerged as the global leader in biodiversity compliance, issuing 3,561 Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs).

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                                           | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE              | GS-3 Environment: Biodiversity Conservation & International Treaties | Critical        |
| IFS (Forest Services) | Environmental Legislation & NBA Roles                                | High            |
| SSC / State PCS       | General Awareness: International Organizations & India's Leadership  | High            |

### Launch of 'Shachi'

2 April 2026

- The Lead: The Indian Navy has successfully launched Shachi (Yard 1280), the first vessel in a massive project to build eleven Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs).
- NGOPV Project: A large-scale naval program where 11 ships are being built concurrently by two major shipyards: GSL (Goa) and GRSE (Kolkata).
- Q1: B (Explanation: OPVs are the "workhorses" of the Navy, handling everything from piracy to disaster relief and infrastructure guarding.)
- Q2: B (Explanation: GSL built the lead ship Shachi, while GRSE is working on subsequent vessels in the class.)

| Exam           | Focus Area                                                | Relevance Level |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE       | GS-3 Internal Security; Defense Technology                | High            |
| NDA / CDS      | Naval Equipment, Indigenous Platforms, and Shipyards      | Critical        |
| SSC / Railways | General Knowledge: Current Affairs and Defense Milestones | High            |

### Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot & Mascot 'Dishika'

2 April 2026

- Q1. What is the primary technological goal of the "Voice-First" design in Nyaya Setu?
- Q1: B (Explanation: Voice-first technology is an inclusivity tool for those who cannot read or write fluently but need legal help.)
- The Goal: To "democratize access to justice" by removing language and technical barriers for common citizens.
- Bhashini (DIBD): The Digital India BHASHINI Division is India's AI-led language translation platform. It aims to break language barriers between various Indian dialects using voice-to-voice translation.

| Exam     | Focus Area                                             | Relevance Level |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE | GS-2 Governance (E-Governance); GS-3 (AI & Technology) | High            |

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                     | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>State PCS</b>     | Digital Initiatives & Social Justice           | High            |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | General Awareness: New Portals & AI Milestones | Moderate        |

### Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026

2 April 2026

- Massive Legislative Clean-up: The Bill targets 717 provisions for decriminalisation and amends 67 others to simplify the regulatory environment.
- The Lok Sabha passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, by voice vote.
- MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises): Small-scale businesses that are the backbone of the Indian economy but often lack the legal resources to fight criminal cases for minor technical errors.
- Rationalisation of Offences: It streamlines over 1,000 offences, removing laws that have become outdated or redundant in the modern economy.

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                              | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>     | GS-2 Governance (Ease of Living); GS-3 Economy (Ease of Doing Business) | Very High       |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | ESI - Industrial Policy and Regulatory Environment                      | High            |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Corporate Laws and Regulatory Compliance                                | Moderate        |

### Aditya-L1

3 April 2026

- The mission is named after its destination: Lagrange Point 1 (L1). This is a gravitationally stable spot located about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth, directly toward the Sun.
- The Coronal Heating Problem: Scientists want to understand why the Sun's outer atmosphere (the Corona) is millions of degrees hotter than its surface (the Photosphere), which is only about 6,000°C.
- SoLEXS & HELIOS: X-ray spectrometers to study solar flares across different energy levels.
- Aditya-L1 is a dedicated satellite mission by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) designed to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic storms, and their impact on Earth's environment.

| Exam             | Focus Area                                           | Relevance |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>  | GS-3 Science & Tech (Space missions & Solar physics) | High      |
| <b>SSC / PSC</b> | General Awareness: ISRO milestones and payload names | High      |

### Survey Vessel (Large) 'Sanshodhak'

3 April 2026

- The delivery, made by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata on March 30, 2026, completes the four-ship contract signed in October 2018.
- Dimensions: Overall length of 110 meters and a beam of 16 meters.
- Complement: Designed to carry 18 officers and 160 sailors.
- Sanshodhak joins its sister ships: INS Sandhayak (Feb 2024), INS Nirdeshak (Dec 2024), and INS Ikshak (Nov 2025).

### India Leads 16-Nation Maritime Initiative: IOS SAGAR

3 April 2026

- The Mission: This 16-nation initiative aims to reinforce regional maritime security and cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- SAGAR Vision: "Security and Growth for All in the Region"—India's strategic policy for the Indian Ocean, introduced in 2015 to promote cooperation and maritime security.
- Strait of Hormuz: A critical maritime "choke point" between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman. It is the world's most important oil transit pass, currently facing instability due to geopolitical conflict.
- EEZ Sovereignty: The right of a country to manage resources within its Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nautical miles from the coast). Encroachment by "deep-sea research" often masks illegal resource mapping.

| Exam             | Focus Area                                                         | Relevance Level |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>  | GS-2 International Relations (India & Neighborhood); GS-3 Security | Critical        |
| <b>NDA / CDS</b> | Naval Operations, Ship Names, and Maritime Geography               | Very High       |

### Commissioning of INS Taragiri (P17A Stealth Frigate)

4 April 2026

- Project 17A: Taragiri is a key vessel under Project 17A (Nilgiri-class), which involves building seven advanced frigates (four by MDL and three by GRSE).
- Offensive Power: The frigate is equipped with a vertical launch system for the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, allowing for high-precision strikes against sea and land targets at speeds of Mach 2.8.
- Q2: B (Explanation: Stealth is about "signature management"—making the ship a harder target for electronic sensors.)
- The Builder: The warship was constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) in

Mumbai, further cementing India's capabilities in complex naval engineering.

| Exam                     | Focus Area                                    | Relevance Level |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>NDA / CDS / AFCAT</b> | Naval Projects, Weapon Systems, Ship Builders | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>          | GS-3 Security (Indigenization & Defence Tech) | <b>High</b>     |

### INS Aridhaman: India's Third Nuclear-Powered Submarine

4 April 2026

- **The Class:** It is the third vessel in the Arihant-class, following INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024).
- **SSBN (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear):** These are the "silent sentinels." They carry long-range ballistic missiles (like the K-series) and are designed to stay hidden for months to act as a deterrent.
- **Q2. How does INS Aridhaman (S4) differ from the first two Arihant-class submarines?**
- **Q2: B (Explanation:** The S4 and S4\* models are "stretched" versions of the original design to accommodate more or larger missiles.)

| Feature             | Arihant & Arighaat | Aridhaman (S4) & S4*                 |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Displacement</b> | ~6,000 tonnes      | <b>~7,000 tonnes (Bigger)</b>        |
| <b>Firepower</b>    | Standard           | <b>Enhanced</b> (More missile tubes) |
| <b>Status</b>       | Operational        | <b>Newly Commissioned</b>            |

### Kar Saathi: The AI-Powered Tax Assistant

4 April 2026

- **The Framework:** The platform is specifically designed to support the transition to the new Income Tax Act, 2025.
- **Act Transition Support:** Specifically programmed to explain the changes between the old tax regime and the Income Tax Act, 2025.
- **The Role:** It serves as a 24/7 digital concierge to simplify filing and compliance for millions of Indian taxpayers.
- **24/7 Intelligent Support:** Provides instant answers to queries regarding ITR filing, tax provisions, deductions, and refunds without human intervention.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                                    | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 Economy (Mobilization of Resources); GS-2 (E-Governance) | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | ESI (Digital Governance & Fiscal Policy)                      | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs: New Government Portals & AI Apps             | <b>High</b>     |

### SAMPANN Platform: Digitalizing Pension Management

4 April 2026

- **Massive Scale:** The platform currently disburses an average of ₹1,650 crore monthly.
- **Cumulative Impact:** It has successfully processed over ₹72,000 crore in total disbursements to date.
- **The Shift:** Originally developed for telecom pensioners, the platform is now being "shared" with other state and autonomous bodies to standardize pension processing across India.
- **SAMPANN eliminates "middle-layer" delays.** The money moves directly from the government accounting office to the pensioner's bank account. This prevents "ghost pensioners" (fraudulent accounts) and ensures the full amount reaches the beneficiary.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                                            | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-2 (E-Governance & Digital India); GS-3 (Mobilization of Resources) | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Government Schemes, Portals, and Acronyms                             | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | Digital Initiatives (Specific focus for Goa/Kerala candidates)        | <b>Critical</b> |

### YUVIKA: ISRO's Young Scientist Programme

4 April 2026

- **The Rural Push:** To ensure the programme isn't limited to urban elites, 15% of seats are reserved for students from rural and remote areas.
- **Hands-on Learning:** Students visit ISRO facilities (like SDSC SHAR, Sriharikota) to see launch pads, satellites, and mission control centers.
- **A) 15% for students from rural and remote areas.**
- **B) 50% for international students.**

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                                | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>       | GS-2 (Education & Human Resources); GS-3 (Science & Tech) | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>SSC / Railways</b> | Important Government Schemes & Acronyms                   | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>State PCS</b>      | Science & Tech Initiatives for Youth                      | <b>Moderate</b> |

### Freshwater Fish in the Shivaliks

5 & 6 April 2026

- **Timeline:** The fossils date back to the Pliocene Epoch, specifically around 4.5 million years ago.
- **Q2. The discovery of which fish species marks a "first" for India and only the "second" in the world?**

- C) It indicates that the region was a desert 4 million years ago.
- Q2: B (Explanation: The Gourami find is extremely rare globally and provides a link to Southeast Asian biodiversity.)

| Exam           | Focus Area                                         | Relevance Level |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE       | GS-1 (Geography/Geomorphology); GS-3 (Environment) | Moderate        |
| State PCS (UK) | Uttarakhand Geography & Scientific Discoveries     | Critical        |
| SSC / Railways | General Science & Important Institutes (WIHG)      | High            |

### ISRO: Mission MITRA in Ladakh

5 & 6 April 2026

- The Analog: Conducted at 3,500 metres in Leh, the mission serves as a "natural analog" for spaceflight, simulating hypoxia (low oxygen), freezing temperatures, and isolation.
- Q3: B (Explanation: High-stress environments often lead to communication errors; MITRA aims to minimize this for Gaganyaan.)
- An analog mission is a field test in a location on Earth that has physical similarities to extreme space environments (like the Moon or Mars).
- Interoperability: This refers to how well the "crew" (astronauts) and "ground control" (scientists on Earth) work together.

| Exam            | Focus Area                                        | Relevance Level |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 Science & Tech (Space Exploration/Gaganyaan) | Critical        |
| NDA / CDS       | Defense & Space Research, Mission Names           | High            |
| SSC / State PCS | Current Affairs: ISRO Missions & Ladakh           | High            |

### BIRAC-BioNEST at CSIR-CFTRI

5 & 6 April 2026

- Q1: B (Explanation: The center leverages CFTRI's expertise in food to boost biotech entrepreneurship.)
- Mentorship: Connecting scientists from CSIR-CFTRI with young entrepreneurs to solve technical hurdles.
- Networking: Facilitating interactions with industry leaders for scaling and distribution.
- Q2: BIRAC, which manages the BioNEST program, functions under which Union Ministry?

| Exam     | Focus Area                                              | Relevance Level |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE | GS-3 Science & Tech (Indigenization of Tech & Startups) | High            |

SSC / Banking

Current Affairs: Schemes and Appointments

Moderate

### Commissioning of INS Aridhaman (S4)

5 & 6 April 2026

- Indigenous Content: Approximately 70% of the submarine is built with Indian-made components and technology.
- Strategic Expansion: This follows the commissioning of INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024), strengthening India's nuclear triad.
- The "S4" variant is slightly larger and carries a more potent nuclear punch than its predecessors:
- Vertical Launch Tubes: Equipped with 8 tubes (double the capacity of the original INS Arihant).

| Exam      | Focus Area                                                  | Relevance Level |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE  | GS-3 Science & Tech (Indigenization of Tech); GS-3 Security | Critical        |
| NDA / CDS | Navy Commissions, Missile Names & Ranges                    | Critical        |

### Border Roads Organisation (BRO) & Project Chetak

7 April 2026

- The Legacy: Since its inception in 1980, the project has been the backbone of infrastructure development along India's sensitive western borders.
- Q3: B (Explanation: It has completed 46 years and entered its 47th year in 2026.)
- The Milestone: Project Chetak, a vital arm of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), celebrated its 47th Raising Day on April 4, 2026, in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- Q4: C (Explanation: Since 2015, the BRO has been fully funded and managed by the Ministry of Defence to ensure strategic priority.)

| Feature          | Detail                              |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Established      | 1980                                |
| Road Network     | Over 4,000 km                       |
| Geographic Focus | Rajasthan, Punjab, Northern Gujarat |
| Defensive Assets | 214 km of Ditch Cum Bund (DCB)      |
| Headquarters     | Bikaner, Rajasthan                  |

### The Return of Stagflation

7 April 2026

- The Threat: Economists fear a return to 1970s-style Stagflation, a rare and "worst of both worlds" scenario that hasn't been seen at this scale for nearly 50 years.
- Q3: A (Explanation: This is the central bank's dilemma—helping one problem often worsens the other.)
- The military conflict between the US-Israel and Iran

"Read the question twice, answer it once."

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in April 2026 has caused a "pernicious" energy supply shock.

- Q1: C (Explanation: It is the "worst of both worlds" where the economy stalls but prices still rise.)

| Feature             | 1970s Example (UK/US)               | 2026 Projection                                                    |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>GDP Growth</b>   | -0.5% (US) to -1.7% (UK) in 1974    | Stagnation feared due to industrial gas shortages.                 |
| <b>Inflation</b>    | Reached 24.2% in the UK (1975)      | Double-digit inflation potential in energy-dependent nations.      |
| <b>Unemployment</b> | Massive job losses in manufacturing | Threats to MSMEs and energy-heavy sectors (Ceramics, Fertilizers). |
| <b>Policy Tools</b> | Traditional tools were ineffective  | RBI/Central banks face a "Policy Paralysis."                       |

### Draft Tar Ball Management Rules, 2026

7 April 2026

- The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released the Draft Tar Balls Management Rules, 2026.
- The Objective: To establish a formal regulatory framework for the detection, cleaning, and disposal of tar balls to protect India's 7,500 km coastline from persistent oil-based pollutants.
- Persistence: They are highly resistant to natural biodegradation and can float in the ocean for months.
- Q4. According to the draft rules, what is the main purpose of the Tar Balls Management Rules, 2026?

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                        | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 Environment (Pollution & Coastal Management) | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs: New Environmental Rules          | <b>Moderate</b> |

### The Porcupine Threat in Kashmir

7 April 2026

- Hand-Harvested: It takes 150,000 to 175,000 flowers to produce just 1 kg of dry saffron.
- Q1: B (Explanation: Porcupines are rodents that target tubers and roots; eating the corm kills the perennial plant.)
- Economic Impact: Saffron is the world's most expensive spice. The destruction of perennial corms by these rodents strikes at the very root of the plant, preventing future flowering and causing long-term financial loss to farmers.
- Defense: Covered in multiple layers of sharp quills. The longest quills form a distinct "crest" on the neck and shoulder.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                                             | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 Environment (Human-Wildlife Conflict); GS-3 Agriculture (GI Tags) | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs: Species in News & GI Tags                             | <b>Moderate</b> |

### ASISSE 2024-25: Mapping India's Formal Services Economy

8 April 2026

- B) Companies Act (1956/2013) and Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs).
- A: The survey is conducted under the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008. The Jan Vishwas Act recently decriminalized certain minor procedural lapses, making it easier for businesses to report data without the fear of harsh criminal penalties for honest mistakes, thus improving the "Ease of Doing Business."
- Q4. ASISSE covers entities registered under which of the following legal frameworks?
- A) Because it is conducted every 10 years.

| Feature              | Details                                                                                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Primary Wing</b>  | National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). |
| <b>Target Sector</b> | Trade, IT, Transport, Hospitality, Education, Health, and Professional Services.              |
| <b>Methodology</b>   | <b>100% Digital:</b> Data collection via a secure web-based portal.                           |
| <b>Sample Size</b>   | <b>2.1 Million (21 Lakh)</b> enterprises across all States and UTs.                           |
| <b>Goal</b>          | To improve the accuracy of <b>GDP estimation</b> for the services sector.                     |

### 20 Reforms to Anchor the Blue Economy

8 April 2026

- The Coastal Cargo Promotion Scheme (proposed in Budget 2026-27) aims to double the share of coastal and inland waterway transport from 6% to 12%. Shifting cargo from road/rail to water is significantly more fuel-efficient and cost-effective.
- Market Share: Less than 5% of India's EXIM (Export-Import) cargo is carried by Indian-owned vessels.
- To break into the top tier of global shipbuilders by 2047, the government is focusing on two financial levers:
- Maritime Development Fund (MDF): A ₹25,000 crore facility to provide long-term, low-cost financing specifically for shipyards and fleet expansion.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                        |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>C</b> | High freight payments to foreign lines is a major drain on India's Forex reserves. |

"Read the question twice, answer it once."

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                  |
|-----------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | This signifies a shift toward a modern, comprehensive administrative regulator.              |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | Doubling the current 6% share is a key goal of the 2026-27 Budget.                           |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | Shipbuilding is capital-intensive; access to cheap credit is essential for local yards.      |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>B</b> | Clusters create "Economies of Scale," where multiple suppliers and builders work in one hub. |

### National Biodiversity Repositories

9 April 2026

- Q1. Under which specific section of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, does the NBA notify National Repositories?
- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) has officially notified two premier scientific institutions—CMLRE, Kochi and ARI, Pune—as designated National Repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. This designation elevates these centers to the status of legal guardians for India's newly discovered species and unique microbial life.
- The addition of these two institutions expands India's repository network to 20 members, filling critical gaps in deep-sea and microbial science.
- Q3. Why is the MACS collection at ARI, Pune, particularly important for the healthcare and industrial sectors?

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                    |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>D</b> | Section 39 gives the legal mandate for managing biological resource custody.                   |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | CMLRE (Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology) is the nodal agency for deep-sea life.  |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | Extremophiles often have unique enzymes that are highly valuable in drug discovery.            |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | This ensures the discovery is verified and the physical evidence is preserved in safe custody. |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>D</b> | The two new additions (ARI and CMLRE) brought the previous total of 18 up to 20.               |

### Gaganyaan: First Uncrewed Mission (HLVM3 G1/OM1)

9 April 2026

- HLVM3 G1/OM1: The first orbital mission involving the Human-Rated LVM3 rocket and the Crew Module (uncrewed).
- ISRO Chairperson V. Narayanan announced that the launch date for the first uncrewed mission of

Gaganyaan (HLVM3 G1/OM1) will be released soon. While originally slated for the first quarter of 2026, the mission has seen minor delays as ISRO prioritizes rigorous testing to ensure the safety of the future crewed mission.

- The Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3) is India's heaviest rocket. For Gaganyaan, it is upgraded with an Emergency Escape System (CES) and specialized sensors to monitor every parameter affecting human life.
- Technology Check: Includes the "Human-Rating" of the LVM3 (re-engineering the rocket for safety) and testing the life support systems.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>C</b> | LVM3 is the heavy-lifter chosen for its reliability and weight capacity.                         |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | Safety is paramount; the CES can pull the module away within milliseconds of a detected anomaly. |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | Vyommitra (Friend in Space) can speak, monitor dials, and simulate human vitals.                 |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>C</b> | Most Indian capsules are designed for a water landing followed by recovery by the Navy.          |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>B</b> | The Service Module is the "engine room" of the spacecraft.                                       |

### Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) 2025

9 April 2026

- A: ISRO tracks potential "conjunctions" (close passes). In 2025, 18 Collision Avoidance Measures (CAMs) were executed. This involves firing the satellite's thrusters to move it slightly out of the path of a piece of debris or another satellite.
- The Indian Space Situational Assessment Report (ISSAR) 2025 highlights an unprecedented surge in global space activity. With 315 successful launches placing over 4,600 objects in orbit, the report underscores the growing challenge of "space congestion" and the critical need for Collision Avoidance Measures to protect expensive space assets.
- Q5. How many Indian satellites were "Operational" as of the 2025 report?
- Total in Orbit: 86 Indian satellites.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                          |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>D</b> | 74.5% reflects the rapid crowding of the orbital environment.                        |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | Moving dead satellites to a graveyard orbit is a key part of "Space Sustainability." |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>D</b> | The PSLV is India's "workhorse," having completed over 60 missions.                  |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>C</b> | CAMs are critical "evasive actions" to protect multi-million dollar assets.          |

**Cabinet Clears Amendments to the Women's**

|           |          |                                                                                 |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>C</b> | While 86 are in orbit, only 27 are currently functional and providing services. |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP), 2026**

9 April 2026

- A: The Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) allows the voter to see a paper slip for 7 seconds, confirming their vote was cast correctly. For international visitors, this is the ultimate proof of "Transparency and Auditability" in an electronic system.
- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has officially launched the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP), 2026. This initiative allows election managers from around the world to witness the assembly elections in Assam, Kerala, and Puducherry (Phase I), followed by West Bengal and Tamil Nadu (Phase II).
- A central pillar of the 2026 programme is demonstrating India's "Tech-Stack" for elections:
- Polling Station Management: How queues, security, and the "First Polling Officer" identification process work.

| Phase           | Timeline             | Focus States/UTs          |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Phase I</b>  | April 2026 (Current) | Assam, Kerala, Puducherry |
| <b>Phase II</b> | Late April 2026      | West Bengal, Tamil Nadu   |

**Withdrawal of COP33 Host Bid (2028)**

9 April 2026

- Asia-Pacific Dynamics: With India's exit, South Korea is now the primary contender to host the summit in 2028.
- Logistical Overload: India successfully hosted the G20 in 2023, but hosting a COP involves a massive scale of 30,000+ delegates and intensive global negotiations that last for two weeks.
- Q1. Who made the initial proposal for India to host COP33 during the Dubai summit in 2023?
- Q2. Under the updated NDCs for 2035, India aims to achieve what percentage of non-fossil fuel-based electric capacity?

| Event        | Year | Host Country                | Region                      |
|--------------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>COP30</b> | 2025 | <b>Brazil</b>               | Latin America               |
| <b>COP31</b> | 2026 | <b>Turkiye</b>              | Asia-Pacific/Eastern Europe |
| <b>COP32</b> | 2027 | <b>Ethiopia</b>             | Africa                      |
| <b>COP33</b> | 2028 | <b>South Korea (Likely)</b> | Asia-Pacific                |

**Reservation Act**

9 April 2026

- Delimitation Bill: To amend the Delimitation Act and authorize the redrawing of boundaries based on 2011 data. A new Delimitation Commission is expected to be formed by June 2026.
- The key shift is the government's decision to delink the reservation from the completion of the yet-to-be-held Census, ensuring the 33% quota becomes a reality for the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.
- Lok Sabha Expansion: The total number of seats is set to increase by 50%, rising from 543 to 816.
- Vertical Reservation: The 33% quota will apply "vertically," meaning seats will also be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) within the women's category.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                 |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>D</b> | A 50% increase from the current 543 seats results in 816 seats.                             |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>C</b> | The 2011 data is the most recent "officially completed" census available for immediate use. |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>C</b> | Art. 81 governs the Lok Sabha's composition, while Art. 170 governs the State Assemblies.   |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | 33% of 816 seats is exactly 272.25, rounded to 273.                                         |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>C</b> | The Budget Session has been extended specifically for this legislative business.            |

**1,500-Year-Old Stepped Reservoir Unearthed on Elephanta Island**

9 April 2026

- Krishnaraja (6th Century CE): Excavators found 60 coins, many identified as belonging to Ruler Krishnaraja of the Kalachuri dynasty.
- Q4. What motif is featured on the copper coins found during the March 2026 excavation report?
- Q3. The discovery of "Amphorae" and "Torpedo jars" on Elephanta Island provides evidence of trade with which regions?
- Structure & Shape: A "T-shaped" reservoir measuring 14.7 metres long and varying between 6.7 and 10.8 metres in width.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                                               |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>B</b> | The island's geography makes water retention difficult; the reservoir was a technical solution for water security.        |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>C</b> | Krishnaraja is the earliest known Kalachuri ruler and his coins are common in the Konkan region.                          |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | These specific pottery types are diagnostic markers for trade with the Roman world and the Sassanid/Mesopotamian regions. |

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                                                  |
|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q4       | B      | The seated bull (Nandi) represents the Shaivite leanings of the Kalachuri dynasty.                           |
| Q5       | C      | This highlights the massive effort involved in transporting heavy materials across the sea for construction. |

### NITI Aayog Report: "From Borrowers to Builders: Women and India's Evolving Credit Market"

10 April 2026

- **Credit Depth:** Credit penetration nearly doubled to 36%, moving beyond the initial "Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana" account-opening phase into active borrowing.
- **Portfolio Expansion:** A staggering 4.8x growth, reaching a ₹76 lakh crore portfolio.
- **The "Reliability" Factor:** Women have proven to be lower-risk borrowers, with default rates 0.7x lower than the general market, making them highly attractive to formal lenders.
- **Microfinance Graduation:** 19% of women have successfully "graduated" from group-based micro-loans to individual commercial loans.

| Strategy                       | Actionable Detail                                                    | Expected Outcome                                                   |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Flow-Based Underwriting</b> | Using UPI and merchant data instead of physical collateral.          | Unlocks credit for nano-entrepreneurs who lack land/gold.          |
| <b>Lifecycle-Bundling</b>      | Bundling insurance and savings for women under 35.                   | Builds long-term financial resilience for young families.          |
| <b>Inclusive Design</b>        | Voice-enabled and vernacular-first apps.                             | Overcomes literacy barriers and builds "trust" in digital systems. |
| <b>Graduation Tracking</b>     | Measuring "Success Stories" rather than just "Disbursement Amounts." | Shifts the goal from "getting a loan" to "growing a business."     |

### India's First Quantum Reference Facility

10 April 2026

- Andhra Pradesh is set to launch India's first Quantum Reference Facility (QRF). Dedicated to the nation by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on April 14, 2026, this facility marks a critical milestone in India's National Quantum Mission. The project is a centerpiece of the Amaravati Quantum Valley program, aimed at making the state a global hub for deep-tech innovation.
- **The Solution:** The QRF provides two specialized

testing beds that act as a "Gold Standard."

Researchers can use these facilities to test and calibrate different components, ensuring they meet the high-precision requirements of quantum mechanics.

- Q1. Where is India's first Quantum Reference Facility being established?
- **The Problem:** Developers of quantum components (like sensors, processors, or cryogenic cooling systems) previously had no benchmark system in India to verify if their hardware worked correctly within a quantum ecosystem.

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                            |
|----------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1       | C      | SRM University-AP is the primary academic partner for this facility.                   |
| Q2       | C      | World Quantum Day aligns with the numerical representation of the Planck Constant.     |
| Q3       | C      | The Planck Constant ( $h$ ) relates the energy of a photon to its frequency.           |
| Q4       | B      | It provides the "reference" baseline needed to calibrate new hardware.                 |
| Q5       | D      | AP is the first state to launch a dedicated state-level quantum program of this scale. |

### Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)

10 April 2026

- The 11th anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) marks a decade of formalizing the "informal" economy. Since its launch in 2015, the scheme has acted as a bridge between high aspirations and the lack of traditional collateral, significantly impacting India's socio-economic fabric.
- The scheme recognizes that a "one size fits all" approach doesn't work for business growth. The introduction of Tarun Plus in 2024 was a strategic move to support high-performing micro-enterprises.
- Q2. Which of the following sectors is EXCLUDED from the scope of MUDRA loans?
- **Last-Mile Financiers:** MUDRA provides funds to Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, MFIs, and NBFCs.

| Category          | Amount Range         | Business Stage                                                       |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Shishu</b>     | Up to ₹50,000        | For start-ups and initial seed capital.                              |
| <b>Kishore</b>    | ₹50,000 to ₹5 Lakh   | For established units needing expansion.                             |
| <b>Tarun</b>      | ₹5 Lakh to ₹10 Lakh  | For scaling and diversification.                                     |
| <b>Tarun Plus</b> | ₹10 Lakh to ₹20 Lakh | <b>Exclusive</b> for those who have successfully repaid Tarun loans. |

### The National Quantum Mission (NQM)

10 April 2026

- Q3. The NQM aims to develop quantum computers with how many physical qubits over an 8-year period?
- In less than two years since becoming operational, the National Quantum Mission (NQM) has successfully demonstrated secure quantum communication over a distance of 1,000 km. This achievement brings India halfway to its ultimate goal of a 2,000-km pan-India network and solidifies its position among a select group of nations (like China and the US) capable of long-distance quantum networking.
- Q5. In which month and year did the National Quantum Mission become fully operational?
- A) April 2023

| T-Hub                        | Focus Area             | Goal                                                     |
|------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Quantum Computing</b>     | Qubits & Hardware      | Building a <b>1,000-qubit</b> computer by 2031.          |
| <b>Quantum Communication</b> | QKD & Fiber/Satellite  | Creating a hack-proof "Quantum Internet."                |
| <b>Quantum Sensing</b>       | High-precision sensors | Improving GPS-free navigation and medical imaging (MRI). |
| <b>Quantum Materials</b>     | Exotic substances      | Developing superconductors and topological insulators.   |

### ISRO Successfully Completes Second Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-02)

11 April 2026

- The Payload: A simulated Crew Module weighing 5.7 tonnes—identical in mass to the module planned for the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission (G1).
- Answers: 1-B, 2-C
- The Launch: An Indian Air Force Chinook helicopter lifted the module to an altitude of 3 km before releasing it over a designated drop zone in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Descent: During the fall, a complex sequence involving 10 parachutes of four different types was deployed to gradually reduce the module's velocity.

### The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)

11 April 2026

- Ministry: Operates under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- Micro Credit Scheme: For self-help groups (SHGs) to provide small-ticket loans to their members.
- Adivasi Shiksha Rinna Yojana: Educational loans for tribal students pursuing professional courses.

- While the context focuses on the 25th anniversary, the NSTFDC manages several flagship programs:

| Feature                | NSTFDC Loans                 | Commercial Bank Loans     |
|------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Interest Rate</b>   | Highly Concessional (Low)    | Market-linked (High)      |
| <b>Target Audience</b> | Exclusively Scheduled Tribes | General Public/Businesses |
| <b>Focus</b>           | Socio-economic upliftment    | Profit-oriented           |
| <b>Middlemen</b>       | State Channelising Agencies  | Direct Branch Interaction |

### The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026

11 April 2026

- Q2. Under the new Act, what percentage of Director General (DG) posts in CAPFs are reserved for IPS officers on deputation?
- Centralization: The Act provides a single, uniform system for Group A (General Duty) officers, IPS officers on deputation, and Army officers serving within these forces.
- Legal Superiority: The provisions of this Act—and the rules framed under it—prevail over any other law, prior administrative orders, or even past court judgments. This provides the government with a "clean slate" to manage promotions and recruitment.
- Continuity: To prevent administrative chaos, existing financial benefits and service rules remain valid until the government specifically issues new updated orders under this Act.

| Rank Level                                    | Fixed IPS Deputation Quota |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Director General (DG) &amp; Special DG</b> | <b>100%</b>                |
| <b>Additional Director General (ADG)</b>      | <b>Minimum 67%</b>         |
| <b>Inspector General (IG)</b>                 | <b>50%</b>                 |

### Womaniya Initiative

12 & 13 April 2026

- Verified Growth: By February 2026, over 2.1 lakh women MSEs were registered, securing orders worth ₹28,000 crore.
- A) Target 3%; Achievement 5.6%
- B) Target 5%; Achievement 10%
- C) Target 1%; Achievement 3%

### The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill, 2025

12 & 13 April 2026

- Strict Penalties: The Regulatory Council is

empowered to impose heavy fines (up to ₹70 lakh) and can even order the permanent closure of non-compliant institutions.

- Q2. Which two sectors of education are EXEMPTED from the purview of the VBSA Bill, 2025?
- Separation of Funding: In a departure from the UGC's dual role, the new Commission will not handle money. Funding powers are moved to the Ministry, sparking debates over academic independence.
- B) Right to Education Act 2009

### India Becomes World's 3rd Largest Renewable Energy Power

12 & 13 April 2026

- Key Achievement: India reached 50% non-fossil fuel installed capacity in June 2025, five years ahead of the 2030 NDC target.
- Panchamrit Targets (COP26): Prime Minister Modi announced five key elements at Glasgow, including reaching 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and meeting 50% of energy requirements from renewables by 2030.
- Emissions Intensity: 47% reduction (from 2005 levels).
- Electricity Capacity: 60% from non-fossil sources by 2035.

### The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

12 & 13 April 2026

- Established: October 12, 1993.
- Governing Law: The Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993.
- Q2. Who is eligible to be appointed as the Chairperson of the NHRC?
- Chairperson: Must be a retired Chief Justice of India or a Judge of the Supreme Court.

### The Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project

12 & 13 April 2026

- State Equity: To ensure Arunachal Pradesh benefits directly, the Centre is providing ₹750 crore in financial assistance to cover the State's equity share in the project.
- Q4. Who are the primary partners in the Joint Venture implementing the Kalai-II project?
- Answers: 1-C, 2-B, 3-B, 4-B
- The Kalai-II Hydro Electric Project is a massive infrastructure venture in Arunachal Pradesh, recently approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA). With an investment exceeding ₹14,000 crore, it represents a strategic move to harness the immense hydropower potential of India's Northeast while strengthening the national grid.

### Exercise Cyclone – IV

12 & 13 April 2026

- Participants: India has deployed 25 elite Special Forces personnel to match with their Egyptian counterparts.
- Location: The 2026 edition (Cyclone – IV) is being hosted at Anshas, Egypt.
- Joint Planning: Ensuring that commanders from both nations can sit in a single room and plan a complex mission using a unified military language.
- Answers: 1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-B

### Habitat Shift of the Ganges River Dolphin (2026)

14 April 2026

- Critical Threshold: Dolphins require a minimum of 3 meters of water depth to survive, a level the Chambal is currently failing to maintain due to upstream irrigation and industrial extraction.
- Connectivity & Gene Pool: Dams and barrages act as physical barriers, fragmenting dolphin populations. This leads to inbreeding and a narrowed gene pool, making the species more susceptible to disease and climate shifts.
- [2] It refers to the unique sound the dolphin makes when breathing.
- [3] It is the name of the first village where it was discovered in 1801.

### Arunachal Pradesh

14 April 2026

- NEFA Era: Prior to 1972, it was the North-East Frontier Agency, managed directly by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- China's Stance: Beijing rejects the McMahon Line, labeling it an "illegal colonial imposition." They argue that since Tibet was not a sovereign state in 1914, it had no authority to sign a boundary treaty.
- [2] It considers the 1914 Simla Convention an illegal colonial imposition.
- The McMahon Line: Proposed at the 1914 Simla Convention between British India and Tibet. It serves as the effective border between India and China in the eastern sector.

### Amaravati Quantum Reference Facilities (AQRf)

15 April 2026

- Amaravati 1S (SRM University, Neerukonda): Focused on education and research, this facility allows students and scientists to deconstruct quantum systems and learn the hardware fundamentals.
- Amaravati 1Q (Medha Towers, Gannavaram): Focused on commercialization and testing, this node provides industrial-grade testbeds for startups and corporations to certify quantum devices.

- Supply Chain Localization: Building a domestic supply chain for specialized equipment, such as dilution refrigerators (which cool processors to  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and superconducting circuits.
- [2] An industrial testbed at Medha Towers for testing and certifying quantum devices.

## Ambedkar Jayanti

15 April 2026

- Labor Reforms: As the Labor Member in the Viceroy's Executive Council (1942–46), he was responsible for reducing working hours from 12 to 8 hours a day, introducing Equal Pay for Equal Work, and establishing the concept of Provident Fund and Labor Unions.
- The RBI Connection: His thesis, *The Problem of the Rupee: Its Origin and Its Solution*, provided the conceptual framework for the Hilton Young Commission, which eventually led to the establishment of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 1935.
- The Poona Pact (1932): A historic agreement with Mahatma Gandhi that abandoned separate electorates for the "Depressed Classes" in exchange for increased reserved seats in provincial legislatures.
- Mooknayak (1920) & Bahishkrit Bharat (1927): Journals used to amplify the voices of the marginalized.

## Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (FoF 2.0)

15 April 2026

- While the original 2016 scheme laid the groundwork, the 2.0 version introduces several high-impact changes:
- Finance Commission Alignment: The ₹10,000 crore corpus is synchronized across the 16th and 17th Finance Commission cycles, ensuring long-term fiscal predictability.
- Support for "Smaller" AIFs: To democratize the VC ecosystem, FoF 2.0 encourages smaller, niche funds that often focus on tier-2/3 cities or specialized sectors like Agri-tech.
- Level 1: The Government (DPIIT) allocates money to the SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India), which manages the FoF.

## e-SafeHER Programme

15 April 2026

- Launched on April 13, 2026, the e-SafeHER Programme is a strategic collaboration between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), C-DAC, and the Reliance Foundation. It represents a significant step toward securing India's rural digital frontier by focusing specifically on the safety of women.
- Primary Goal: To empower one million women as

"Cyber Sakhis" by 2029.

- Selection: Active women members from local Self-Help Groups (SHGs) are identified.
- 3. What is the target number of women to be empowered by the year 2029 under this initiative?

## Exercise DUSTLIK

15 April 2026

- 2026 Host: Uzbekistan (Gurumsaray Field Training Area, Namangan).
- Previous Edition: Held in Pune, India (2025).
- The 7th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK (2026) marks another milestone in the growing strategic partnership between India and Uzbekistan. This year's exercise is particularly significant as it continues to evolve from a basic infantry training program into a complex, multi-domain military engagement.
- Inter-Service Synergy: For the first time in recent editions, there is a heightened focus on integrating Air Force components alongside Army units to ensure comprehensive battlefield coordination.

## The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026

16 April 2026

- The Northern Gain: States in the "Hindi Heartland" (UP, Bihar, MP, Rajasthan) have maintained higher fertility rates. Under an 850-seat House based on the 2011 Census, their collective share would jump from 38.1% to 43.1%.
- Expansion of the Lok Sabha: The ceiling for the House is raised to 850 members. This includes 815 members representing States and 35 members from Union Territories.
- The Southern Loss: Conversely, the five southern states, which successfully met national family planning and health goals, would see their representation shrink from 24.3% to 20.7%.
- Below Replacement (The South): States like Kerala and Tamil Nadu have TFRs between 1.5 and 1.8.

| Feature                   | Details                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Chairmanship</b>       | A serving or retired <b>Supreme Court Judge</b> .                                                          |
| <b>Ex-officio Members</b> | Chief Election Commissioner and respective State Election Commissioners.                                   |
| <b>Associate Members</b>  | 5 MPs and 5 MLAs per state (to provide local context, but <b>no voting rights</b> ).                       |
| <b>Finality of Orders</b> | Once published in the Gazette, orders have the force of law and <b>cannot be challenged in any court</b> . |

## "Ease of Doing Research & Development in India" and the "Survey Report on Ease of Doing

**R&D in India."**

16 April 2026

- C) 850 (Combined with outreach to 400 institutional leaders over a nine-month period.)
- In April 2026, NITI Aayog released two landmark reports designed to transform India into a global innovation hub: "Ease of Doing Research & Development (R&D) in India" and the "Survey Report on Ease of Doing R&D in India".
- The reports are built upon four fundamental pillars identified through extensive consultation with over 850 scientists and 400 institutional leaders:
- 2. How many key "pillars" do the reports outline for improving the R&D ecosystem?

**First-Ever Comprehensive National Bat Conservation Assessment**

16 April 2026

- D) Biological Diversity Act, 2002
- A) Environment Protection Act, 1986
- B) Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- C) Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972

**The National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- Fiscal Backing: The Union Budget 2026-27 allocated ₹19,200 crore to the mission, cementing its status as a flagship initiative.
- Financial Inclusion: Over ₹12 lakh crore in bank linkages enabled.
- A) A woman who has borrowed ₹1 lakh from a bank.
- The "Lakhpatti Didi" Effect: Over 20 million women now earn an annual income exceeding ₹1,00,000.

**Answers**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- C) ₹19,200 crore
- B) An SHG member earning an annual income of over ₹1,00,000.
- C) 100 million

**The National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC)**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- Established: January 13, 1992.
- VISVAS Scheme: An interest subvention scheme that provides a direct 5% interest waiver to SHGs and individual beneficiaries.
- 2. Which ministry oversees the functioning of the NBCFDC?
- B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

**The Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- The Census Pivot: Traditionally, women's reservation and delimitation were expected to follow the first census after 2023. This Bill removes that wait-time, allowing for changes to proceed based on the 2011 Census data.
- Delimitation Authority: It grants the Delimitation Commission of 2026 the specific power to redraw assembly constituencies within these UTs.
- Women's Reservation: It implements the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, mandating 33% reservation for women in the Legislative Assemblies of Delhi, Puducherry, and Jammu & Kashmir.
- Expansion of Representation: It integrates the constitutional increase of UT representation in the Lok Sabha, which has been raised from 20 to 35 members.

**CAFE-III (Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency Phase III)**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- To help manufacturers meet the steep reduction from 113 g/km to 78.9 g/km, the government utilizes a multiplier system. This makes every "green" sale significantly more valuable for regulatory compliance.
- 1. What is the target fleet-average \$CO\_2\$ emission level for automakers by the end of CAFE-III (FY32)?
- 4. Why was the proposed "3g/km relief" for small petrol cars (under 909kg) scrapped in the final consensus?
- The Formula: It is a mass-based target. The heavier a manufacturer's average fleet, the more \$CO\_2\$ they are technically allowed to emit, but the overall "slope" of this allowance is being tightened.

| Technology            | Multiplier | Strategic Impact                                                               |
|-----------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Battery EV (BEV)      | 3.0        | Selling 1 EV "cancels out" the high emissions of 3 traditional petrol cars.    |
| Plug-in Hybrid (PHEV) | 2.5        | Encourages vehicles with significant electric-only range.                      |
| Strong Hybrid         | 1.6        | Incentivizes the transition for mass-market buyers not yet ready for full EVs. |

**The Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- The 4x Leverage Principle: With a seed investment of ₹1 lakh crore, the government aims to trigger a total infrastructure spend of ₹4 lakh crore.
- A) ₹1,000 crore
- B) ₹5,000 crore
- C) ₹10,000 crore

| Component                | Allocation    | Strategic Purpose                                                            |
|--------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Project Funding</b>   | ₹90,000 Crore | Direct capital for infrastructure (limited to 25% of total cost).            |
| <b>Capacity Building</b> | ₹5,000 Crore  | Preparing Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and improving city credit ratings. |
| <b>CRGSS</b>             | ₹5,000 Crore  | Acting as a safety net for lenders in smaller or higher-risk cities.         |

### National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0

19 & 20 April 2026

- Monetisation Target: A cumulative target of ₹6 lakh crore was set for the 4-year period (2022–2025), with NMP 2.0 extending the horizon to 2027.
- Q1: B (Explanation: Monetisation involves leasing the rights to operate, not selling the ownership.)
- Q2: C (Explanation: Brownfield refers to assets that are already built and operational.)
- Q1. In the context of the National Monetisation Pipeline, what happens to the ownership of the asset?

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                     |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Investment Models, Infrastructure, Mobilization of Resources) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Economic Terms (InvITs, Brownfield vs Greenfield)                   |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | State-specific asset leasing (e.g., State Highways, Power Discoms)  |

### India's First Water-Neutral Railway Depot: Kankaria, Ahmedabad

19 & 20 April 2026

- Massive Conservation: The depot saves approximately 1.60 lakh litres of water every single day.
- Annual Savings: Over a year, this amounts to roughly 5.84 crore litres, equivalent to filling more than 23 Olympic-sized swimming pools.
- Q1. Where is India's first water-neutral railway depot located?
- Q1: C (Explanation: Kankaria Depot in Ahmedabad is the pioneer in achieving this sustainability milestone.)

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                      |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Environmental Conservation, Sustainable Infrastructure)        |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs (National Firsts, Railway Milestones)                |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | GPSC (Gujarat-specific infrastructure and environmental initiatives) |

### The RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme

19 & 20 April 2026

- The scheme was born out of a critical need to prevent "Imported Logistics Inflation" for Indian traders. Since February 2024, maritime routes in the Gulf and Red Sea have faced:
- Q3. The RELIEF scheme is part of which larger mission launched with a ₹25,060 crore outlay for 2025–2031?
- Liquidity Crunch: MSMEs often lack the capital to absorb these sudden 50–100% hikes in shipping costs.
- The scheme operates with a ₹497 Crore outlay under the broader Export Promotion Mission (EPM) and is implemented by ECGC Limited.

| Component            | Target Group                        | Key Benefit                                                                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Component I</b>   | Existing ECGC Policyholders         | <b>100% risk coverage</b> for war/political loss; premiums frozen at pre-war rates. |
| <b>Component II</b>  | New Exporters (Post-March 16, 2026) | <b>95% risk coverage</b> backstop for those taking fresh Whole Turnover Policies.   |
| <b>Component III</b> | Non-Insured MSMEs                   | <b>50% reimbursement</b> of extraordinary surcharges (capped at ₹50 Lakh).          |

### The VAANI (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) Scheme

19 & 20 April 2026

- Event Support: The scheme supports 200 conferences, seminars, and workshops annually.
- Emerging Domains: The scheme focuses on 16 cutting-edge sectors, including:
- Q2: C (The scheme identifies 16 specific domains, from Hydrogen Energy to Cybersecurity.)
- Financial Outlay: An annual budget of ₹4 crore has been dedicated to this phase.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                             |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-2 (Issues related to Education/Human Resources); GS-3 (Tech development) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs (Schemes, Full forms, and Appointments)                     |
| <b>UGC NET</b>       | Paper 1 (Higher Education System: Governance, Polity, and Admin)            |

### The River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme

19 & 20 April 2026

- Q1: B (Explanation: The NWDA is the dedicated agency under the Ministry of Jal Shakti for the study and implementation of inter-basin water transfers.)

- **The Approval:** The Government of India has approved the continuation of the River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme for the period 2026–27 to 2030–31.
- **Financial Outlay:** The budget has been significantly increased to ₹2,183 crore, up from ₹1,276 crore in the previous cycle, highlighting the urgency of water security.
- **Massive Infrastructure Pipeline:** The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 river link projects; Feasibility Reports are ready for 26, and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 15.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-1 (Geography: Distribution of Resources); GS-3 (Disaster Management & Environment) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Government Schemes, Outlays, and Ministry details                                     |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | Focus on North East (APSC) and North India (JKPSC) water security                     |

### India's Forest Carbon Sink: A 2100 Projection

21 April 2026

- A new modeling study by Indian researchers predicts that India's forests could nearly double (97% increase) their carbon storage by 2100 under a high-emissions scenario.
- **A:** This refers to the amount of carbon stored in the living parts of plants—trunks, branches, leaves, and roots. Forests act as "carbon sinks" by absorbing atmospheric \$CO\_2\$ and locking it away in this woody biomass.
- **Arid Zones as Gainers:** Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Western Madhya Pradesh are projected to see a >60% rise in vegetation carbon.
- **The Lag Effect:** Forests do not respond instantly to wet years. The study found a 2 to 4-year lag between increased rainfall and measurable increases in woody biomass.

| Scenario                | Projected Increase by 2100 | Driver Focus                                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Low-Emissions</b>    | <b>35%</b>                 | Sustainable growth, limited climate shift.  |
| <b>Medium-Emissions</b> | <b>62%</b>                 | Moderate warming and rainfall increase.     |
| <b>High-Emissions</b>   | <b>97%</b>                 | Extreme \$CO_2\$ levels and heavy rainfall. |

### G20 Satellite

21 April 2026

- On April 18, 2026, during an address at the Engineering Staff College of India in Hyderabad, ISRO Chairman Dr. V. Narayanan announced that the proposed G20 Satellite is targeted for launch in 2027.

This mission, first proposed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during India's G20 Presidency, represents a major step in using space technology for global common good.

- **Q1: C** (Slated for a 2027 launch to benefit G20 member nations.)
- **Altitude:** Approximately 720 km above Earth.
- **Inclination:** 98.269 degrees, allowing it to cover nearly the entire globe.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-2 (International Relations/Diplomacy); GS-3 (Space Tech, Environment) |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | Science & Tech (ISRO missions, Satellite payloads)                       |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | General Awareness (Current Heads of Organizations, Upcoming launches)    |

### Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III)

21 April 2026

- **Higher Secondary Schools:** Directly supporting the NITI Aayog goal of reducing secondary school dropouts (currently at 11.5%).
- **Funding Structure:** The transition from a 100% centrally funded model to a 60:40 ratio (90:10 for North Eastern and Himalayan states) ensures states have "skin in the game," fostering better maintenance and accountability.
- **Plain Areas:** Completion of roads and bridges extended to March 2028.
- **Hilly/Difficult Areas:** Roads until March 2028, while bridges receive a buffer until March 2029.

| Phase            | Launch Year | Primary Objective                                                                                                  |
|------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>PMGSY-I</b>   | 2000        | Provide basic "all-weather" connectivity to eligible unconnected habitations.                                      |
| <b>PMGSY-II</b>  | 2013        | Upgradation of existing rural road networks to improve overall efficiency.                                         |
| <b>PMGSY-III</b> | 2019        | <b>Consolidation</b> of routes linking habitations to Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), schools, and hospitals. |

### Vishwa Sutra

21 April 2026

- **Q3: B** (The framework is designed to showcase the global versatility of Indian textiles.)
- **Launched By:** The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) under the Ministry of Textiles.
- **A)** To produce 30 million meters of cloth in 30 days.
- **C)** To train 30,000 weavers in 30 different districts.

| Indian Weave      | Pairing Country | Design Fusion                                                             |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Odisha Ikat       | Greece          | Merging Ikat patterns with Greek drapery and forms.                       |
| Kanchipuram       | Norway          | Combining heavy South Indian silk with minimalist Norwegian lines.        |
| Muga Silk         | Egypt           | The golden silk of Assam meets Egyptian royal silhouettes.                |
| Patola (Gujarat)  | Spain           | Intricate double-ikat patterns reimagined for Spanish-inspired ensembles. |
| Kunbi Weave (Goa) | Central Europe  | Traditionally a tribal weave, presented as a Central European skirt.      |

### Fourth India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS) 2026

22 April 2026

- Diplomatic Expansion: Since 2018, India has opened 16 new missions in Africa, bringing its total diplomatic presence to 45 countries. The summit serves as a platform to consolidate this outreach.
- Q1. When was the last India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-3) held before the upcoming 2026 meeting? A) 2018
- Q2. According to analysts like Ajay Dubey, what is the current implementation rate of India's commitments to Africa? A) 100%
- India's approach toward Africa has evolved from a "development partner" to a "strategic investor." The summit will focus on five core pillars:

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-2 (Bilateral/Regional groupings, Effect of policies on India's interests) |
| SSC / Banking   | Current Affairs (Summits, MEA announcements, New Missions)                   |

### Samriddh Gram Initiative

22 April 2026

- The Hub: The initiative centers around Samriddhi Kendras (SK)—physical community hubs (800–1000 sq. ft.) that provide assisted digital services.
- Q2. Where was the first Samriddhi Kendra officially inaugurated?
- Q3. Which digital commerce platform is Samriddh Gram integrated with to help rural entrepreneurs?
- India's Samriddh Gram initiative has been nominated for the prestigious WSIS Prizes 2026 in the "Enabling Environment" category (AL C6), recognizing its role in leveraging ICT for sustainable rural development.

| Sector | Services Offered |
|--------|------------------|
|--------|------------------|

|              |                                                                                                                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Healthcare   | Telemedicine via <b>e-Sanjeevani</b> ; health kiosks for basic diagnostics and vitals monitoring.                     |
| Education    | <b>AR/VR smart classrooms</b> ; access to Diksha, Swayam, and vocational training labs.                               |
| Agriculture  | <b>Smart Farming</b> : IoT sensors for soil health, smart pump controllers, and drone-based pesticide spraying.       |
| Governance   | Assisted access to e-schemes and integration with <b>ONDC</b> (Open Network for Digital Commerce) for local artisans. |
| Safety       | Village-wide security through <b>Smart CCTV</b> and drone surveillance.                                               |
| Connectivity | Deployment of <b>PM-WANI</b> public Wi-Fi hotspots and Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) connections.                          |

### 3D Glass Semiconductor Packaging

22 April 2026

- Through-Glass Vias (TGV): These are tiny vertical holes drilled into the glass that act as "elevators" for data, allowing signals to travel instantly between layers.
- Q1. Where is India's first 3D glass chip packaging facility being established?
- Lead Company: 3D Glass Solutions (3DGS), a US-based firm.
- Capacity: Designed to produce 70,000 glass panels and 50 million units annually.

| Feature                   | Advantage                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thermal Stability         | Glass handles high temperatures better, preventing AI chips from slowing down (throttling) due to heat.                      |
| High Precision            | Glass allows for much denser electrical connections than traditional materials.                                              |
| Low Signal Loss           | Glass has superior electrical properties, meaning less energy is wasted as heat during data transfer.                        |
| Heterogeneous Integration | It allows engineers to mix different "generations" of chips (e.g., a 3nm logic chip with a 10nm memory chip) in one package. |

### Genetically Modified (GM) Mosquitoes

22 April 2026

- Q1: B (CRISPR is the "molecular scissors" used for gene drives.)
- Q3: C (Specifically magainins and melittin which act as antimicrobial peptides.)
- Local Success: This is the first time a gene-drive compatible mosquito strain was developed on African soil by African scientists.
- Q2: B (It targets the disease-carrying ability rather than the existence of the species.)

| Strategy                                        | Mechanism                                                                                             | Goal                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Population Modification</b><br>(Replacement) | Adds genes that trigger <b>anti-parasite molecules</b> (antibodies/peptides) when the mosquito bites. | Keep the mosquitoes alive but make them <b>immune</b> to malaria so they can't pass it to humans. |
| <b>Population Suppression</b>                   | Targets the <b>doublesex</b> gene to make female offspring sterile.                                   | Cause the local mosquito population to <b>shrink or collapse</b> .                                |

## India Climbs to Global #2 in Wind Energy: BNEF 2025

22 April 2026

- Annual Growth: The 6.3 GW commissioned in 2025 represents a massive 85% increase over the 2024 additions.
- Domestic Leadership: Adani Wind (the manufacturing arm of Adani Green Energy) has entered the global stage, ranking 15th among turbine makers worldwide.
- Global Standing: This surge makes India the Global #2 market for new wind installations in 2025 (trailing only China).
- Adani Green Energy alone deployed over 1 GW of wind turbines at this single site in 2025.

| Exam Focus Area         | Relevance Level                                         |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>         | GS-3 (Energy, Infrastructure, Environment)              |
| <b>NABARD Grade A/B</b> | ESI (Renewable Energy Statistics, Rural Infrastructure) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b>    | Current Affairs (Corporate rankings, National records)  |

## INS Nireekshak in Colombo

23 April 2026

- Key Role: Facilitates deep-sea diving operations, submarine rescue, and training of saturation divers.
- A Diving Bell and two six-man recompression chambers (crucial for preventing decompression sickness in divers).
- The exercise (April 21–27, 2026) is designed to refine the "underwater" diplomacy between India and Sri Lanka.
- Objective: Enhancing interoperability and exchanging "Best Practices" in specialized underwater operations.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b> | GS-2 (International Relations, India-Sri Lanka); GS-3 (Security/Defence) |

|                          |                                                                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SSC / Banking</b>     | Current Affairs (Naval exercises, New ships, Bilateral agreements) |
| <b>Defence (NDA/CDS)</b> | Maritime security, Ship capabilities, Regional strategic visions   |

## NARIT-AI

23 April 2026

- Q1: B (Procedural errors are the leading cause of acquittals in NDPS cases.)
- Q3: B (The system is private and restricted to verified police users only.)
- The Gujarat Police has developed the Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Investigation Tool (NARIT-AI) to address a critical decline in conviction rates for cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, which fell from 44.4% in 2020 to 25% in 2022.
- Simple Interface: Investigating Officers (IOs) can simply upload a First Information Report (FIR), and the system generates case-specific instructions.

| Exam Focus Area             | Relevance Level                                                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>             | GS-3 (Science & Tech: AI in Governance; Internal Security: Drug Trafficking) |
| <b>Police/Defence Exams</b> | Use of technology in modern policing                                         |

## The India–Africa Forum Summit (IAFS)

23 April 2026

- The 2026 summit is unique because it follows the permanent inclusion of the African Union (AU) in the G20 (achieved during India's 2023 Presidency). The focus has shifted from simple aid to co-development and strategic partnership.
- Trade Milestone: Bilateral trade reached \$103 billion in 2024–25, a 17% year-on-year increase.
- Status 2026: The campus has expanded to include degrees in Data Science, AI, and Chemical Process Engineering, with 51% of its students coming from Tanzania and other African nations.
- Q1. Which of the following marks a significant shift in the 2026 IAFS summit compared to earlier versions?

| Year        | Venue       | Key Focus                                                                    |
|-------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2008</b> | New Delhi   | Food and oil price volatility; 14 AU-chosen nations attended.                |
| <b>2011</b> | Addis Ababa | Infrastructure and regional economic integration.                            |
| <b>2015</b> | New Delhi   | Largest turnout (all 54 nations); focus on health and solar energy.          |
| <b>2026</b> | New Delhi   | <b>Critical minerals, digital public infra, and Global South leadership.</b> |

## Scheme for Special Assistance to States for

23 April 2026

- Launched during the COVID-19 pandemic (FY 2020-21) to prevent a slump in infrastructure spending, the SASCI scheme has evolved into a cornerstone of India's "Capex-led" growth strategy. It provides long-term, interest-free financial support to states to build productive assets.
- Q3: B (Reforms in land digitization and urban planning are key triggers for accessing incentive funds.)
- Q1. What is the repayment tenure for the loans provided under the SASCI scheme?
- Q2. Which sector was given a specific focus for the development of "Iconic Centres" in the FY 2024-25 allocation?

| Performance Category | Top States (Utilisation %) | Bottom States (Utilisation %)        |
|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| High Absorbers       | West Bengal (96.7%)        | Manipur (47.4%)                      |
| Consistent Leaders   | Maharashtra (95.0%)        | Nagaland (51.7%)                     |
| Steady Performers    | Chhattisgarh (94.4%)       | Punjab / Kerala / Telangana (Weaker) |

### Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE-III) Norms

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- Phase 1 (2017-2022): Target was 130 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km.
- Phase 2 (2022-2027): Target tightened to 113 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km.
- Phase 3 (2027-2032): Final target set at 78.9 gCO<sub>2</sub>/km by FY32.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Environment: Conservation, Pollution; Economy: Infrastructure) |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: ESI (Sustainable Development, Industrial Policy)           |
| State PCS       | Understanding regulatory bodies and sectoral standards               |

### Dolphin Friends Initiative

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- Role: Volunteers act as the "eyes and ears" of the forest department, reporting sightings, threats, and habitat changes in real-time.

### Key Concepts: Keyword Q&A

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- Q3. Which of the following groups are considered "key stakeholders" in the Dolphin Friends volunteer

network? A) Industrialists and miners

- Q1: B (Prayagraj Forest Department lead the initiative.)
- Q2: C (Providing protection during breeding is critical for population growth.)
- Q3: B (Their direct daily engagement with the river makes them natural conservationists.)

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Environment: Conservation, Endangered Species, Community-based initiatives) |

### Prime Minister Internship Scheme (PMIS)

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- Q1: C (Ministry of Corporate Affairs manages the industry-government tie-up.)
- Age Limit: 18 to 25 years.
- Government Contribution: ₹5,000 per month.
- Company Contribution: ₹500 per month (from CSR funds).

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-2 (Govt Policies & Interventions), GS-3 (Employment/Economy) |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: ESI (Social Justice, Employment generation schemes)   |
| SSC / Bank      | General Awareness (Current schemes, Ministry, and age limits)   |

### Atal Pension Yojana (APY)

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) has achieved a historic milestone by surpassing 9 crore total gross enrolments. This highlights the growing penetration of formal social security among India's unorganized workforce.
- Age Bracket: 18 to 40 years. (Joining early results in significantly lower monthly contributions).
- Launch: May 9, 2015.
- The "Tax-Payer" Rule: Since October 1, 2022, any citizen who is or has been an income-tax payer is ineligible to join. This ensures that the government's co-contribution and subsidy benefits are targeted strictly at the underprivileged.

| Benefit Stage              | Recipient  | Action                                                       |
|----------------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Stage 1 (Post-60)          | Subscriber | Receives a guaranteed monthly pension (₹1k to ₹5k).          |
| Stage 2 (After Subscriber) | Spouse     | Receives the <b>same pension amount</b> for life.            |
| Stage 3 (After Spouse)     | Nominee    | Receives the <b>entire accumulated corpus</b> (wealth) back. |

## NAMASTE Scheme

24 & 25 April 2026

- A: No. It was banned under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. The NAMASTE scheme provides the technological and financial alternative to ensure the ban is effective on the ground.
- Q3. As of the June 2024 update, which new group has been included under the NAMASTE scheme? A) Construction workers
- Zero Fatalities: Achieving a target of zero deaths in sanitation work through 100% mechanization.
- Nodal Ministries: A collaborative effort between the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

| Feature                 | Description                                                       | 2026 Milestone                                                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Worker Profiling</b> | Digital mapping and validation of every sewer/septic tank worker. | Large-scale profiling completed across Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities.     |
| <b>SUY Subsidy</b>      | Capital subsidy for buying mechanized cleaning vehicles.          | Increase in "Sanipreneur" start-ups owned by former manual cleaners. |
| <b>Health Security</b>  | Integration with <b>Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)</b> .                | Universal issuance of Ayushman cards to profiled workers.            |
| <b>PPE Distribution</b> | Providing specialized Personal Protective Equipment.              | Deployment of standardized, high-durability kits for urban workers.  |
| <b>Expanded Scope</b>   | Inclusion of <b>Waste Pickers</b> (since June 2024).              | Solid waste management workers now eligible for scheme benefits.     |

## Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs)

24 & 25 April 2026

- Denotified Tribes (DNTs): These are communities that were historically "notified" as "born criminals" under the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA) of 1871 during British rule. They were "denotified" when the Act was repealed in 1952.
- Q2. The SEED scheme, specifically aimed at the empowerment of DNTs, is implemented by which Ministry? A) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- A: Established in 1949, it was the committee that recommended the repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, leading to the denotification of these tribes in 1952.
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: B

| Status Category    | Description                                                           |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Categorized</b> | Many DNTs are listed under existing <b>SC, ST, or OBC</b> categories. |

|                               |                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Unclassified</b>           | Approximately <b>268 communities</b> fall outside any existing reserved category.               |
| <b>The Certificate Crisis</b> | Only <b>seven states</b> are currently issuing the specific <b>DNT community certificates</b> . |

## Project DANTAK

26 & 27 April 2026

- Establishment: April 1961, following a visionary agreement between the Third King of Bhutan and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: C
- Project DANTAK, one of the oldest and most successful overseas projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), celebrated its 66th Raising Day in Thimphu, Bhutan. Established in 1961, it remains a living symbol of the "Friendship Treaty" between India and the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- Operational Scope: It covers everything from road connectivity and aviation to telecommunications and healthcare infrastructure.

| Exam Focus Area                | Relevance Level                                                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>                | GS-2 (International Relations: India-Bhutan ties), GS-3 (Infrastructure/Security) |
| <b>Defence Exams</b>           | Knowledge of BRO projects and strategic connectivity                              |
| <b>SSC / General Awareness</b> | Significant dates, locations (Thimphu/Paro), and project names                    |

## The Roadmap to 100% Ethanol Blending

26 & 27 April 2026

- Energy Density: One litre of petrol provides 45–55% more energy than one litre of ethanol. Consequently, a car running on E100 will typically have lower mileage for the same volume of fuel.
- The Energy Density Gap: Ethanol is less energy-dense than petrol. One litre of petrol provides 45–55% more energy than one litre of ethanol.
- Cost: Currently, FFVs (like the Toyota Innova Hycross version) cost ₹3–4 lakh more than their petrol counterparts.
- Q3. When does the CAFE-III standard, which targets a 30% reduction in fleet emissions, kick in? A) April 1, 2025

| Exam Focus Area    | Relevance Level                                                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>    | GS-3 (Energy, Environment, Science & Tech: Biofuels)                       |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b> | Phase II: ESI (Sustainable Development, Energy Policy)                     |
| <b>SSC / Bank</b>  | General Awareness (National Biofuel Policy, SAF, and Gadkari's statements) |

## Soul Threads

26 & 27 April 2026

- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: C
- Modern Relevance: By using a "modern design language," the collection makes traditional products more appealing to younger domestic consumers and international fashion markets.
- Artisan-Designer Collaboration: Soul Threads facilitates partnerships between grassroots artisans and professional fashion designers to merge technical skill with market-ready aesthetics.
- Q3. The CCIC functions under the administrative control of which Union Ministry?

| Exam Focus Area                | Relevance Level                                                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>                | GS-1 (Indian Culture: Handicrafts & Textiles), GS-3 (Economy: MSME/Artisans) |
| <b>State PSCs</b>              | Promotion of local handicrafts and state-specific weaves                     |
| <b>SSC / General Awareness</b> | Current affairs related to government initiatives and new brands             |

## Anti-Defection Law

26 & 27 April 2026

- 91st Amendment (2003): Strengthened the law by deleting the "one-third split" rule and capping the Council of Ministers at 15% of the House strength.
- The Shift: Originally, the law allowed a "split" if only one-third of members left. The 91st Amendment removed this, making a "merger" (requiring 2/3rds) the only valid way to switch parties without losing membership.
- Legal Framework: \* 52nd Amendment (1985): Added the 10th Schedule.
- The Logic: The law assumes that if such a large majority (2/3rds) leaves, it isn't an individual act of opportunism but a collective decision of the party unit.

| Exam Focus Area   | Relevance Level                                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>   | GS-2 (Polity: Parliament structure, Constitutional Amendments, Tenth Schedule) |
| <b>State PSCs</b> | Local political shifts and Speaker's powers                                    |
| <b>SSC / Bank</b> | General Awareness (Facts about 52nd and 91st Amendments)                       |

## Exercise Dustlik 2026

26 & 27 April 2026

- Previous Edition (2025): Held in Pune, India.
- Current Edition (2026): Hosted by Uzbekistan at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Namangan.
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: C
- Unified Command: Establishing a shared "operational algorithm" for command-and-control.

This ensures that if the two armies ever had to work together, their leadership structures would communicate seamlessly.

| Exam Focus Area                      | Relevance Level                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>                      | GS-2 (International Relations: India and its neighborhood/extended neighborhood) |
| <b>Defence Exams (CDS/NDA/AFCAT)</b> | Military exercises, locations, and participating nations                         |
| <b>SSC / Bank PO</b>                 | Current affairs (Summits, exercises, and international venues)                   |

## Bharat Taxi

26 & 27 April 2026

- Founded: Established on June 6, 2025, by eight national-level cooperative institutions (including Amul, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NAFED, and NABARD).
- Legal Status: Registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies (MSCS) Act, 2002.
- Zero Commission: Drivers keep 100% of the fare. There are no per-ride commissions or hidden subscription charges.
- Social Security: Every registered driver receives a ₹5 lakh personal accident insurance and ₹5 lakh family health insurance cover.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Economy: Cooperatives, Gig economy, Inclusive growth)             |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Phase II: ESI (Social security for gig workers, Financial inclusion)    |
| <b>SSC / Bank PO</b> | Current affairs (New apps, government schemes, and digital initiatives) |

## India's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development

26 & 27 April 2026

- The "Skill-Gap" Mission: The Chair will design training frameworks that address the specific socio-economic barriers women face when entering STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields.
- Q2. Who is the designated leader (Chairperson) for this UNESCO initiative?
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: B | Q3: B
- Unique Status: This is the first time a UNESCO Chair focusing on the intersection of Gender and Technical Skills has been established in Asia.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b> | GS-1 (Social Issues: Role of women), GS-2 (International Bodies: UNESCO), GS-3 (Education & Employment) |

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| State PSCs      | Maharashtra-specific education and development initiatives |
| SSC / Bank PO   | Current affairs (Institutions, Appointments, and Summits)  |

### Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) 2.0 App

28 April 2026

- The 2.0 version introduces several features designed to bring the government's support systems directly to the citizen's smartphone.
- Q3. Which feature of the NMBA 2.0 App directly assists a person looking for immediate medical help for substance abuse?
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: C
- Users can take an e-Pledge to stay drug-free, fostering a sense of national commitment.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-2 (Social Justice: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections) |
| State PSCs      | Social welfare initiatives and digital governance              |
| SSC / Bank PO   | Current affairs (New apps, portals, and government missions)   |

### Reconstitution of NITI Aayog

28 April 2026

- Established: January 1, 2015 (via a Cabinet Resolution).
- Q1. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog in the 2026 reconstitution?
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: B | Q3: C
- The Shift: It replaced the 65-year-old Planning Commission. Unlike its predecessor, which followed a "Top-Down" command model, NITI Aayog operates on a "Bottom-Up" approach.

| Position           | Appointment / Composition                                    |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chairperson        | Prime Minister of India (Ex-officio).                        |
| Vice Chairperson   | Ashok Kumar Lahiri (Appointed by PM; Cabinet Minister rank). |
| Governing Council  | CMs of all States/UTs with legislatures + LGs of other UTs.  |
| Full-Time Members  | Distinguished experts (e.g., scientists, economists).        |
| Ex-Officio Members | Max 4 Union Ministers nominated by the PM.                   |
| CEO                | Appointed by the PM for a fixed tenure (Secretary rank).     |

### Urdu Wikisource

28 April 2026

- Q3. Which famous 19th-century version of an Awadhi poem was part of the digitised collection shared by the British Library?
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B
- Format: Open-source and community-driven, allowing users to digitize, proofread, and categorize texts.
- Collaboration: The project was "jump-started" through international partnerships to ensure high-quality foundational content.

| Exam Focus Area     | Relevance Level                                                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE            | GS-1 (Indian Heritage & Culture), GS-3 (IT & Digital Rights)          |
| State PSCs (Punjab) | Regional language promotion and digital initiatives                   |
| SSC / Bank PO       | General Awareness (Current digital portals and cultural partnerships) |

### Index of Service Production (ISP)

28 April 2026

- Q1. Which data source is considered the "cornerstone" for the proposed Index of Service Production (ISP)?
- The National Statistics Office (NSO) has proposed the creation of an Index of Service Production (ISP) with 2024-25 as the base year. This aims to fill a critical data gap by providing high-frequency (monthly) tracking of the services sector, which contributes over 50% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA).
- Q: What is the significance of the 2024-25 Base Year?  
A: Choosing a recent base year (2024-25) ensures the index reflects the post-pandemic economic structure, new digital services, and current consumption patterns.
- The services sector is the powerhouse of the Indian economy, contributing over 50% to India's Gross Value Added (GVA). However, it has historically lacked a timely tracking tool.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                          |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Economy: Growth, Development, and Planning)        |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: ESI (Measurement of Growth, National Income)   |
| SSC / Bank PO   | General Awareness (New indices and statistical agencies) |

### India-New Zealand FTA

29 April 2026

- New Zealand's Commitment: Will remove tariffs on 100% of Indian goods. This is a huge win for Indian textiles, leather, and pharmaceuticals.
- India's Commitment: Will remove or reduce tariffs on 95% of imports from New Zealand (e.g., wood, wool, and specialized machinery).

- Dairy Products: Milk, cheese, butter, and curd (protecting 80 million Indian dairy farmers).
- FDI Inflow: New Zealand has pledged \$20 billion in investments over the next 15 years.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                    |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-2 (Bilateral Agreements) & GS-3 (Economy/Trade) |
| RBI Grade B     | ESI: External Sector, International Trade Blocks   |
| SSC / Bank PO   | Current Affairs: International Pacts and Summits   |

## Global Military Expenditure 2025

29 April 2026

- Total Expenditure: \$92.1 Billion (up 8.9% Y-o-Y).
- Spending as % of GDP: 2.3%.
- Air Superiority: Capital outlay for military aircraft systems was 50% higher than originally budgeted.
- IAF Operations: Personnel and operational costs for the Indian Air Force rose by 18% above initial estimates.

| Country | Spending (\$ Billion) | % Change (Y-o-Y) | Global Context                                        |
|---------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| USA     | \$954                 | -7.5%            | Still the leader; lower overseas allocation.          |
| China   | \$336                 | +7.4%            | Rapidly modernizing; ~12% global share.               |
| Russia  | \$190                 | +5.9%            | 7.5% of its GDP is now spent on defense.              |
| Germany | \$114                 | +24.0%           | Steepest rise among top nations (Post-Ukraine shift). |
| India   | \$92.1                | +8.9%            | Driven by 2025 regional conflict.                     |

## Google AI Data Hub

29 April 2026

- Ecosystem Development: Serving as the centerpiece

for a 6.5 GW digital ecosystem in Andhra Pradesh, which includes renewable energy plants to power these centers and advanced manufacturing units.

- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: C | Q3: B
- Scale: A planned capacity of 1 Gigawatt (GW), positioning it among the largest data center campuses in the world.
- India's AI Gateway: Establishing Google's first major AI-focused infrastructure in India to support local and global AI operations.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.; Science & Tech) |
| State PSCs      | Regional development projects and industrial growth in Andhra Pradesh                |
| Banking / SSC   | General awareness of major FDIs and corporate partnerships                           |

## Asia's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion

29 April 2026

- Q3. The UNESCO Chair initiative was launched as part of which international conference in 2026? A) G20 Skill Summit
- The UNESCO Chairs program (UNITWIN) is a global network of over 900 institutions in 120+ countries. It serves as a "think tank" and bridge-builder between academia, civil society, local communities, and policymakers.
- Q1. Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development has been established in which Indian city? A) Bengaluru
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B

| Exam Focus Area   | Relevance Level                                                 |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE          | GS-2 (Social Justice/Education), GS-3 (Economy/Skilling)        |
| State PSCs (MPSC) | Regional developments and educational milestones in Maharashtra |
| Banking / SSC     | Important "Firsts" in India and International Organizations     |

**TEST YOURSELF · NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: The original law that bifurcated Andhra Pradesh to create Telangana. It designated Hyderabad as the joint capital for 10 years, ending in 2024.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (Explanation: The NBA is the statutory body established under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, to regulate access to India's resources.)
3. \_\_\_\_\_: The first orbital mission involving the Human-Rated LVM3 rocket and the Crew Module (uncrewed).
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Prime Minister Modi announced five key elements at Glasgow, including reaching 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030 and meeting 50% of energy requirements from renewables by 2030.
5. \_\_\_\_\_: Prior to 1972, it was the North-East Frontier Agency, managed directly by the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Answers** 1 Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 · 2 Q2: B · 3 HLV3 G1/OM1 · 4 Panchamrit Targets (COP26) · 5 NEFA Era

**BANKING AND FINANCE · 81****RBI Extends Export Credit Relief till June 30 Amid West Asia Crisis**

1 April 2026

- **Timeline:** The extension applies to all credit disbursements made until June 30, 2026.
- **Repatriation Window:** The RBI maintained the extension for exporters to realize and bring back foreign exchange earnings within 15 months, compared to the standard 9-month requirement.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has extended "pandemic-style" leniency for trade finance, allowing pre- and post-shipment export credit tenures to run for up to 450 days.
- The "Why": Initially launched to counter US tariff hikes in November 2025, the relief is now extended due to the confrontation involving America, Israel, and Iran, which has rerouted vessels and inflated freight costs.

| Exam         | Focus Area                                                           | Relevance Level |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| RBI Grade B  | ESI – External Sector; Finance – Credit Policy & NPA Management      | Very High       |
| UPSC CSE     | GS-3 Economy – Effects of Liberalization, Infrastructure, and Energy | High            |
| SEBI Grade A | Impact on Trade Finance & Corporate Liquidity                        | Moderate        |

**RBI Revised Amendment Directions on Capital Market Exposures**

1 April 2026

- **Risk Mitigation:** By moving to an absolute system-wide cap, the RBI prevents "stacking"—where a borrower takes ₹20 lakh from five different banks to bypass individual bank limits.
- **New Loan Caps: Purchase of Shares/Securities:** Capped at ₹1 crore per borrower across the entire banking system.
- **IPO/FPO/ESOP Subscription:** Capped at ₹25 lakh per individual (a reduction from the previously suggested higher limits to curb retail speculation).
- **Operational Buffer:** The 3-month deferment (to July 1) allows banks and intermediaries to fix "operational and interpretational issues" regarding how to track these limits across multiple lenders.

| Exam         | Focus Area                                                  | Relevance Level |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| RBI Grade B  | Finance – Financial Markets; Banking Regulations; CME Norms | Very High       |
| SEBI Grade A | Securities Market Intermediaries and IPO Financing          | High            |

**Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI)**

1 April 2026

- Q1. Which of the following parameters saw an aggregate improvement across Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) in the December 2025 sDQI report?
- The quality of regulatory data submitted by Indian banks has improved, with the Supervisory Data Quality Index (sDQI) for Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) rising to 90.9 in December 2025 from 90.7 in September 2025.
- **Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs):** Banks listed in the Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934, including Public, Private, Foreign, and Small Finance Banks.
- **Sectoral Standouts:** Small Finance Banks (SFBs) emerged as the top performers with an sDQI of 91.9, achieving perfect scores in accuracy and consistency.

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                     | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – Banking System in India; RBI's Supervisory Functions | Very High       |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Data Governance and Regulatory Compliance                      | Moderate        |
| <b>NABARD</b>       | Recent RBI circulars and Banking Indices                       | High            |

**RBI Tightens ECB Reporting Norms: 7-Day Deadline for AD Cat-I Banks**

1 April 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated that Authorised Dealer (AD) Category-I banks must submit complete and certified External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) returns to the RBI within seven calendar days of receiving them from borrowers.
- **Timeline:** The new rules are effective from April 1, 2026.
- **Bank Accountability:** AD banks are now directly responsible for monitoring and ensuring that borrowers pay the applicable penalties for any delays.
- Q1. Under the new RBI mandate effective April 1, 2026, what is the timeline for an AD Category-I bank to submit ECB returns to the RBI after receiving them from the borrower?

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                 | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – External Commercial Borrowings; FEMA Regulations | Very High       |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Foreign Investment and Corporate Debt Regulations          | Moderate        |

## NSE & IGX Partner to Launch Natural Gas Derivative Contracts

2 April 2026

- **Market Maturation:** This move is a significant step toward the government's goal of increasing the share of natural gas in India's primary energy mix from ~6% to 15% by 2030.
- **A)** It allows them to buy physical gas at a 50% discount from the government.
- **Q1: B** (Explanation: Derivatives are primarily used by industrial consumers as an insurance policy. If the price of gas goes up in the future, the gains on their derivative contract help offset the higher cost of the actual gas they buy for their factory.)
- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced a strategic collaboration with the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to launch India's first exchange-traded natural gas derivatives based on domestic delivery.

| Exam                | Focus Area                                               | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Commodities Derivatives and Exchange Regulations         | Critical        |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | ESI – Energy Sector Reforms; Finance – Financial Markets | High            |

## RBI's PaSS Framework

2 April 2026

- **Interest Rate Arbitrage:** Move your money instantly to a bank offering 0.5% higher interest on savings without changing your salary details.
- **Q3.** According to the Payments Vision 2028, what is the expected outcome of reducing switching barriers for customers?
- **Q2: B** (Explanation: Just as MNP broke the monopoly of telecom providers over your "number," account portability breaks the bank's monopoly over your "account number.")
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed a revolutionary Account Portability feature, allowing customers to switch from one bank to another without changing their existing bank account number.

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                     | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – Payments Systems; Monetary Policy; Banking Structure | Critical        |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Impact on Financial Inclusion and Tech Integration             | High            |

## RBI Curbs Offshore-Style Bets on the Rupee (NDF Ban)

2 April 2026

- The Rupee recently breached the 95/\$ mark,

weakening by 4% due to the West Asia conflict (US-Israel-Iran) and high oil prices. Speculators were using NDFs to bet against the Rupee without actual trade needs, adding to the currency's downward pressure.

- **Deliverable Derivatives:** These involve the actual exchange of currencies (e.g., a company selling \$1 million and receiving the equivalent in ₹). These are still allowed for genuine hedging of trade risks.
- **Non-Deliverable Derivatives (NDF):** These are "cash-settled" contracts. If you bet the Rupee will hit 96/\$ and it does, the bank pays you the profit in Dollars. There is no physical exchange of Rupees. This makes it easy for speculators who don't actually have any Indian business to bet on the currency.
- **A)** The Banking Regulation Act, 1949

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – Forex Markets; Monetary Policy; External Sector | Critical        |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Derivatives Market and Regulatory Oversight               | High            |

## Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in India

2 April 2026

- **The Problem:** India's regulatory framework has become dense, with over 44 principal regulations, 13 statutory rules, and more than 2,700 circulars. The cumulative cost of these frequent changes is creating high entry barriers and "regulatory inertia."
- **Delegated Legislation:** Laws made by an executive authority (like SEBI) under powers given to them by an Act of Parliament. Since these aren't debated in Parliament, RIA acts as a crucial "discipline" check.
- **Q2.** Why is "Delegated Legislation" (like SEBI circulars) cited as a reason why India needs mandatory RIA?
- **Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Do the gains in transparency outweigh the costs of technology, personnel, and liquidity impact?

| Exam                | Focus Area                                        | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Securities Laws; Role of SEBI; Market Reforms     | Critical        |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – Financial Sector Regulators; Governance | Very High       |

## IRDAI Cracks Down on 'Dark Patterns' in Insurance

3 April 2026

- **The Deadline:** Insurers must submit a compliance report within 15 days. If non-compliance is found, an action plan to fix the interface must be submitted within one month.
- **Consumer Protection Act, 2019:** The overarching law in India that classifies dark patterns as "unfair trade

practices."

- False Urgency: Using countdown timers (e.g., "Offer ends in 2 minutes!") to pressure a user into a quick purchase without reading the policy terms.
- Q2. Within how many days must insurers submit their initial self-assessment report to IRDAI?

| Exam                       | Focus Area                                             | Relevance Level |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI / IRDAI Grade B</b> | Insurance Sector Reforms; Consumer Protection; FinTech | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b>        | Corporate Governance & Unfair Trade Practices          | High            |

### Emirates NBD Acquisition of RBL Bank: RBI Approval

3 April 2026

- Commercial Banks Governance Directions, 2025: The latest set of RBI rules that dictate how bank boards must be structured, the tenure of CEOs, and the level of independence required to protect depositors' interests.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially approved the acquisition of up to a 74% stake in RBL Bank by the UAE-based Emirates NBD (ENBD) for \$3 billion.
- FDI Limit in Banking: While the current FDI limit in private banks is 74%, large-scale takeovers by single foreign entities require specific, case-by-case approval from the RBI to ensure "fit and proper" criteria.
- Q1. What is the primary change in RBL Bank's status following the Emirates NBD acquisition?

| Exam                | Focus Area                                     | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Banking Regulations, FDI in Banking, WOS Model | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Foreign Investment (FDI/FPI), Capital Markets  | <b>High</b>     |

### SEBI Proposes Reintroduction of Open Market Share Buybacks

3 April 2026

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has released a consultation paper proposing to bring back the Open Market Buyback route. This marks a significant policy reversal, as SEBI had previously moved to phase out this method by April 2025.
- The New Reality (Post-April 2026): Buyback proceeds are now taxed as capital gains in the hands of the shareholder. Whether you sell your shares to the company in a buyback or to a random buyer on the exchange, the tax treatment is now identical.
- A) The company pays a 20% flat tax, and it is tax-free for shareholders.

- Tender Offer (The Current Primary Route): The company offers to buy a fixed number of shares at a specific price (usually at a premium) directly from shareholders on a proportionate basis.

| Exam                | Focus Area                                            | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Security Laws, Buyback Regulations, Corporate Actions | <b>Critical</b> |

### RBI Pilot: Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) for SDLs

4 April 2026

- Borrowing Plan: States and UTs plan to raise ₹2.54 trillion in Q1 FY27, which is lower than the market's initial expectation of ₹2.75–3 trillion.
- Issue bonds in predefined maturity buckets (standardized tenors like 5, 10, or 30 years).
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a pilot Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) for State Development Loans (SDLs) starting in Q1 FY27.
- Q2. How does "standardizing tenors" help an investor?

| Exam                | Focus Area                                                  | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance – Debt Markets, State Finances, RBI as Debt Manager | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Bond Market Mechanics & Liquidity                           | <b>Moderate</b> |

### Microfinance: Displacing Informal Credit (2011–2025)

4 April 2026

- A major study by the Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN) and NCAER reveals that informal borrowing (from moneylenders) among microfinance customers has collapsed from 46% in 2011 to just 1% in FY25.
- Disbursements: Now 100% digital, credited directly to bank accounts.
- 88% expressed a desire to return to their existing lender for future needs. This "trust" allows MFIs to act as more than just lenders—they can become vehicles for financial literacy and skilling.
- Scope: The survey covered 10,342 borrowers across 10 states and 19 regulated entities.

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                       | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>    | ESI (Financial Inclusion, Rural Credit, NBFCs)   | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>NABARD Grade A</b> | ARD (Microfinance, SHGs/JLGs, Rural Livelihoods) | <b>Critical</b> |

## Liquidity

4 April 2026

- The Unlock: Recent reforms allow the National Pension System (NPS) to invest up to 1% of its Assets Under Management (AUM) into Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), potentially unlocking ₹1.17 trillion.
- Benefit: Supports long-term portfolio growth and matches the long-term nature of pension liabilities (which span 30–40 years).
- Currently, most AIFs have a life of 8–10 years. At the end of this period, the GP must sell the assets and "fold up" the fund to repay investors.
- Because AIF units are "illiquid" (hard to sell before the fund ends), investors like the NPS often face "secondary funds" that demand a 30% discount to buy their stake.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                          | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>PFRDA Grade A</b> | Pension Reforms, NPS Investment Guidelines          | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b>  | AIF Regulations, Secondary Markets, Capital Markets | <b>Critical</b> |

## IRDAI Designates D-SIIs for FY26

4 April 2026

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has designated three major insurers as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for the Financial Year 2025–26.
- Enhanced Capital: These insurers are often required to maintain higher capital levels than standard firms to act as a buffer against shocks.
- Q2. Which three insurers have been designated as D-SIIs for FY26?
- Q3. What is one of the primary parameters IRDAI uses to identify a D-SII?

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                         | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Finance – Financial Institutions & Risk Management | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>IRDAI Grade A</b> | Insurance Industry Trends & Regulations            | <b>Critical</b> |

## RBI & IRDAI: Joint Crackdown on Financial Mis-selling

5 & 6 April 2026

- The Problem: A massive spike in commissions—₹60,800 crore in life insurance alone for FY25 (up 18%)—while premiums grew only in single digits. This indicates that insurers are paying more to "acquire" customers than they are earning from them.
- Q2. Which regulatory body is responsible for capping

the "Expense of Management" (EOM) for insurers?

- Staggered/Trail-based Commissions: Instead of paying the agent 30–40% of the premium in the first year (front-loading), commissions would be spread out over the life of the policy. If the customer stops paying because they were cheated, the agent stops earning.
- Board Accountability: Industry experts suggest that the Board of Directors of insurance companies should be held personally responsible for fixing commission policies that stay within legal limits.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                                 | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Finance – Conduct Risk, Bancassurance, Consumer Protection | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>IRDAI Grade A</b> | Insurance Marketing, EOM Limits, Ethics in Selling         | <b>Critical</b> |

## The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)

5 & 6 April 2026

- The Paradox: While headline indicators (unemployment rate) look stable and "healthy," a deeper look at the 2025 Annual Report reveals a sobering reality of stagnant wages and poor job quality.
- Casual Labour: This group (20% of the workforce) remains the most vulnerable, with limited gains in daily wages.
- C) It has reached 90% in 2025.
- The 2025 Annual Report shows an increase in participation, but the composition of that participation remains a concern.

| Indicator (Aged 15+)                          | 2022 (Approx) | 2025 (Reported) |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <b>LFPR (Labour Force Participation Rate)</b> | 56%           | <b>59%</b>      |
| <b>WPR (Worker-Population Ratio)</b>          | –             | <b>57%</b>      |
| <b>Unemployment Rate (Usual Status)</b>       | –             | <b>~3%</b>      |

## Moody's Slashes India's FY27 Growth Forecast to 6%

5 & 6 April 2026

- Moody's Ratings has cut India's GDP growth forecast for FY27 to 6%, down significantly from its previous estimate of 6.8%.
- LPG Dependency: India relies on West Asia for over 90% of its Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supplies.
- Crude Oil: The region accounts for 55% of India's crude imports.
- Inflation Surge: Projected to average 4.8% in FY27, a sharp jump from the very benign 2.4% in FY26.

| Exam                 | Focus Area                                           | Relevance Level |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | ESI (Growth Projections, Inflation, External Sector) | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>Banking / SSC</b> | Current GDP Forecasts by Agencies                    | <b>High</b>     |

### RBI Proposes New BC Framework

7 April 2026

- Hours: Must operate for a minimum of 4 hours a day.
- Key Deadline: The new framework is set to come into effect from July 1, 2026, with existing entities required to transition by September 30, 2026.
- The Result: All existing BFs must be re-categorized as either BC-BO or BC-BT by September 30, 2026.
- To ensure consistency and reliability for customers, the RBI has specified that a unit can only be called a "branch" if it meets the "4-5 Rule":

| Exam                      | Focus Area                                       | Relevance Level |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>        | Finance - Financial Inclusion, Banking Structure | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>Banking (PO/Clerk)</b> | Current Banking Awareness & Terms                | <b>High</b>     |

### SEBI's Push for "Substantive" Board Independence

7 April 2026

- Under the Companies Act, 2013, an ID is a non-executive director who does not have any material pecuniary (financial) relationship with the company, its promoters, or its management.
- Audit Committee: Overseeing financial reporting.
- Q3: According to SEBI chief Tuhin Kanta Pandey, what is the difference between "form" and "perspective" in governance?
- Q3: B (Explanation: Legal compliance is the "form," but "perspective" requires courage and deep interrogation.)

| Exam                | Focus Area                                       | Relevance Level |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Corporate Governance, Companies Act, Role of IDs | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance: Governance in Financial Institutions    | <b>High</b>     |

### RBI's Market-Driven Shift for Foreign Capital

7 April 2026

- The Trend: While absolute ECB registrations rose to \$49.2 billion (FY24), the "relative burden" (ECB as a % of GDP) has actually declined from 1.9% to 1.2%, signaling that the economy has outgrown its previous limits.
- New Rule: Borrowing limit raised to \$1 billion or 300%

of the borrower's net worth (whichever is higher).

- Exchange Rate Volatility: If the Rupee depreciates sharply (as seen in the current ₹93-95 range), the cost of repaying dollar-denominated debt spikes.
- The Strength: RBI data shows that two-thirds (approx. 66%) of outstanding ECBs were hedged as of September 2024, up from 55% two years ago. This means most companies have "insurance" against a falling Rupee.

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                    | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>    | Finance: ECB Policy, Hedging, Debt Statistics | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>Banking / SEBI</b> | Corporate Finance & Forex Management          | <b>High</b>     |

### The 16th Finance Commission

7 April 2026

- Q1: B (Explanation: The FC is a quasi-judicial body appointed by the President every five years.)
- Q4: B (Explanation: Entry 5 of the State List covers local government, which is why states guard this territory fiercely.)
- As the 16th Finance Commission (16th FC) begins finalizing its recommendations, a major debate has emerged regarding the direct "earmarking" of funds for Local Bodies (Panchayats and Municipalities).
- State View: Since "Local Government" is a State Subject (List II, 7th Schedule), the Center should not dictate how states manage their municipalities.

| Exam               | Focus Area                                                           | Relevance Level |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>    | GS-2 Polity (Federalism, Local Bodies); GS-3 Economy (Fiscal Policy) | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b> | ESI (Fiscal Policy & Federal Finance)                                | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>State PCS</b>   | State-Local Relations & SFC Roles                                    | <b>Critical</b> |

### RBI Cancels Licence of The Shriram Merchants' Co-operative Bank

7 April 2026

- Coverage Status: According to data submitted by the bank, approximately 99.7% of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from DICGC.
- As of January 31, 2026, the DICGC had already proactively paid out ₹48.95 crore of the total insured deposits based on the willingness forms received from depositors.
- Effective Date: The bank ceased all banking operations, including accepting and repaying deposits, from the close of business on April 6, 2026.
- Every depositor is entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim for their deposits (both principal

and interest) up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5,00,000 (Rupees Five Lakh).

| Exam               | Focus Area                                           | Relevance Level |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>RBI Grade B</b> | Banking Regulation, DICGC, Cooperative Banks         | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>Banking</b>     | Current Awareness: Bank Cancellations & DICGC Limits | <b>High</b>     |
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>    | GS-3 Economy (Financial Inclusion & Stability)       | <b>Moderate</b> |

### IRDAI Panel to Overhaul Private Health Insurance

8 April 2026

- Claims Experience: Addressing the "1 in 12" rejection reality—where approximately 8% of health claims are currently being rejected.
- In early 2026, IRDAI successfully implemented a one-hour deadline for cashless pre-authorisation. Data shows 86.8% of cases now meet this mark, significantly reducing hospital discharge wait times.
- B) 8% (1 in 12)
- E) 0% (All claims are approved)

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                    |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>B</b> | The goal is "Substantive Reform" in penetration and consumer trust.            |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | Bima Sugam is the core of the "Insurance for All" digital strategy.            |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | Despite high growth, high rejection rates remain a major "Trust Deficit" area. |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | NHCX acts as the "middleware" between the hospital and the insurance company.  |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>B</b> | Standardized tariffs are essential for making "Cashless" truly cashless.       |

### SEBI's One-Time Relief: IPO Extensions and MPS Flexibility

8 April 2026

- The Relief: Companies with deadlines to meet this 25% float between April and September 2026 will not face penal actions (fines, freezing of promoter shares).
- The Benefit: Over 24 companies that were facing "expiry" of their papers can now wait for the market to stabilize without the costly and time-consuming process of refiling draft documents (DRHP).
- The Relief: For all approvals expiring between now and September 30, 2026, SEBI has granted a six-month extension.
- Listed companies are required to maintain a Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) of at least 25%.

| Question | Answer | Explanation |
|----------|--------|-------------|
|----------|--------|-------------|

|           |          |                                                                                            |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>C</b> | The standard window is 12 months; SEBI's new move is a special "one-time" relief.          |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | Higher public float ensures that "floating stock" is available for fair price discovery.   |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>C</b> | This gives companies a full extra window to wait for the geopolitical situation to settle. |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>C</b> | The DRHP is the preliminary registration document for the public.                          |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>B</b> | Geopolitical tensions in West Asia led to high oil prices and market volatility.           |

### RBI Cracks Down on Forex Arbitrage

8 April 2026

- In a swift regulatory move, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has forced commercial banks to shut down nearly 75% of their currency arbitrage positions. By capping the Net Open Position (NOP) at a strict \$100 million, the RBI has triggered a massive sell-off of dollars by banks, causing the Indian Rupee to appreciate back under the 93/\$ mark. This intervention aims to stabilize the currency, which had plummeted 4% in March due to the West Asia conflict.

### Q: What is "Currency Arbitrage" and why were banks betting against the Rupee?

8 April 2026

- The Volume: Bankers estimate that out of \$40 billion in such "short" bets against the Rupee, \$30 billion has been squared off (closed) following the RBI order.
- Bond Yields: Settled flat at 7.05%. Traders are torn between geopolitical risks (Iran conflict) and the Finance Minister's hint that the RBI may have "scope to lower interest rates."
- Q4. According to the text, why did the Rupee fall by over 4% in March 2026?
- The New Hard Cap: The RBI has set a flat limit of \$100 million per bank. Any amount held above this must be sold in the market by the April 10 deadline.

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                           |
|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>B</b> | To exit a "Short Rupee" bet, you must buy Rupees, which settles the position.                         |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>B</b> | Massive speculative bets by banks can turn a small currency dip into a free-fall.                     |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | Selling USD and buying INR increases the demand for INR, making it "stronger."                        |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | War usually leads to "Flight to Safety," where investors dump emerging market currencies for the USD. |

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                               |
|----------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q5       | B      | Flat yields suggest the market is "priced in" for multiple possibilities. |

### RBI Monetary Policy: Repo Rate Hold Amidst Geopolitical Volatility

9 April 2026

- The RBI has slashed the real GDP growth forecast for 2026–27 by 70 basis points (to 6.9%).
- Q1. Why did the MPC decide to lower the GDP growth forecast for 2026–27 to 6.9%?
- B) The RBI will definitely raise rates to 6%.
- Following a conditional temporary ceasefire in West Asia announced by the U.S. President, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBI has unanimously voted to keep the Repo Rate unchanged at 5.25%. Despite the temporary pause in hostilities, the RBI has adopted a cautious "Neutral" stance, citing lingering risks to global supply chains and energy prices.

| Variable                   | Current Decision      | Previous Status |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Repo Rate                  | 5.25% (Unchanged)     | 5.25%           |
| Policy Stance              | Neutral               | Neutral         |
| GDP Growth Forecast        | 6.9% (Down from 7.6%) | 7.6%            |
| Inflation (CPI) Projection | 4.5% (Up from 4.4%)   | 4.4%            |

### IRDAI: New Frontiers in Insurance Cybersecurity

9 April 2026

- Q1. Under the revised IRDAI guidelines, which official is primarily responsible for the independent implementation of cybersecurity measures?
- Q4. IRDAI's focus on "Supply Chain Security" is intended to protect insurers from risks arising from:
- Board Oversight: Insurance boards are now directly responsible for the cybersecurity health of the organization, moving beyond just IT department accountability.
- Vulnerability Management: Mandatory and more frequent Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing (VAPT) to identify gaps before hackers do.

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                   |
|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1       | C      | The CISO is the specialized head for digital defense and governance.          |
| Q2       | B      | Zero Trust requires continuous verification for every access attempt.         |
| Q3       | C      | The IIB provides the data analytics backbone for the industry.                |
| Q4       | B      | Vendor risk is a major entry point for modern hackers (Supply Chain Attacks). |

|    |   |                                                                                 |
|----|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q5 | B | VAPT involves "ethical hacking" to secure a system before a real attack occurs. |
|----|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### World Bank: India FY27 Growth Forecast Upgraded to 6.6%

9 April 2026

- Fiscal Support: Recent reductions in GST rates are expected to bolster consumption in the first half of FY27.
- Subsidy Burden: The government's move to cut excise duties on fuel (by ₹10/litre) and provide customs duty exemptions on petrochemicals will likely increase the subsidy bill, potentially stalling the decline in the fiscal deficit.
- The World Bank's 6.6% estimate is part of a broader "wait-and-watch" sentiment among global financial institutions.
- The World Bank upgraded its GDP growth forecast for India for the financial year 2026–27 (FY27) to 6.6%, up from its previous estimate of 6.3%. While this reflects "robust domestic activity," it also signals a deceleration from the 7.6% growth expected in FY26 due to global headwinds, particularly the West Asia conflict.

| Agency        | Revised Forecast (%) | Earlier Forecast (%) |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| RBI           | 6.9%                 | 7.6% (FY26)          |
| World Bank    | 6.6%                 | 6.3%                 |
| Moody's       | 6.8%                 | 6.0%                 |
| Goldman Sachs | 5.9%                 | 6.5%                 |
| OECD          | 6.1%                 | 6.2%                 |

### RBI Policy Shift: Scrapping IFR and Easing Capital Rules

9 April 2026

- The Impact: This could free up a massive corpus of approximately ₹35,000–40,000 crore across the banking system. Banks can now use this money for Tier-1 capital or transfer it to their Profit & Loss (P&L) accounts.
- Old Rule: Banks could only include quarterly profits in their CRAR if their NPA (Non-Performing Asset) provisioning didn't fluctuate by more than 25% from the average. Otherwise, they had to wait until the end of the financial year.
- A) ₹5,000–10,000 crore
- B) ₹15,000–20,000 crore

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                             |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1       | C      | Per the SBI Research report, this is the total "trapped" amount that can be repurposed. |
| Q2       | C      | This removes the "25% deviation" condition, allowing more consistent capital reporting. |

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                                     |
|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q3       | D      | Kotak Mahindra Bank stands at 0.8%, significantly higher than the industry average of 0.1-0.3%. |
| Q4       | B      | This "one-time" gain provides a small but helpful buffer for lending expansion.                 |
| Q5       | C      | Modern accounting and Basel III norms have made the specific IFR bucket redundant.              |

### RBI to Rejig Framework for NBFC Categories

9 April 2026

- The 2021 Rule: The RBI classified large, systemic NBFCs (like Tata Sons) into the "Upper Layer." Under these rules, any NBFC in the Upper Layer was mandated to list on the stock exchanges within three years of being identified.
- A: This refers to the "Domino Effect." If a massive NBFC (like the 2018 IL&FS crisis) fails, it can freeze the credit markets, causing banks to stop lending and potentially leading to a wider economic recession.
- The Deadline: For many top-tier NBFCs, this three-year window is closing in September 2025 – 2026.
- A: A CIC is a specialized NBFC that holds at least 90% of its net assets in the form of investment in equity shares, debt, or loans in its group companies. They don't typically lend to the general public. Tata Sons is a classic example of a CIC.

| Layer        | Criteria / Description                                                  | Regulatory Strictness    |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Top Layer    | Currently empty; reserved for NBFCs posing extreme systemic risk.       | Highest (Bank-like)      |
| Upper Layer  | Top 15 NBFCs by size (e.g., Tata Sons, LIC Housing Finance).            | High (Mandatory Listing) |
| Middle Layer | All deposit-taking NBFCs and non-deposit NBFCs with assets > ₹1,000 Cr. | Moderate                 |
| Base Layer   | Smaller NBFCs with assets < ₹1,000 Cr.                                  | Lowest                   |

### RBI's Fraud Prevention Proposals & Banking Liquidity Surge

10 April 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released a discussion paper on April 9, 2026, proposing targeted friction in high-value digital transfers. This aims to combat Authorised Push Payment (APP) fraud, where users are tricked into sending money themselves.
- Threshold: Transactions over ₹10,000.
- Scope: Primarily for person-to-person (P2P) transfers. Merchant payments (e.g., QR codes at shops) are generally excluded to maintain convenience.
- Trusted Person Authentication: For transfers above

₹50,000, a pre-designated "trusted individual" may need to approve the transaction.

| Question | Answer | Explanation                                                                                               |
|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Q1       | C      | ₹10,000 is the threshold where the 1-hour lag begins.                                                     |
| Q2       | C      | The higher threshold (50k) is aimed at protecting life savings from coercion.                             |
| Q3       | B      | When G-Secs mature, the RBI/Govt pays back the principal to banks, creating a cash surplus.               |
| Q4       | B      | It is a "panic button" to stop all digital outflows instantly.                                            |
| Q5       | B      | Surplus liquidity means banks are parking money <i>with</i> the RBI rather than borrowing <i>from</i> it. |

### RBI Mandate: Accelerated Credit for Inward Remittances

10 April 2026

- Q2. If an inward payment message is received after banking hours, when must the bank inform the customer?
- On Thursday, April 9, 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a landmark circular to tackle the primary bottleneck in cross-border payments: the beneficiary leg. This is the time taken from when a bank receives a payment message from abroad to when the money actually reflects in the customer's account.
- Non-Business Hours: If the message arrives after operating hours, the bank must notify the customer at the start of the next business day.
- A: When money is sent from New York to Delhi, the Delhi bank first receives it in its account in New York (the Nostro account). Previously, many Indian banks only checked this account once a day. The 2026 RBI mandate forces them to check every hour to ensure you get your money faster.

| Stakeholder           | Primary Benefit                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Individual Recipients | Faster access to funds for family maintenance, education, or emergencies.                              |
| Exporters             | Improved working capital cycles; funds from global sales are available the same day.                   |
| Economy               | Enhanced liquidity and faster circulation of foreign exchange in the Indian market.                    |
| Banks                 | Competitive edge by offering speed; however, they must invest in better automated reconciliation tech. |

### RBI New Norms for Government NBFCs and the Upper Layer

11 April 2026

- The New Rule: Any NBFC with an asset size of ₹1 trillion and above will automatically be placed in the Upper Layer.
- The 5-Year Lock-in: Once an entity is designated as an NBFC-UL, it must follow those strict norms for at least five consecutive years, even if its assets fall below the ₹1 trillion mark during that period.
- Preparation: Large NBFCs can now adjust their business plans and compliance infrastructure well in advance of hitting the ₹1 trillion mark.
- Q3. Which group of financial entities will be subjected to "bank-like" norms for the first time under this proposal?

### RBI Deputy Governor Rebukes Banks Over Rupee Arbitrage Trades

11 April 2026

- The Scale: It is estimated that banks had to reverse nearly \$30 billion in such trades following recent RBI restrictions.
- Q2. What was the immediate impact of banks buying dollars locally to sell them offshore?
- Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-B, 4-A
- The Trade: Banks were buying dollars in the local Indian market and simultaneously selling them in offshore markets where the dollar was more expensive.

### New BIS Security Standards for QR-Code & Digital Payments

12 & 13 April 2026

- The Three Pillars of the 2026 Framework:
- Q.5) What is the primary reason for India tightening its digital payment security standards according to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs?
- [1] Sending a payment from a bank account to a digital wallet.
- Q.3) As of early 2026, which of the following countries is NOT mentioned as an active or upcoming market for India's QR-based payment system?

### Unified Payments Interface (UPI)

14 April 2026

- Real-Time Settlement: While many international bank transfers take days, UPI settles funds between banks in seconds, 24/7/365.
- VPA (Virtual Payment Address): The "secret sauce" of UPI. Users can send or receive money using a simple ID (e.g., name@bank) without ever revealing their account number or IFSC code.
- UPI Lite: This is specifically for small-value on-device transactions to reduce the success-rate burden on bank servers.
- Answers: Q1: [3], Q2: [2], Q3: [2]

### RBI's Stance on SFB to Universal Bank Conversion (Ujjivan & Jana)

14 April 2026

- The Status of Peers: AU Small Finance Bank successfully secured approval in 2025, setting the gold standard for this transition.
- Eligibility for Conversion: Per RBI guidelines (April 2024), an SFB can apply for a Universal Bank license if it has:
- The 60% Rule: SFBs must lend at least 60% of their Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the Priority Sector (PSL).
- Q.1) As per the recent RBI communication in April 2026, why was Ujjivan SFB's application for a universal bank license returned?

### IMF Lifts India FY27 Growth to 6.5%

15 April 2026

- Momentum Carryover: The IMF also revised India's FY26 (2025-26) growth to 7.6%, noting that strong momentum from the previous year is acting as a buffer against the West Asia shocks.
- The IMF raised India's FY27 growth forecast to 6.5% (a 10-basis point increase from its January estimate).
- [2] Reduction in US tariffs on Indian goods from 50% to 10%
- Answers: Q.1: [2] | Q.2: [3] | Q.3: [3] | Q.4: [2]

| Institution | Forecast (%) | Sentiment                        |
|-------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| S&P Global  | 7.1          | Most Optimistic (Base Case)      |
| RBI         | 6.9          | Bullish on Domestic Demand       |
| ADB         | 6.9          | Bullish on US Tariff Impact      |
| World Bank  | 6.6          | Moderate Resilience              |
| IMF         | 6.5          | Cautiously Optimistic (Upgraded) |
| OECD        | 6.1          | Concern over Global Trade        |

### Fitch upgrades Shriram Finance long term foreign currency ratings to BBB-

15 April 2026

- 1. Which global bank's 20% stake acquisition triggered the Fitch rating upgrade for Shriram Finance?
- 5. How will MUFG Bank exercise shareholder oversight in Shriram Finance?
- 3. What was the impact of the ₹40,000 crore capital infusion on Shriram Finance's debt-to-tangible equity ratio?
- A) It increased from 2.5x to 4.2x

| Metric         | Pre-Infusion (BB+)       | Post-Infusion (BBB-) |
|----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Category       | Speculative / High-Yield | Investment Grade     |
| Debt-to-Equity | 4.2x                     | 2.5x                 |

| Metric         | Pre-Infusion (BB+)     | Post-Infusion (BBB-)                |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Funding Access | Standard NBFC channels | Lower cost of funds; Global markets |
| Short-Term IDR | B                      | F3                                  |

## Answers

15 April 2026

- B) MUFG Bank (The Japanese lender invested nearly ₹40,000 crore for a 20% stake.)
- C) It declined from 4.2x to 2.5x (The lower leverage significantly strengthens the company's capital base.)
- B) By nominating two board directors and placing six employees (This structure ensures strategic coordination and governance.)

## Utkarsh 2029

15 April 2026

- B) 49 deliverables and 6 pillars (As outlined in the official April 2026 notification.)
- 1. What is the primary focus of the 'Unified Lending Interface (ULI)' mentioned in Utkarsh 2029?
- 2. Which project under Utkarsh 2029 is specifically dedicated to the modernization of currency management?
- 3. How many 'deliverables' and 'pillars' form the core structure of Utkarsh 2029?

## SEBI Launches Three New IT Platforms

15 April 2026

- B) To boost the ease of doing business and strengthen cybersecurity (These are the dual goals of the March 2026 digital push.)
- C) SUPCOMS 2.1 (It serves as a single universal platform for all external communications.)
- D) Ministry of External Affairs
- In March 2026, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) introduced three specialized IT platforms designed to modernize the regulatory landscape. These initiatives, launched under the leadership of Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey, focus on transparency, speed, and advanced security oversight.

## RBI Liberalises Branch Rules for NBFCs

16 April 2026

- Immediate Effect: These revised norms are active as of April 15, 2026.
- A) January 1, 2027
- B) April 15, 2026
- C) May 1, 2026

| NOF Threshold   | Credit Rating | Branch Expansion Permission |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Up to ₹50 crore | Any           | Only within the Home State  |
| Above ₹50 crore | Below AA      | Only within the Home State  |
| Above ₹50 crore | AA or Higher  | Anywhere in India           |

## Answers

16 April 2026

- C) Only within the state where its registered office is located. (Both NOF > ₹50cr and a high rating are required for pan-India access.)
- B) April 15, 2026 (The norms came into force with immediate effect.)
- B) To ensure expansion is based on financial strength and credit profile to protect depositors. (Since these firms handle public money, the RBI maintains stricter oversight on their growth.)

## Sebi Allows 50% Tweak in IPO Size

16 April 2026

- Market Volatility: The Nifty dropped 11.3% in March 2026, causing large players like PhonePe to defer their listings.
- Low Activity: In April so far, only one mainboard IPO worth ₹150 crore has been launched, a sharp decline from previous months.
- D) The issue must be at least ₹10,000 crore in size.
- A) December 31, 2025

| Feature                 | Old Rule                                    | New Rule (Until Sept 30, 2026)                    |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Fresh Issue Size Change | >20% change required refiling a fresh DRHP. | Up to <b>50% change</b> allowed without refiling. |
| Offer for Sale (OFS)    | 50% threshold already existed.              | Remains 50%.                                      |
| Approval Validity       | 12 months from observation letter.          | Extended until <b>September 30, 2026</b> .        |

## Answers

16 April 2026

- C) 50% (An increase from the previous 20% limit.)
- C) September 30, 2026 (Aligning with the extended validity of existing DRHPs.)
- B) Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI)
- B) Through a public addendum (Ensuring transparency for all potential retail and institutional investors.)

## India slipped to 6th spot in IMF GDP rankings despite strong growth

17 & 18 April 2026

### Indian banks' credit portfolio resilient amid

nominal growth in Rupee terms.

- The Result: When you convert those trillions of Rupees into Dollars at a weaker exchange rate, the final "Dollar GDP" looks smaller. Meanwhile, the British Pound remained relatively stable, allowing the UK to "leapfrog" back into 5th place.
- The Shrinkage: Nominal GDP for FY26 was revised downward from ₹357 trillion to ₹345.5 trillion.
- Impact: This 2.8% to 3.8% reduction in the "base" size made it easier for Japan and the UK to stay ahead in the rankings.

| Country | GDP (US\$ Trillion) | Status      |
|---------|---------------------|-------------|
| Japan   | \$4.44              | 4th Largest |
| UK      | \$4.00              | 5th Largest |
| India   | \$3.92              | 6th Largest |

### LIC Launches 'MyLIC' and 'Super Sales Saathi' Mobile Applications

17 & 18 April 2026

- Policy Management: A unified dashboard allows users to monitor multiple policies, track survival benefits, and check maturity dates in real-time.
- Sales Enablement: Includes AI-driven "customer nudges," digital product kits, and interactive explainers to help agents pitch the right products to the right clients.
- Operational Efficiency: Real-time tracking of policy status and automated follow-up reminders ensure that agents stay connected with their customers.
- Operational Speed: Shifting from "branch-first" to "mobile-first" allows for quicker policy issuance and faster claim settlements.

### SEBI's Fit and Proper Person Criteria

17 & 18 April 2026

- A) April 1, 2026
- B) April 9, 2026
- C) April 15, 2026
- D) September 30, 2026

| Legal Status                     | Previous Norms                            | Revised Norms (April 2026)                                                        |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Filing of FIR / Complaint</b> | Could trigger automatic disqualification. | <b>No automatic disqualification.</b>                                             |
| <b>Filing of Chargesheet</b>     | Often led to "not fit and proper" status. | <b>No automatic disqualification.</b>                                             |
| <b>Conviction</b>                | Moral turpitude only.                     | <b>Expanded:</b> Conviction for any economic offence or securities law violation. |

### West Asia conflict: CRISIL

17 & 18 April 2026

- The Trend: From a peak of 11% in FY18, GNPA's dropped to 2.3% in FY25 and are projected to hit a decadal low of ~2% by March 2026.
- Conflict Impact: Even with the West Asia war approaching its second month, CRISIL expects GNPA's to only see a minor "settling" at 2.0–2.2% in FY27. This indicates that the shock is currently being absorbed by healthy bank balance sheets.
- The report breaks down the ₹170+ trillion Indian credit market into three primary buckets:
- Portfolio Seasoning: Over the last three years, MSME lending grew at a massive 20% CAGR. "Seasoning" refers to the aging of these new loans. Statistically, the risk of default increases as a loan portfolio ages through its mid-cycle.

| Segment          | Share of Credit | GNPA Forecast (FY27) | Status                                                                                          |
|------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Corporate</b> | 36%             | <b>1.2% – 1.3%</b>   | <b>Stable:</b> Healthy balance sheets provide a "buffer" against oil and gas shocks.            |
| <b>Retail</b>    | 33%             | <b>1.1% – 1.3%</b>   | <b>Stable:</b> Secured loans (housing/auto) are solid; unsecured books are finally stabilizing. |
| <b>MSME</b>      | 19%             | <b>3.4% – 3.6%</b>   | <b>Under Pressure:</b> Vulnerable to supply chain disruptions and input cost hikes.             |

### Maritime Insurance Pool

19 & 20 April 2026

- Government Guarantee: The ₹129.8 billion serves as a financial safety net, ensuring that claims can be paid even if the pool's collected premiums are insufficient during a major crisis.
- Inflation Adjustment: Alongside this, the government announced a 2% increase in inflation-linked allowances (Dearness Allowance) for employees, responding to the 3.40% CPI rise in March.
- Q1: B (Explanation: The pool acts as a buffer against the withdrawal of international coverage during wars or sanctions.)
- Q2: B (Explanation: General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) provides the necessary reinsurance support to primary insurers.)

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b> | GS-3 (Energy Security, Economy, International Trade)    |
| <b>Banking</b>  | Current Affairs (Financial Terms, New Government Funds) |

**The RBI Master Directions on Facility for**

| Area             |                                                   |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>State PCS</b> | Economic Geography (Port-led development & trade) |

**Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)**

19 &amp; 20 April 2026

- As of April 2026, AMFI oversees an industry that has grown six-fold in a decade, with assets under management (AUM) crossing ₹73.73 lakh crore.
- Q1: B (Explanation: SEBI mandates 2 basis points (0.02%) of AUM for these initiatives.)
- Q2: B (Explanation: AMFI acts as the industry lobby group that pools half of the mandated 0.02% for national campaigns.)
- Analysis of five-year data reveals that the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) spent nearly 90% of its investor awareness funds on digital media campaigns (Google, Facebook) and advertising agencies.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                           |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Indian Economy, Capital Markets, Regulatory Bodies) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Financial Awareness (SEBI norms, AMFI, AUM definitions)   |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Finance & Management (Investor Protection and Education)  |

**Stagflationary Risks**

19 &amp; 20 April 2026

- While retail inflation (CPI) sits at a seemingly manageable 3.4%, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) has surged to a 38-month high of 3.88%.
- Geopolitical Trigger: The U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran has led to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, causing crude oil prices to skyrocket by 64% in a single month (reaching ~\$114/barrel).
- Q3: B (Explanation: Blocked export routes have forced goods back into India, artificially lowering retail prices despite rising costs for producers.)
- The Base Year Shift: A critical technical factor is the divergence in measurement: the CPI has transitioned to a 2024 base year, while the WPI remains on the 2011-12 base year.

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Inflation, Energy Security, International Relations) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Current Affairs (CPI/WPI Data, Economic Terms)             |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Macroeconomic Management (Monetary Policy & Stagflation)   |

**Exchange of Notes and Coins**

19 &amp; 20 April 2026

- Q3. If a person presents 50 pieces of mutilated notes worth ₹10,000, how should the bank proceed?
- Q3: C (For bulk exchanges exceeding 20 pieces or ₹5,000, banks provide a receipt and process the payment later.)
- Q1. According to the 2026 Master Direction, what is the exchange value for a "Soiled Note" presented at a bank counter?
- Q2: C (While the year is on the note, the RBI lists the Issuing Authority, Guarantee, Signature, Portrait/Emblem, and Watermark as "Essential.")

| Category              | Description                                                                                                                                | Exchange Value                               |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <b>Soiled Note</b>    | Dirty due to normal wear and tear; includes two-piece notes where both pieces belong to the same note and no essential feature is missing. | <b>Full Value</b>                            |
| <b>Mutilated Note</b> | A note where a portion is missing or it is composed of more than two pieces.                                                               | <b>Adjudicated Value</b><br>(Full/Half/Zero) |
| <b>Imperfect Note</b> | Wholly or partially obliterated, shrunk, washed, or altered, but not necessarily mutilated.                                                | <b>Adjudicated Value</b>                     |

**SEBI Amends AIF Rules: Expanding Access to Social Impact Funds**

21 April 2026

- Old Rule: Individual investors were required to commit a minimum of ₹2 lakh to invest in a Social Impact Fund.
- New Rule: The threshold has been slashed to ₹1,000.
- Impact: This 99.5% reduction shifts SIFs from an "exclusive" high-net-worth product to a "mass-market" retail product.
- Q1. What is the new minimum investment limit for individual investors in Social Impact Funds after the 2026 SEBI amendment?

| Exam Focus Area     | Relevance Level                                      |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | AIF Regulations, Social Stock Exchange, ZCZP details |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Finance (Financial Markets & Inclusion)              |

**RBI Partially Eases Rupee NDF Curbs**

21 April 2026

- Q1: B (The easing is focused on risk management for existing contracts rather than opening doors for new speculation.)
- On Monday, April 20, 2026, the RBI partially rolled

back the strict "firewall" measures it imposed on April 1 regarding non-deliverable forwards (NDF).

- A: The total "unhedged" foreign currency exposure a bank carries on its books. By keeping this cap at \$100 million, the RBI prevents banks from building large speculative positions that could destabilize the Rupee.
- The Reason: Stability has returned to the forex market following a volatile March. The RBI perceives a lower arbitrage risk now that banks have complied with the April 10 deadline.

| Feature                 | Status (April 1–19)         | Status (Starting April 20)             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Related-Party Deals     | Total Ban                   | Permitted (Cancellation/Rollover only) |
| Back-to-Back Route      | Prohibited                  | Permitted                              |
| Net Open Position (NOP) | Capped at \$100 Million     | Remains Capped at \$100 Million        |
| New Derivative Trades   | Barred with related parties | Remains Barred                         |

## Rupee Falls to 93.44

22 April 2026

- On April 1, the RBI had strictly capped speculative bets to prevent a free-fall.
- Q1: According to the report, what was the closing value of the Rupee against the U.S. Dollar on Tuesday?
- Q1: C (The Rupee settled at 93.44, a 28-paise drop.)
- Q2: C (Easing curbs restored market function but allowed for more movement in currency value.)

| Exam Focus Area    | Relevance Level                                             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| RBI Grade B        | Finance (Forex Markets, NDF, Monetary Policy Interventions) |
| UPSC CSE           | GS-3 (Indian Economy: Exchange Rate, External Sector)       |
| Banking (PO/Clerk) | General Awareness (Current Forex Rates, RBI Directives)     |

## Bandhan Mutual Fund Adds Precious Metals to Equity Framework

22 April 2026

- Gold/Silver Exposure: The schemes can now allocate up to 10% of their portfolio to Gold and Silver ETFs.
- Q1: B (The framework allows for a range of 0% to 10%.)
- The Rationale: Fund managers can now capture "Beta returns" (market-linked returns) from commodities, especially when there isn't a suitable listed stock (equity play) to represent that sector.
- Opportunistic Use: The allocation is not mandatory; it provides fund managers the flexibility to hedge against volatility or capture commodity rallies when equity markets are stretched.

| Asset Class             | Minimum (%) | Maximum (%) |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Equity & Equity Related | 65%         | 100%        |
| Debt Securities / Cash  | 0%          | 35%         |
| Units of InvITs         | 0%          | 10%         |
| Gold / Silver ETFs      | 0%          | 10%         |

## Proposed Tweaks for Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) Licencing

22 April 2026

- RBI's Proposal: A threshold of ₹300 crore.
- Industry Request: Lowering the requirement to ₹200 crore, arguing that the higher limit is too steep for smaller credit societies and does not align with "current economic realities."
- A: These are loans given without any collateral (like property or gold). Because they are riskier for the bank, the RBI caps them. Industry bodies want a higher cap (25%) to help small-scale borrowers who lack assets.
- Q1: C (RBI proposed ₹300 cr; industry is asking for ₹200 cr.)

| Feature              | RBI Proposal / Existing Rule                | Industry "Tweak" Sought                            |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Minimum Capital      | ₹300 Crore                                  | ₹200 Crore                                         |
| Track Record         | 10 years active / 5 years "good" financials | 5-year track record for mergers with existing UCBs |
| Unsecured Advances   | 20% aggregate ceiling                       | 25% aggregate ceiling                              |
| Nominal Member Loans | ₹2.5 Lakh (Consumer durables)               | ₹5 Lakh for Tier-3 and Tier-4 UCBs                 |
| Loan Tenure          | 1 year (for nominal members)                | Up to 5 years                                      |

## RBI Tightens E-Mandate Rules for Recurring & Cross-Border Payments

22 April 2026

- Standard Transactions: Up to ₹15,000 per transaction.
- Special Categories: Up to ₹1 lakh for credit card bills, insurance premiums, and mutual fund installments.
- Capped Liability: If reported within 4–7 days, your maximum loss is capped between ₹5,000 (savings account) and ₹25,000 (credit cards).
- Zero Liability: If the bank is at fault or if you report a third-party breach within 3 working days.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| RBI Grade B     | Finance (Payment Systems, Digital Fraud, Consumer Protection) |
| SEBI Grade A    | Financial Awareness (Mutual Fund SIP mandates)                |

| Exam Focus Area    | Relevance Level                                 |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Banking (PO/Clerk) | General Awareness (UPI limits, E-mandate rules) |

## UN Escap Report: India's Economic Outlook (FY27–FY28)

22 April 2026

- Asian Development Bank (ADB): 6.9%
- World Bank: 6.6%
- The report expects growth to rebound slightly to 6.6% in FY28. This recovery is predicated on robust domestic consumption and the continued strength of India's services sector, which acts as a buffer against global manufacturing slumps.
- UNESCAP: 6.4%

| Fiscal Year  | GDP Growth Projection      | Inflation (CPI) Projection  |
|--------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| FY26 (Est.)  | 7.4% (Strong expansion)    | 2.3% (Period of low prices) |
| FY27 (Proj.) | 6.4% (Slowdown due to war) | 4.4% (Energy shock impact)  |
| FY28 (Proj.) | 6.6% (Moderate recovery)   | 4.3% (Stabilizing)          |

## RBI Proposes New PPI Norms

23 April 2026

- Balance Limit: Maximum outstanding balance capped at ₹2 lakh.
- P2P Transfers: Capped at ₹25,000 per month.
- Cash Loading: Permitted up to ₹10,000 per month.
- Balance Limit: Capped at ₹10,000.

| Feature          | Regulation Detail                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Form Factor      | Can be a <b>Card</b> or <b>Digital Wallet</b> . <b>Paper vouchers are strictly prohibited.</b>                                                            |
| Cross-Border Ban | PPIs are for domestic use only; they cannot be used for international payments.                                                                           |
| Interoperability | Full-KYC wallets must be interoperable via UPI (for wallets) and Card Networks (for physical cards).                                                      |
| Discovery        | PPI issuers can now facilitate the "discovery" of their wallets within third-party UPI apps (e.g., seeing your wallet balance inside Google Pay or BHIM). |

## Pay Point Joins RBI's Core Payment System

23 April 2026

- RTGS (Real Time Gross Settlement): Used for continuous, real-time settlement of high-value fund transfers (typically above 2 Lakh) on a transaction-by-transaction basis.
- Before this development, fintechs operated as "sub-members," meaning they had to route every transaction through a sponsor bank. Now, Pay Point

India operates on par with commercial banks regarding payment processing.

- Cost Efficiency: Fintechs no longer need to pay "transaction fees" or "hosting charges" to sponsor banks, which could eventually lead to cheaper services for end-users.
- Reduction in Systemic Risk: By removing the "middleman" bank, the point of failure is reduced. If a sponsor bank faces a technical outage, the fintech's services are no longer paralyzed.

| Feature      | Previous Model (Sub-member)                 | New Model (CPS Member)               |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Connectivity | Through a Sponsor Bank                      | Directly with the RBI                |
| Identity     | Uses Sponsor Bank's IFSC                    | Assigned its own unique IFSC code    |
| Settlement   | Settled in Bank's books                     | Settlement account directly with RBI |
| Dependency   | High (subject to bank's technical glitches) | Zero (independent infrastructure)    |

## Key Concepts: Keyword Q&A

23 April 2026

- Q1: B (CPS membership is the core achievement mentioned.)
- Q1. Pay Point India has become the first private fintech to gain direct access to which system?
- A: The Indian Financial System Code. It is an 11-character alphanumeric code used to uniquely identify bank branches (and now specific fintech entities) within the NEFT and RTGS networks.
- A: The RBI maintained strict entry barriers to ensure financial stability. Direct access to the RBI's "Current Account" is a high-trust privilege, as it involves the final settlement of money in the central bank's books.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                               |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: Finance (Payment Systems in India, Digital Banking) |
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Indian Economy: Banking, Infrastructure, Fintech)       |
| Bank PO / SSC   | General Awareness (Banking updates, Fintech milestones)       |

## RBI's Consolidated E-Mandate Framework 2026

23 April 2026

- The First Transaction: The very first payment under any mandate always requires an OTP, even if it is under ₹15,000.
- 24-Hour Pre-Debit Alert: Banks must send a notification (SMS/Email) at least 24 hours before any money is deducted.
- Q1. According to the 2026 framework, what is the maximum limit for an auto-debit for a Mutual Fund

SIP without requiring an OTP for each cycle? A) ₹15,000

- Q1: C (Insurance, Mutual Funds, and Credit Cards have a special ₹1 lakh limit.)

| Category                     | Limit (No OTP Required) | Examples                                                 |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>General Recurring</b>     | <b>₹15,000</b>          | Netflix, Spotify, Utility Bills, Broadband, Gym Fees.    |
| <b>High-Value Exemptions</b> | <b>₹1,00,000</b>        | Insurance Premiums, Mutual Fund SIPs, Credit Card Bills. |
| <b>Variable Payments</b>     | Set by User             | Electricity bills where the amount changes each month.   |

### RBI State of the Economy

24 & 25 April 2026

- Speculation Control: On March 27, 2026, the RBI capped the "Net Open Position" in INR for banks at \$100 million to prevent traders from betting too heavily against the rupee.
- Policy Stance: In the April 8 MPC meeting, the RBI kept the Repo Rate at 5.25% with a "neutral" stance, opting to "wait and watch" the geopolitical fallout.
- Q2. What is the IMD's 2026 monsoon forecast in terms of the Long Period Average (LPA)? A) 85%
- Q2: B (92% is the current forecast, indicating a "below normal" season.)

| Metric (Feb 2025 – Feb 2026)                 | Private Sector Banks | Public Sector Banks |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Reduction in WALR (Fresh Loans)</b>       | <b>104 bps</b>       | <b>75 bps</b>       |
| <b>Reduction in WALR (Outstanding Loans)</b> | <b>94 bps</b>        | <b>77 bps</b>       |
| <b>Deposit Rate Softening</b>                | Broadly Similar      | Broadly Similar     |

### HSBC Downgrades India to Underweight

24 & 25 April 2026

- Earnings Revision: While the market currently expects a 16% Y-o-Y earnings growth for 2026, HSBC expects these forecasts to be revised downward as input costs rise.
- Rupee Weakness: With the INR crossing 94, foreign investors are seeing their returns "eroded" by currency depreciation, making them cautious about fresh inflows.
- A: If a foreign investor puts \$100 into India and the Rupee falls by 5%, their investment is worth \$95 in Dollar terms even if the stock price stays the same. Currency risk is a major deterrent for global funds.
- An "Underweight" rating suggests that a brokerage believes a market will underperform compared to its peers or a benchmark index. HSBC's concerns are

centered on the sustainability of corporate profits.

| Exam Focus Area     | Relevance Level                                                    |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>     | GS-3 (Economy: Investment models, FPI flows, IT sector challenges) |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>  | Phase II: ESI (Global financial markets, Balance of Payments)      |
| <b>SEBI Grade A</b> | Securities Market (Brokerage ratings, Equity strategy)             |

### RBI Cancels Paytm Payments Bank Licence

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially cancelled the banking licence of Paytm Payments Bank Limited (PPBL). This final regulatory blow comes after years of supervisory concerns, effective from the close of business on April 24, 2026.
- Limited Impact: Since top-ups and fresh deposits were already banned in early 2024, most users have had over two years to exhaust their balances.
- Statutory Ground: The action was taken under Section 22 (4) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- A: A specialized type of bank that can accept deposits (up to ₹2 lakh) and offer payments/remittance services but cannot issue credit cards or provide loans.

| Feature                    | Status              | Reason                                                        |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Paytm UPI</b>           | <b>Active</b>       | Operates via third-party bank handles (like AXIS, HDFC, SBI). |
| <b>Paytm QR / Soundbox</b> | <b>Active</b>       | These are merchant services independent of PPBL.              |
| <b>Paytm Wallet</b>        | <b>Discontinued</b> | The wallet was a PPBL product; it is no longer reloadable.    |
| <b>Paytm Gold / Money</b>  | <b>Active</b>       | These are managed by other subsidiaries of One 97.            |

### Conceptual MCQs

24 & 25 April 2026

- Q1. Under which Section of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, did the RBI cancel PPBL's licence? A) Section 35A
- Q3: B (Under the Banking Regulation Act, the RBI approaches the High Court for bank liquidations.)
- Q2. Which of the following Paytm services remains UNINTERRUPTED after the bank's closure? A) Loading money into Paytm Bank Wallet
- Q3. To which authority will the RBI apply for the winding up of the bank? A) Supreme Court

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level |
|-----------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|-----------------|

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                      |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Economy: Banking Sector Reforms, Digital Payments, RBI's Role) |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: Finance & Management (Banking Regulations, Compliance)     |
| Banking         | Current Affairs (Corporate news, RBI circulars)                      |

### SEBI Proposes Risk-Based Net Worth for Brokers

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Old Rule: Brokers had to maintain a variable net worth equal to 10% of the average daily client cash balance they held.
- Brokers must maintain 10% of the average credit balance of all clients over the previous six months. This ensures capital is still tied to the total value of client money handled, regardless of where it is currently stored (Upstreamed vs. Retained).
- Q2: C (The ₹50 Lakh slab kicks in for the 10,000–50,000 client range.)
- Component A: Client Fund Linked (10% Rule)

| Active Client Base      | Additional Net Worth Required |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Up to 10,000            | Standard Base Net Worth       |
| 10,000 – 50,000         | + ₹50 Lakh                    |
| Every additional 50,000 | Further Incremental Buffers   |

### CRIF-SIDBI Small Business Spotlight Report

24 & 25 April 2026

- Exposure Limit: Entities or individuals with an aggregate credit exposure not exceeding ₹5 crore from the formal lending system.
- Q1. According to the CRIF-SIDBI report, a 'Small Business' is defined by a credit exposure not exceeding: A) ₹1 Crore
- C) ₹10 Crore
- D) ₹50 Crore

| Metric                   | Dec 2024 (Y-o-Y) | Dec 2025 (Y-o-Y) | Analysis                                            |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Portfolio Value Growth   | 20%              | 14.9%            | Growth has "moderated" due to a higher base effect. |
| Active Loan Count Growth | 9.6%             | 13.8%            | Lending frequency is accelerating.                  |
| Total Portfolio Value    | –                | ₹47.8 Lakh Cr    | Significant scale, showing deep market resilience.  |

### NBFCs Seek Access to Central Fraud Registry (CFR)

24 & 25 April 2026

- The "Lapse" in Data: Current fraud statistics (which

hit ₹21,515 crore in the first half of FY26) only represent bank frauds, excluding those perpetrated against NBFCs.

- Consumer Protection: This coincides with new draft directions (March 2026) that defined "mis-selling" for the first time and established a strict 'Code of Conduct' for the sales force of lenders.
- Legislative Action: Experts suggest that providing NBFCs access to the CFR would likely require an amendment to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- Threshold: It captures all fraud cases involving a sum of ₹1 lakh and above.

### Banking Regulation Act, 1949

26 & 27 April 2026

- This Act is the bedrock of financial stability in India. It empowers the RBI to act not just as a central bank, but as a strict regulator and supervisor of all commercial and (since 1965) cooperative banks.
- Detrimental Conduct [Section 22(3)(b)]: The bank's affairs were conducted in a manner harmful to its depositors.
- Breach of Conditions [Section 22(3)(g)]: Persistent failure to meet the specific conditions of its Payments Bank licence (e.g., KYC and transaction monitoring).
- Evolution: Originally enacted as the Banking Companies Act, 1949, it was renamed in 1966 to expand its scope beyond just "companies."

| Section       | Power / Feature          | Description                                                                                                          |
|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Section 5(b)  | Definition of Banking    | Defined as accepting deposits from the public for the purpose of lending or investment.                              |
| Section 8     | Prohibition of Trading   | Banks cannot engage in buying/selling goods directly (to prevent high-risk commercial exposure).                     |
| Section 22    | Licensing & Cancellation | <b>Crucial:</b> No bank can start without a licence, and RBI can withdraw it if the bank fails to comply with norms. |
| Section 35    | Inspection               | RBI has the right to inspect a bank's books and accounts at any time.                                                |
| Section 35A   | Power to give Directions | Allows RBI to issue binding instructions to banks in the interest of public/banking policy.                          |
| Section 36ACA | Supersession of Board    | RBI can remove a bank's Board of Directors and appoint an administrator in cases of mismanagement.                   |
| Section 44A   | Amalgamation             | Procedures for merging two banking companies.                                                                        |

## The IBC (Amendment) Act, 2026

26 & 27 April 2026

- Threshold: Financial creditors holding >51% of the debt can initiate negotiations before entering the NCLT.
- A: A legal freeze on all lawsuits and debt recovery actions against a company once it enters the insolvency process. The 2026 rules now impose penalties for violating this moratorium.
- Q1. Under the 2026 IBC Amendment, what percentage of debt must financial creditors hold to initiate the new hybrid out-of-court resolution?
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Act, 2026, which received Presidential assent in April 2026, marks the most significant structural overhaul of India's insolvency framework since its inception in 2016.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Economy: Investment Models, Banking, and Debt Recovery)       |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: Finance (Insolvency frameworks, ESI: Financial inclusion) |
| State PSCs      | Impact on real estate and urban housing projects                    |

## RBI Tightens NPA Norms

28 April 2026

- B) At least 50% of the principal
- Answers: Q1: C | Q2: C | Q3: C
- The Logic: Previously, banks could keep some accounts "Standard" while others were "NPA" for the same person. The new rule recognizes that a default in one area indicates a general decline in the borrower's creditworthiness.
- Full Repayment: To move from an NPA status back to a "Standard Asset," the borrower must pay the entire arrears (interest and principal) for all their credit facilities.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Economy: Banking, NPA management, RBI powers)        |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: Finance (Regulatory norms, Asset classification) |
| IBPS / SBI PO   | Banking Awareness (NPA definitions and latest changes)     |

## RBI Finalises ECL Norms

28 April 2026

- Phase-in Period: Banks can spread the capital impact of this transition over four years, ending March 31, 2031.
- Q: How does this align with global norms? A: This transition aligns Indian banks with IFRS 9

(International Financial Reporting Standards), making Indian bank balance sheets more comparable and transparent to global investors.

- Q3. Which parameter represents the percentage of exposure a bank expects to lose if a default occurs?  
A) PD (Probability of Default)
- Transition Timeline: Rollout begins April 1, 2027.

| Feature         | Incurred Loss Model (Old)                              | Expected Credit Loss (ECL) (New)                                             |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Nature          | <b>Reactive:</b> Recognizes loss after default occurs. | <b>Proactive:</b> Estimates loss from day one of the loan.                   |
| Data Scope      | Historical default data.                               | Forward-looking macroeconomic scenarios.                                     |
| Standard Assets | Low, flat provisioning (e.g., 0.40%).                  | Tiered (Stage 1 vs. Stage 2); Stage 2 is significantly higher (5.0%).        |
| Impact on ROE   | Stable, but masks hidden risks.                        | Temporary drag on <b>Return on Equity (ROE)</b> due to higher initial costs. |

## The Orange Economy in India

28 April 2026

- The Creator Economy: 2–2.5 million active creators influence up to \$400 billion in consumer spending. This influence is projected to reach \$1 trillion by 2030.
- GDP Contribution: YouTube's ecosystem alone contributed ₹16,000 crore to India's GDP in 2024, supporting nearly a million jobs.
- Digital Reach: Over 1.028 billion internet subscribers provides a massive domestic testing ground for new content.
- Gaming Powerhouse: India is the world's 2nd largest gaming market (42.5 crore gamers). The sector is growing at a 28% CAGR.

| Exam Focus Area | Relevance Level                                                 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-3 (Economy: Growth & Employment, IPR issues), GS-1 (Culture) |
| RBI Grade B     | Phase II: ESI (Services sector, Growth strategy)                |
| SSC / Bank PO   | General Awareness (Current economic terms and digital trends)   |

## Index of Industrial Production (IIP): March 2026

29 April 2026

- Q3. What was the performance of the "Eight Core Sectors" in March 2026?
- A) It grew by 4.1%
- B) It remained stagnant at 0%
- C) It contracted by 0.4%

| Sector / Category           | Growth Rate (March) | Trend / Observation                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Overall IIP                 | 4.1%                | 5-month low; down from previous months.             |
| Manufacturing               | 4.3%                | 5-month low; affected by high energy costs.         |
| Capital Goods               | 14.6%               | 29-month high; indicates strong factory investment. |
| Infrastructure/Construction | 6.7%                | 9-month low; nearly halved from previous rates.     |
| Consumer Non-Durables       | 1.1%                | Muted; reflects weak rural/daily consumption.       |

### MobiKwik: From Digital Wallet to Regulated Lender

29 April 2026

- Minimum Capital (NOF): Must maintain a Net Owned Fund (NOF) of ₹10 crore. (Existing NBFCs have until March 31, 2027, to meet this threshold).
- C) ₹10 crore
- D) ₹100 crore
- Answers: Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B

| Target Segment       | Financial Product                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Individual Consumers | Personal Loans & BNPL (Buy Now Pay Later)                     |
| Small Merchants      | Digital Merchant Loans (based on QR code transaction history) |
| MSMEs                | Working Capital Loans for business expansion                  |

### TEST YOURSELF · BANKING AND FINANCE

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has officially approved the acquisition of up to a \_\_\_\_\_ in RBL Bank by the UAE-based Emirates NBD (ENBD) for \$3 billion.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ expressed a desire to return to their existing lender for future needs. This "trust" allows MFIs to act as more than just lenders—they can become vehicles for financial literacy and skilling.
3. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (\_\_\_\_\_) has designated three major insurers as Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for the Financial Year 2025–26.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: While headline indicators (unemployment rate) look stable and "healthy," a deeper look at the 2025 Annual Report reveals a sobering reality of stagnant wages and poor job quality.
5. As of January 31, 2026, the DICGC had already proactively paid out \_\_\_\_\_ of the total insured deposits based on the willingness forms received from depositors.

**Answers** 1 74% stake · 2 88% · 3 IRDAI · 4 The Paradox · 5 ₹48.95 crore

## FACTS TO REMEMBER · 217

**MeitY Approves ₹7,104 Crore Projects under ECMS 4th Tranche**

1 April 2026

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology approved 29 projects under ECMS with ₹7,104 crore investment, targeting electronics manufacturing, ₹84,515 crore production, and 14,246 jobs across sectors like telecom, automotive, and IT hardware.

**Centre Extends PM E-DRIVE Subsidy for Electric Two-Wheelers till July 2026**

1 April 2026

- Ministry of Heavy Industries extended PM E-DRIVE subsidy for e-2Ws till July 31, 2026, offering incentives via VAHAN portal to boost EV adoption, reduce upfront costs, and support green mobility goals.

**MoD Signs ₹1,950 Crore Deal with BEL for Mountain Radars**

1 April 2026

- Ministry of Defence signed contract with Bharat Electronics Limited for mountain radars for IAF, enhancing high-altitude surveillance, early warning systems, and indigenous defence manufacturing.

**Government Extends PM KUSUM Scheme Deadline to March 2027**

1 April 2026

- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy extended PM KUSUM deadline to March 2027, supporting solar adoption in agriculture with subsidies, reducing diesel dependence, and promoting renewable energy capacity.

**Centre Keeps Small Savings Scheme Interest Rates Unchanged for Q1FY27**

1 April 2026

- Ministry of Finance retained interest rates on small savings schemes unchanged for Q1FY27, ensuring stability in returns across schemes like PPF, SSY, SCSS, NSC, and KVP.

**RBI Imposes ₹31.80 Lakh Penalty on Airtel Payments Bank**

1 April 2026

- Reserve Bank of India imposed ₹31.80 lakh penalty on Airtel Payments Bank for non-compliance with financial disclosure norms, based on supervisory inspection findings for FY25.

**Former Suriname President Chandrikapersad Santokhi Passes Away**

1 April 2026

- Chandrikapersad Santokhi passed away at 67, remembered for strengthening India ties, economic reforms, and being honoured with Pravasi Bharatiya Samman.

**Punjab Approves Mukh Mantri Mawan Dheeyan Satkar Yojana**

1 April 2026

- Punjab government led by Bhagwant Mann approved MMDSY scheme providing ₹1,000–₹1,500 monthly assistance to women via DBT, benefiting majority of adult women and promoting financial empowerment.

**World's largest and first digitally conducted India's Census-2027 begins today**

1 April 2026

- The first phase of Census-2027, the world's largest population census exercise, will begin from today. This will be the 16th Census in the series and the 8th since Independence. The census will be conducted in two phases, House Listing (HLO) and Population Enumeration (PE), with March 1, 2027.

**India and Algeria hold 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations**

1 April 2026

- The 7th round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Algeria was held in Algiers on 29 March.

**PM SVANidhi Scheme supports street vendors with 17,115 crore loans**

1 April 2026

- A total of over one crore loans amounting to 17,115 crore rupees have been disbursed to street vendor beneficiaries under the PM SVANidhi scheme so far. The scheme was launched in June 2020 to provide collateral-free working capital term loans to urban street vendors.

**IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26 commences in Greater Noida**

1 April 2026

- IndiaSkills National Competition 2025-26, the country's premier platform to celebrate excellence in skills, commenced today in Greater Noida.

**Centre Extends RoDTEP Scheme till September 2026**

2 April 2026

- Government of India extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme till September 30, 2026, ensuring stability for exporters amid global trade disruptions while retaining existing rates, caps, and benefits.

**IndiGo Appoints William Walsh as New CEO**

2 April 2026

- IndiGo appointed William Walsh as CEO to lead operations and strategic growth from August 2026.

**Andhra Pradesh Launches Free Electricity Scheme for Weavers**

2 April 2026

- Andhra Pradesh government led by N. Chandrababu Naidu launched free electricity scheme supporting handloom and powerloom weavers with subsidies and financial assistance.

**MoEFCC Designates 'Bhavasagara' as India's First Deep-Sea Fauna Repository**

3 April 2026

- Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change designated Bhavasagara at CMLRE Kochi as India's first deep-sea fauna repository to conserve biodiversity, store DNA data, hold type specimens, and support marine research and taxonomy.

**India Becomes Global Leader in Issuing IRCCs under Nagoya Protocol**

3 April 2026

- National Biodiversity Authority made India the top issuer of IRCCs under Nagoya Protocol with over 56% share globally, reflecting strong implementation of biodiversity and ABS framework.

**MoE and CBSE Launch AI Curriculum for Classes 3–8**

3 April 2026

- Ministry of Education and Central Board of Secondary Education introduced AI and computational thinking curriculum to build coding, logic, and digital skills aligned with NEP 2020.

**India's First Coal-to-Ammonium Nitrate Project Approved in Odisha**

3 April 2026

- Bharat Coal Gasification and Chemicals Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited signed agreement for ₹25,000 crore project using indigenous technology

to boost energy and chemical production.

**NASA Launches Artemis II Crewed Lunar Mission**

3 April 2026

- NASA launched Artemis II, first crewed lunar mission since Apollo era, testing deep-space systems and advancing Moon exploration.

**UIDAI Partners with MapmyIndia for Aadhaar Services**

4 April 2026

- Unique Identification Authority of India collaborated with MapmyIndia. Aadhaar centres are now integrated into the Mappls app for easy access. Users can locate authorised centres and services efficiently. It reduces misinformation and improves convenience.

**Israel Delivers NEGEV LMGs to India**

4 April 2026

- Israel Weapon Industries delivered 2000 NEGEV LMGs via PLR Systems. The deal includes technology transfer under Make in India. The weapons are lightweight, reliable, and NATO-compliant. It boosts India's defence manufacturing capabilities.

**PM Modi Launches Karmayogi Sadhana Saptah 2026**

4 April 2026

- Narendra Modi launched the national learning initiative for civil servants. It focuses on governance, technology, and capacity building. The programme includes workshops and AI-based tools. It marks five years of Mission Karmayogi.

**International Children's Book Day Observed on April 2**

4 April 2026

- International Children's Book Day marks the birth anniversary of Hans Christian Andersen. The 2026 theme is "Plant stories and the world will bloom." It promotes reading habits and creativity among children. The event is organised globally with UNESCO support.

**Krishna Kumar Singh Takes Charge as SAIL CMD**

4 April 2026

- Krishna Kumar Singh assumed interim CMD role of SAIL. The appointment follows Amarendu Prakash's resignation. His tenure is for three months from April 2026. Leadership continuity is ensured in the organisation.

**India and South Korea Sign Pact for Shipbuilding Skill Development**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- India's Ministry of Ports signed a pact with Korea International Cooperation Agency to boost maritime skills. The agreement aligns with Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. It focuses on workforce modernisation and sectoral research. Bilateral workshops will support industry and policy collaboration.

**Commemorative Stamp Released for 75 Years of PTC Saharanpur**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Jyotiraditya Scindia released a ₹5 stamp marking PTC Saharanpur's platinum jubilee. The institute was established in 1951 for postal training. The stamp highlights India's communication and training legacy. It supports India Post's logistics vision for 2030.

**Goa and Cochin Port Authority Adopt SAMPANN Platform**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Goa Government and Cochin Port Authority adopted SAMPANN for pension management. The platform ensures efficient and transparent pension disbursal. It is developed by CGCA under DoT. The initiative promotes digital governance and service delivery.

**RBI Announces ₹2.54 Lakh Crore State Borrowing Plan for Q1 FY27**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Reserve Bank of India released borrowing calendar for states worth ₹2.54 lakh crore. It includes a Benchmark Issuance Strategy pilot. Nine states will raise funds under this framework. The plan improves transparency and market stability.

**CASA Ratio Falls to 37.9% in December 2025 Quarter**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Reserve Bank of India reported CASA ratio declined to 37.9%. The drop is due to shift towards high-return investments. Savings deposits saw major decline in share. It indicates changing banking and investment trends.

**Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 Concludes with Karnataka on Top**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Karnataka topped medal tally with 38 medals in Tribal Games 2026. The event was held in Chhattisgarh across multiple venues. It featured

seven sports and cultural inclusivity. The initiative promotes tribal talent and grassroots sports.

**Army Medical Corps Raising Day Observed on April 3**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Indian Army observed AMC Raising Day marking its 1764 origin. The 262nd edition was celebrated in 2026. It honours medical personnel serving armed forces. Events included a nationwide health-themed walkathon.

**International Day for Mine Awareness Observed on April 4**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- The United Nations observes this day to raise awareness on landmines. The 2026 theme is "Invest in Peace; Invest in Mine Action". It promotes safety and mine clearance efforts globally. The initiative supports Sustainable Development Goals.

**International Day of Conscience Observed on April 5**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- The United Nations marks this day to promote peace and ethics. The 2026 theme is "Acting with Ethics, Empathy, and Integrity". It encourages moral responsibility in society. The day was established through UNGA resolution.

**Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concludes with grand closing ceremony in New Delhi**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- Bharat Tribes Fest 2026 concluded today with a grand closing ceremony in New Delhi.

**TV Rating Policy 2026**

7 April 2026

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified new TRP guidelines to enhance transparency, replacing the decade-old 2014 measurement standards. Key reforms include the exclusion of landing page viewership from data and a mandate for boards to comprise at least 50% independent directors. Additionally, the net-worth requirement for rating agencies was reduced to Rs 5 crore, while the sample size goal was increased to 1.20 lakh homes.

**Administrative Capacity Building for Scientists**

7 April 2026

- Launched under Mission Karmayogi by Dr. Jitendra Singh, this first-of-its-kind programme aims to equip academic and scientific leaders with essential governance and decision-making skills. The initiative

introduced the revamped UNNATI portal to strengthen training ecosystems and established a roadmap for the Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram. A strategic MoU was also signed between the CBC and RIS to collaborate on digital governance and Artificial Intelligence.

### Visit of Russia's Deputy PM Denis Manturov

7 April 2026

- First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov visited India to co-chair the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC-TEC) alongside External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. The high-level talks focused on expanding bilateral cooperation in energy, fertilizers, connectivity, and critical minerals. Both leaders also reviewed the progress of strategic outcomes established during the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit held in late 2025.

### ATL Sarthi & Mentor India Academy

7 April 2026

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission launched two major initiatives in Telangana to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship at the school level. The program provides structured mentorship and technical support to 379 Atal Tinkering Labs across the region, grouping them into clusters for better management. Vardhaman College of Engineering was designated as the nodal institution responsible for teacher training and incubation support.

### Moody's India GDP Forecast

7 April 2026

- American rating agency Moody's revised India's growth forecast for FY27 downward to 6% from an earlier estimate of 6.8%, citing the ongoing West Asia conflict. Despite this adjustment, the report noted that India's manufacturing sector remains a strong driver, with a narrowed Current Account Deficit of 0.4% in 2025. Inflation is projected to average 4.8% in the coming fiscal year, reflecting a shift from previous economic periods.

### Blanka Vlašić Appointed Event Ambassador

7 April 2026

- Double Olympic medalist and Croatian high jumper Blanka Vlašić has been named the International Event Ambassador for the 18th TCS World 10K Bengaluru. Known for her record-breaking jump of 2.08 metres, Vlašić will represent the World Athletics Gold Label race scheduled for April 26, 2026. Beyond her athletic achievements, she currently serves the Croatian Olympic Committee and contributes to global peace-through-sport initiatives.

### Autobiography: 'A Road Well Travelled'

7 April 2026

- The updated autobiography of former CBI Director R.K. Raghavan was released in Chennai, offering a detailed account of his distinguished career in the Indian Police Service. The book provides a firsthand perspective on the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi and the critical security failures surrounding the withdrawal of SPG cover. Raghavan's narrative chronicles his journey from the Intelligence Bureau to the pinnacle of India's premier investigative agency.

### National Maritime Day 2026

7 April 2026

- Observed on April 5, the 63rd National Maritime Day celebrated India's rich seafaring history under the theme "Maritime India – Empowering Progress." The day commemorates the 1919 maiden voyage of the first Indian-owned ship, the SS Loyalty, from Mumbai to London. The observance concluded a week-long series of events known as Merchant Navy Week, highlighting the shipping sector's role in national trade.

### International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

7 April 2026

- Global celebrations on April 6 highlighted the theme "Sport: Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers" to showcase athletics as a tool for social inclusion and peace. The date was chosen by the UN to mark the anniversary of the first modern Olympic Games held in Athens in 1896. Supported by the International Olympic Committee, the day emphasizes using sports to promote human rights and sustainable development goals.

### Giriraj Singh Releases Textile Demand Survey Report 2024

8 April 2026

- Giriraj Singh released National Household Survey on textiles demand. The report shows market growth from ₹4.89 lakh crore in 2010 to ₹14.95 lakh crore in 2024. Household demand and per capita spending also increased significantly. It serves as a key policy and industry planning tool.

### Amaravati Notified as Sole Capital of Andhra Pradesh

8 April 2026

- Government notified Amaravati as exclusive capital after amendment to AP Reorganisation Act. The decision nullifies earlier three-capital proposal. The law is effective retrospectively from June 2, 2024. It provides administrative clarity for the state.

**India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor Achieves Criticality**

8 April 2026

- India's 500 MWe PFBR at Kalpakkam achieved first criticality. It marks a major step in the second stage of nuclear programme. The reactor uses MOX fuel and produces more fuel than it consumes. India becomes second country after Russia in this domain.

**India Adds Record 6.05 GW Wind Energy Capacity in FY26**

8 April 2026

- India added highest-ever 6.05 GW wind capacity in FY26. Total installed capacity crossed 56 GW milestone. Gujarat, Karnataka, and Maharashtra led installations. It supports 500 GW non-fossil fuel target by 2030.

**RBI Cancels Licence of Shirpur Merchants Co-op Bank**

8 April 2026

- Reserve Bank of India cancelled licence of Shirpur Merchants Bank. The decision was due to poor capital and weak earning prospects. Depositors will receive up to ₹5 lakh insurance from DICGC. The bank ceases operations from April 6, 2026.

**Morgan Stanley Cuts India GDP Forecast to 6.2% for FY27**

8 April 2026

- Morgan Stanley lowered India's GDP forecast to 6.2%. The revision is due to global uncertainties and West Asia tensions. Inflation is projected at 5.1% and CAD at 2.5%. Growth moderation reflects external pressures.

**Divya Singh Cycles to Everest Base Camp in 14 Days**

8 April 2026

- Divya Singh became first Indian woman to cycle to Everest Base Camp. She completed the expedition in 14 days under extreme conditions. The journey reached an altitude of 5,364 metres. It marks a significant achievement in adventure sports.

**International Day of Reflection on Rwanda Genocide Observed April 7**

8 April 2026

- The UN observes this day to honour victims of 1994 Rwanda genocide. It marks the 32nd anniversary in 2026. Over one million people lost their lives in 100 days. The day promotes remembrance and prevention of genocide.

**World Health Day Observed on April 7**

8 April 2026

- World Health Organization marks World Health Day annually. The 2026 theme is "Together for Health. Stand with Science". It highlights global health awareness and cooperation. The day commemorates WHO's founding in 1948.

**NBA Notifies CMLRE & ARI as National Repositories under Biological Diversity Act**

9 April 2026

- National Biodiversity Authority notified CMLRE (Kochi) and ARI (Pune) as national repositories under BD Act, 2002. With this, total repositories increased to 20 nationwide. CMLRE maintains 3,500+ deep-sea specimens, while ARI preserves microbial and fungal diversity. The move strengthens conservation and documentation of biological resources.

**Amul Becomes First Indian FMCG Firm to Cross ₹1 Trillion Turnover**

9 April 2026

- Amul achieved ₹1 lakh crore turnover in FY26 with ~11% growth. Its marketing arm GCMMF recorded ₹73,450 crore revenue. It is now India's largest FMCG organisation. The milestone highlights strong growth in dairy and cooperative sector.

**SEBI Extends IPO Approval Validity & MPS Norm Deadline**

9 April 2026

- Securities and Exchange Board of India granted one-time relaxation till September 30, 2026. IPO approvals expiring between April–September 2026 remain valid till this date. Listed firms also get relief on 25% MPS compliance. The move addresses market volatility due to global tensions.

**DBS Bank India Launches 'DBS Aspire' Banking Program**

9 April 2026

- DBS Bank India launched DBS Aspire for emerging affluent customers. It requires ₹10 lakh relationship value or ₹2 lakh monthly balance. Benefits include zero forex markup and 5% interest on savings. It targets HNIs and digitally active clients.

**KreditBee Enters Unicorn Club with \$280 Million Funding**

9 April 2026

- KreditBee raised \$280 million in Series E round. Its valuation reached \$1.5 billion ahead of IPO plans. It became the 3rd unicorn of 2026 after Juspay and Neysa. Funds will be used for AI expansion and

lending diversification.

### Vietnam Re-elects To Lam as President

9 April 2026

- To Lam was re-elected President with 100% vote in National Assembly. His term will run from 2026 to 2031. He also serves as Communist Party General Secretary. This marks a shift in Vietnam's political structure.

### CCI Approves Advent's Stake Acquisition in ABHFL

9 April 2026

- Competition Commission of India approved Advent's 14.286% stake in ABHFL. The deal involves ₹2,750 crore capital infusion. Post-transaction valuation stands at ₹19,250 crore. It strengthens ABHFL's growth in housing finance sector.

### International Romani Day Observed on April 8

9 April 2026

- International Romani Day is observed annually on April 8. It celebrates Romani culture and raises awareness of issues faced by Roma people. The day marks the first World Romani Congress of 1971. It promotes equality and cultural recognition globally.

### Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi to launch 8th Poshan Pakhwada in New Delhi

9 April 2026

- Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi will launch the 8th edition of Poshan Pakhwada – 2026 in New Delhi this afternoon.

### Ministry of Ayush to commemorate World Homoeopathy Day 2026 in New Delhi

9 April 2026

- The Ministry of Ayush will commemorate World Homoeopathy Day 2026 tomorrow in New Delhi.

### India marks 11 years of Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana today

9 April 2026

- India marks 11 years of the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) today. This scheme was launched on 8th April 2015.

### Argentina's Formal Withdrawal from the WHO

10 April 2026

- Effective March 2026, Argentina has officially completed its withdrawal from the World Health Organization (WHO). This follows the one-year

notification period initiated by the administration of President Javier Milei in 2025. Argentina is now the first major nation in South America to exit the specialized UN agency, citing concerns over national sovereignty and the perceived "bureaucratic overreach" of global health bodies.

### Cabinet Approves ₹40,175 Crore Mega Hydro Projects in Arunachal Pradesh

10 April 2026

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs led by Narendra Modi approved two hydro projects worth ₹40,175.33 crore. Kalai-II (1,200 MW) and Kamala (1,720 MW) projects will generate 4,852.95 MU and 6,870 MU annually. The projects include major infrastructure and flood moderation components. They aim to boost renewable energy and energy security in Northeast India.

### Cabinet Approves NBS ₹41,533 Cr, Jaipur Metro Phase-II & HRRL Expansion

10 April 2026

- Union Cabinet approved ₹41,533.81 crore NBS subsidy for Kharif 2026. Jaipur Metro Phase-II (41 km) approved at ₹13,037.66 crore. HRRL refinery cost revised from ₹43,129 crore to ₹79,459 crore. The decisions strengthen agriculture, urban transport, and energy infrastructure.

### NITI Aayog Report Shows Women Hold ₹76 Lakh Crore Credit

10 April 2026

- NITI Aayog report highlights women hold ₹76 lakh crore credit (26% share). Credit penetration rose from 19% (2017) to 36% (2025). Around 16 crore women are credit-active with 9% CAGR growth. It reflects rising financial inclusion and economic participation.

### India Withdraws Bid to Host COP33 Climate Summit 2028

10 April 2026

- India withdrew its proposal to host COP33 under UNFCCC. The decision leaves South Korea as the sole bidder. India had earlier hosted COP8 in 2002. The move follows a review of commitments amid global climate negotiations.

### ALEMAI Launches 'Aluminium Bharat' Initiative

10 April 2026

- Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association launched Aluminium Bharat initiative. It aims to boost domestic manufacturing and global competitiveness. The sector supports over 10 lakh jobs in India. Aluminium Bharat 2026 expo will be

held from Sept 26–29.

### India Elected to Key UN ECOSOC Bodies

10 April 2026

- India elected to CSTD, NGO Committee, and CPC of ECOSOC. Preeti Saran re-elected to CESCR (2027–2030). This strengthens India's role in global governance. It enhances presence in science, policy, and human rights bodies.

### Nasscom Foundation Appoints UB Pravin Rao as Chairperson

10 April 2026

- UB Pravin Rao appointed Chairperson of Nasscom Foundation. He succeeds Rostow Ramanan. He brings 35+ years of tech leadership experience. The move ensures continuity in digital and social initiatives.

### Everest Pioneer Jim Whittaker Passes Away

10 April 2026

- Jim Whittaker passed away at age 97. He was first American to summit Everest in 1963. He also led major expeditions including K2. His legacy remains significant in mountaineering history.

### CRPF Valour Day Observed on April 9

10 April 2026

- CRPF Valour Day marks bravery during 1965 Battle of Sardar Post. The 61st observance held in 2026. CRPF repelled Pakistani attack under Operation Desert Hawk. The day honours sacrifice and courage of personnel.

### Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana Completes 11 Years

11 April 2026

- The Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana marked 11 years on April 8, 2026, promoting financial inclusion and entrepreneurship. Launched in 2015 by Narendra Modi, it provides collateral-free loans up to ₹10 lakh for micro and small businesses. Over ₹40.07 lakh crore has been disbursed through 57.79 crore loans, with strong participation from women and first-time entrepreneurs.

### NHAI Launches 'Arogya Van' Initiative

11 April 2026

- The National Highways Authority of India introduced 'Arogya Van' to plant medicinal trees along highways. Phase 1 includes plantation across 62.8 hectares in multiple states with over 67,000 trees. The initiative promotes biodiversity, Ayurveda, and awareness of medicinal plants.

### India Ranks 4th Globally in Tech Funding (FY26)

11 April 2026

- According to Tracxn, India raised USD 11.7 billion in tech funding in FY26. India ranked 4th globally after the USA, UK, and China despite an 18% decline from FY25. Bengaluru and Mumbai led funding, with growth in IPOs and unicorn creation.

### NBBL Onboards Axis Bank on Banking Connect

11 April 2026

- NPCI Bharat BillPay Limited onboarded Axis Bank to its Banking Connect platform. The platform now covers 8 banks and 11 payment aggregators. It enables seamless merchant payments with advanced features like TPV and direct settlements.

### CSB Bank Launches 'Smart Save Account'

11 April 2026

- CSB Bank introduced its first retail product 'Smart Save Account'. It offers auto-sweep FD facility with up to 7% interest and no lock-in period. The account targets salaried individuals, professionals, and NRIs with digital benefits.

### Sanjay Khanna Appointed CMD of BPCL

11 April 2026

- The ACC appointed Sanjay Khanna as CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited. He brings over 30 years of experience in refinery operations and technical services. His tenure will continue until May 31, 2029.

### ISRO Conducts Gaganyaan Air Drop Test-02

11 April 2026

- Indian Space Research Organisation successfully conducted IADT-02 for Gaganyaan. The test validated parachute-based crew module recovery systems. It marks a key step toward India's human spaceflight mission.

### C.D. Gopinath Passes Away

11 April 2026

- India's oldest Test cricketer C. D. Gopinath passed away at 96. He played 8 Test matches and had a distinguished first-class career. He was among the oldest surviving Test cricketers globally.

### World Homeopathy Day 2026 – April 10

11 April 2026

- World Homeopathy Day is observed on April 10 to mark the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann. The 2026 theme is "Homoeopathy for Sustainable

Health". India hosted events promoting awareness under the Ministry of AYUSH.

### **Poshan Tracker monitors over 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 9 crore beneficiaries under POSHAN Abhiyaan**

12 & 13 April 2026

- The Poshan Tracker Application is monitoring over 14 lakh Anganwadi Centres and nearly nine crore beneficiaries under the POSHAN Abhiyaan.

### **Govt notifies Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ten thousand crore rupees to boost startup ecosystem**

12 & 13 April 2026

- The government has notified the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 with a corpus of ten thousand crore rupees to boost capital flow into the country's startup ecosystem.

### **Retail inflation rises to 3.4% last month**

12 & 13 April 2026

- Country's retail inflation accelerated to 3.4% in the last month, up from 3.21% recorded in February this year. According to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, inflation in rural areas edged higher to 3.63%, while in urban regions it rose to 3.11%.

### **India-France consultations in Paris review progress under Special Global Strategic Partnership**

12 & 13 April 2026

- India-France Foreign Office Consultations held in Paris yesterday, which was co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and the Secretary-General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Martin Briens.

### **Nation pays homage to Dr B R Ambedkar on his 136th birth anniversary**

12 & 13 April 2026

- The nation pays homage to the Chief Architect of Indian Constitution, Dr B. R. Ambedkar, on his 136th birth anniversary.

### **VP C. P. Radhakrishnan Releases Constitution in Sindhi**

15 April 2026

- Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan released the updated Constitution of India in Sindhi on April 10, 2026. The edition is available in both Devanagari and Persian scripts to promote linguistic inclusivity. It enhances accessibility, democratic participation,

and aligns with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

### **Gujarat Signs MoU for Indo-Taiwan Industrial Park**

15 April 2026

- The Gujarat government signed an MoU with Allegiance International to develop an industrial park in Sanand-Dholera. The project focuses on boosting semiconductor and electronics manufacturing. It is expected to attract over ₹1,000 crore in FDI over five years.

### **India-Uzbekistan Exercise DUSTLIK 2026 Begins**

15 April 2026

- India and Uzbekistan launched the 7th edition of Exercise DUSTLIK 2026 in Namangan. The exercise focuses on joint operations in semi-mountain terrain and tactical drills. It enhances interoperability and defence cooperation between both nations.

### **Paytm Introduces Biometric UPI & Cardless ATM**

15 April 2026

- Paytm enabled biometric authentication for UPI payments and ATM withdrawals. The system enhances security under RBI's new 2-factor authentication rules. Transaction limits are ₹5,000 for UPI and ₹10,000 for cardless ATM withdrawals.

### **CARI Bengaluru Gets ISO 15189:2022 Accreditation**

15 April 2026

- The Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Bengaluru, became the first CCRAS institute to receive ISO 15189:2022 accreditation. The certification ensures global standards in medical laboratory quality and competence. It marks a transition to a centre of excellence in diagnostics.

### **Ismail Omar Guelleh Re-elected President of Djibouti**

15 April 2026

- Ismail Omar Guelleh was re-elected for a sixth term in Djibouti. He secured 97.81% votes amid opposition boycott. The result reflects continued political dominance in the country.

### **NASA Artemis II Crew Returns to Earth**

15 April 2026

- NASA successfully completed the Artemis II mission. The crew travelled around the moon and returned after a 10-day journey. The mission set records for distance and conducted a historic ISS communication.

**Asian Wrestling Championships 2026**

15 April 2026

- The 2026 Asian Wrestling Championships were held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. India ranked 5th with 17 medals, while Iran topped the standings. The event featured 324 wrestlers across multiple disciplines.

**Asian Boxing Championships 2026**

15 April 2026

- The Asian Boxing Championships 2026 took place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. India secured 2nd position with 16 medals, while Kazakhstan topped the table. The event also served as a qualifier for major global competitions.

**Asha Bhosle Passes Away**

15 April 2026

- Legendary singer Asha Bhosle passed away at 92. She recorded over 12,000 songs in multiple languages across an eight-decade career. She was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

**Col. Sonam Wangchuk Passes Away**

15 April 2026

- Mahavir Chakra awardee Sonam Wangchuk passed away at 61. He played a key role in the 1999 Kargil War in Ladakh. His contributions earned him national recognition and honour.

**National Safe Motherhood Day – April 11**

15 April 2026

- National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on April 11 in India. It promotes maternal healthcare and safe delivery practices. The day honours Kasturba Gandhi and raises awareness on maternal welfare.

**World Parkinson's Day – April 11**

15 April 2026

- World Parkinson's Day is observed on April 11 to raise awareness about Parkinson's disease. It commemorates James Parkinson who first described the disease. The 2026 theme is "Bridge the Care Gap".

**MoL&E Partners with Porter & Gigin Technologies**

16 April 2026

- The Ministry of Labour and Employment signed MoUs with Porter and Gigin Technologies. The initiative aims to generate lakhs of job opportunities via the NCS portal. It strengthens digital job matching and

supports gig and logistics employment.

**UPI Hits 228.5 Billion Transactions in 2025**

16 April 2026

- According to Worldline, UPI processed 228.5 billion transactions in 2025. The total transaction value reached ₹299.74 trillion. This reflects strong growth in digital payments and merchant adoption.

**FIFA World Cup 2026 Pixel Credit Card Launched**

16 April 2026

- Visa and HDFC Bank launched a FIFA World Cup 2026-themed Pixel Credit Card. The card offers rewards like match tickets and travel packages. It is accessible via PayZapp for existing and new users.

**Badminton Asia Championships 2026**

16 April 2026

- The 2026 Badminton Asia Championships were held in Ningbo, China. South Korea topped the medal tally while India secured fourth position. Indian player Ayush Shetty won a historic silver medal.

**International Day of Human Space Flight – April 12**

16 April 2026

- The United Nations observes this day to mark the beginning of human space exploration. It commemorates Yuri Gagarin's historic flight in 1961. The day highlights the role of space science in sustainable development.

**International Day for Street Children – April 12**

16 April 2026

- This day raises awareness about challenges faced by street children globally. The 2026 theme is "Protect, not Punish". It promotes dignity, rights, and inclusion of vulnerable children.

**Constitution Amendment Bill, part of delimitation package, defeated**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- A united Opposition on Friday defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation.

**PM Narendra Modi Visits Karnataka on April 15, 2026**

17 &amp; 18 April 2026

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Karnataka on

April 15, 2026. He inaugurated the Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at Adichunchanagiri Mutt in Mandya. He also presented a nine-point agenda for "Viksit Karnataka" and released a spiritual book.

### India's First Chip Fabrication Plant Approved

17 & 18 April 2026

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry notified India's first semiconductor fabrication plant at Dholera SEZ. The project by Tata Group involves an investment of ₹91,000 crore. It aims to strengthen domestic semiconductor manufacturing and reduce import dependence.

### BRICS Health Working Group Meeting Held

17 & 18 April 2026

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare hosted the BRICS Health Working Group Meeting 2026. The meeting focused on public health cooperation and digital health systems. India proposed initiatives on healthy lifestyles and mental wellness.

### WEF Projects Strong Global Growth

17 & 18 April 2026

- World Economic Forum projected global GDP to grow by USD 56 trillion in five years. Growth will be driven by AI, quantum computing, and digital transformation. Asia is expected to contribute over 50% of global growth.

### SEBI Relaxes Norms for Social Stock Exchange

17 & 18 April 2026

- Securities and Exchange Board of India extended NPO registration validity to 3 years. It also reduced minimum subscription for ZCZP instruments to 50%. The move enhances fundraising flexibility for non-profits.

### World Bank Launches 'Water Forward' Initiative

17 & 18 April 2026

- World Bank launched 'Water Forward' to improve water security. The initiative targets 1 billion people by 2030. It focuses on sustainable water access and climate resilience.

### N. Alim Yusuf Wins WWF Award

17 & 18 April 2026

- Indian botanist N. Alim Yusuf received the WWF National Award. He developed an AI-based app to detect invasive plant species. The innovation supports biodiversity conservation in Kerala.

### World Chagas Disease Day – April 14

17 & 18 April 2026

- World Chagas Disease Day raises awareness about a neglected tropical disease. It commemorates Carlos Chagas who discovered the disease. The 2026 theme focuses on protecting future generations.

### National Fire Service Day – April 14

17 & 18 April 2026

- National Fire Service Day honours firefighters who died in the 1944 Bombay Dock Explosion. It promotes fire safety awareness across India. The week-long campaign emphasizes prevention and preparedness.

### Odisha gets India's 1st advanced 3D chip unit

19 & 20 April 2026

- Heterogeneous Integration Packaging Solutions Pvt Ltd (3D Glass Solutions) kicked off work on Sunday on India's first advanced 3D glass chip packaging unit at Info Valley in Odisha's Bhubaneswar.

### MeitY Selects 10 Startups Under IndiaAI ISG Programme

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology selected 10 AI startups for the second cohort of the IndiaAI Startups Global Acceleration Programme, aimed at boosting global exposure and innovation in AI.

### AICTE Launches 3rd Edition of VAANI Scheme

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, the All India Council for Technical Education launched the third edition of the VAANI scheme to promote Indian languages in technical education across 22 scheduled languages and emerging technology domains.

### Herbalife India & IIT Madras Sign MoU for CoE

19 & 20 April 2026

- On April 17, 2026, Herbalife India partnered with Indian Institute of Technology Madras to establish India's first Centre of Excellence on plant cell fermentation for sustainable health innovation.

### MoMSME Signs MoU with NLDL

19 & 20 April 2026

- On April 17, 2026, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises signed an MoU with NICDC Logistics Data Services Limited to enable real-time data exchange and improve MSME logistics.

efficiency.

### DGFT Authorises Banks to Import Gold & Silver

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, the Directorate General of Foreign Trade authorised 17 banks to import gold and silver till March 2029 under updated Foreign Trade Policy provisions.

### World Bank Approves Loan for Rajasthan Highway Project

19 & 20 April 2026

- On April 13, 2026, the World Bank approved a USD 225 million loan to upgrade 800 km of highways and enhance infrastructure resilience in Rajasthan.

### CheQ & AU SFB Launch LED Credit Card

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, CheQ and AU Small Finance Bank launched India's first LED-enabled credit card powered by NFC technology for enhanced digital payments.

### JSW Steel & POSCO Plan Joint Venture

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, JSW Steel and POSCO approved a 50:50 joint venture to set up a 6 MTPA integrated steel plant in Odisha.

### Sayani Gupta Named Harvard SAA Person of the Year

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, Sayani Gupta was awarded 'Person of the Year' by Harvard SAA for her contribution to arts and South Asian representation.

### USA Unveils Space Nuclear Power Plan

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, the Office of Science and Technology Policy launched a plan to deploy nuclear reactors in space, with National Aeronautics and Space Administration targeting a Moon reactor by 2030.

### NASA to Launch Rosalind Franklin Rover in 2028

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, National Aeronautics and Space Administration announced that SpaceX will launch the Rosalind Franklin rover to Mars in 2028 to search for subsurface life.

### NITI Aayog Launches 'Divya Bharat' Anthology

19 & 20 April 2026

- In April 2026, NITI Aayog released "Divya Bharat: A Window to the Soul of India" to promote tourism through curated cultural and experiential travel content.

### World Quantum Day 2026 – April 14

19 & 20 April 2026

- World Quantum Day, observed on April 14, promotes awareness of quantum science and its applications, with the 2026 theme "Shaping the Quantum Workforce".

### World Art Day 2026 – April 15

19 & 20 April 2026

- World Art Day is celebrated on April 15 to highlight art's role in society, with the 2026 theme "A Garden of Expression: Cultivating Community through Art".

### World Voice Day 2026 – April 16

19 & 20 April 2026

- World Voice Day, observed on April 16, raises awareness about vocal health and communication, with the 2026 theme "Caring for Our Voices!".

### Meghalaya Approves Khasi & Garo as Official Languages

19 & 20 April 2026

- On April 16, 2026, Meghalaya approved Khasi and Garo as official languages to promote regional identity and administrative inclusion.

### Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0 Flagged Off

19 & 20 April 2026

- On April 16, 2026, CDS Anil Chauhan flagged off the Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0 in Uttarakhand to boost adventure tourism and local employment.

### 7th edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK 2026 being conducted at Gurumsaray Field Training Area

19 & 20 April 2026

- The seventh edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise DUSTLIK 2026 is being conducted at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area at Namangan in Uzbekistan.

### Indian economy well-positioned to handle ongoing oil shock and West Asia tensions: SBI

19 & 20 April 2026

- The Indian economy is well-positioned to handle the ongoing oil shock and West Asia tensions, with GDP growth projected at 6.8 to 7% in Financial Year '27, according to State Bank of India (SBI) Research. T

**G20 satellite is expected to be launched in 2027: ISRO Chairman**

19 &amp; 20 April 2026

- ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan has said that the G20 satellite, designed to study climate and air pollution and monitor weather, is expected to be launched in 2027.

**Austria Chancellor Christian Stocker Visits India After 42 Years**

21 April 2026

- From April 14–17, 2026, Christian Stocker visited India at the invitation of PM Narendra Modi, marking the first Austrian Chancellor visit in 42 years.

**Samriddh Gram initiative nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 in Enabling Environment category**

21 April 2026

- Samriddh Gram Initiative is being nominated for the World Summit on the Information Society Prizes 2026 under the Enabling Environment category.

**Revised Budget Allocation for PMGSY-III**

21 April 2026

- The scheme's outlay was increased to Rs 83,977 crore to accelerate rural development projects.

**Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Approved by Cabinet**

21 April 2026

- The Union Cabinet approved a Rs 12,980 crore Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool to reduce dependence on foreign insurers.

**Inflation and Fiscal Deficit Estimates by SBI**

21 April 2026

- The report estimates inflation at 4.5% and fiscal deficit around 4.5–4.6%.

**Cabinet Approvals Boost Salaries, Infrastructure and Trade Support**

22 April 2026

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Narendra Modi approved a 2% hike in Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR), raising it to 60% effective January 2026; it also cleared railway multitracking projects worth ₹24,815 crore in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; additionally, the RELIEF scheme was expanded to Egypt and Jordan to support exporters amid West Asia disruptions.

**Odisha Gets India's First 3D Glass Semiconductor Packaging Unit**

22 April 2026

- India's first advanced 3D glass chip packaging unit will be set up in Bhubaneswar with an investment of ₹1,943 crore; the project is implemented by 3D Glass Solutions Inc. through its Indian subsidiary; it will support sectors like AI, 5G, defence and aerospace with production expected by 2028.

**MoMA and IIT Patna Collaborate Under PM VIKAS Scheme**

22 April 2026

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs signed an MoU with IIT Patna under PM VIKAS; the initiative will train 600 minority youth in AI and business analytics roles; it focuses on improving employability through technology-driven skill development.

**SBI Targets 25% of India's GDP in Balance Sheet by 2030**

22 April 2026

- State Bank of India aims to expand its balance sheet to 25% of India's GDP by 2030; it plans district-level customized strategies to boost growth; currently, its balance sheet stands at ₹71.62 lakh crore with strong market share in deposits and advances.

**UN Report Projects India's GDP Growth at 6.4% in 2026**

22 April 2026

- A report by UN ESCAP projects India's growth at 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027; inflation is expected to remain stable around 4.4%; India continues to lead in greenfield FDI inflows and remittance receipts globally.

**NHA Concludes Chintan Shivir 2026 and Awards States**

22 April 2026

- National Health Authority आयोजित Chintan Shivir 2026 in Pune to review AB PM-JAY and ABDM; states and UTs were awarded for excellence in healthcare implementation; discussions focused on digital health systems, interoperability, and governance reforms.

**Santosh Kumar Honoured as 'Global Green Icon' in UK**

22 April 2026

- Joginapally Santosh Kumar was awarded 'Global Green Icon' at the World Climate Leaders Conclave in London; he is known for launching the Green India Challenge; the award recognises his contribution to

large-scale afforestation and sustainability efforts.

### Apple Appoints John Ternus as Next CEO

22 April 2026

- Apple Inc. announced that John Ternus will become CEO from September 2026, succeeding Tim Cook; Cook will transition to Executive Chairman; Ternus has led major hardware innovations including Apple Silicon.

### Aronyak Ghosh Becomes India's 95th Chess Grandmaster

22 April 2026

- Aronyak Ghosh became India's 95th Grandmaster at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026; he secured his final GM norm with an unbeaten performance; he is among the rising talents in Indian chess.

### World Liver Day 2026 Observed on April 19

22 April 2026

- World Liver Day is observed globally on April 19 to raise awareness about liver health; the 2026 theme is "Solid Habits, Strong Liver"; it promotes preventive care and lifestyle changes to reduce liver diseases.

### UN Chinese Language Day 2026 Celebrated on April 20

22 April 2026

- The United Nations observes Chinese Language Day on April 20 to promote multilingualism; the 2026 theme focuses on youth engagement and language learning; the day aligns with the traditional Chinese calendar event Guyu.

### MoEFCC Declares ESZ Around Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary

23 April 2026

- The Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change declared a 408.7 sq. km Eco-Sensitive Zone around Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh; the ESZ spans 307 villages across five districts; the move aims to conserve biodiversity and support local communities.

### MoD Signs ₹975 Crore Deal for TRAWL System for Tanks

23 April 2026

- The Ministry of Defence signed contracts worth ₹975 crore with Bharat Earth Movers Limited for TRAWL assemblies; the system enhances minefield breaching capability of T-72 and T-90 tanks; it will boost operational readiness and support MSMEs.

### Karnataka Bank Partners with Pine Labs for Digital Payments

23 April 2026

- Karnataka Bank partnered with Pine Labs to enhance PoS payment solutions; the collaboration aims to expand digital payment infrastructure; it will support MSMEs and retail customers.

### India's Grandmaster R. Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates 2026

23 April 2026

- In chess, India's Grandmaster R. Vaishali won the FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament 2026 in Cyprus yesterday. The 24-year-old defeated Russia's Kateryna Lagno in the final round, finishing with 8.5 points out of 14 to clinch the title.

### Tata Steel to Deploy World's First EASyMelt Technology

23 April 2026

- Tata Steel signed an agreement with SMS Group to deploy EASyMelt technology; it aims to cut carbon emissions by over 50%; the project supports India's decarbonisation and net-zero goals.

### Six Women Win 2026 Goldman Environmental Prize

23 April 2026

- The Goldman Environmental Foundation awarded the 2026 Goldman Prize to six women; it marks the first time all winners are female; the award recognises grassroots environmental leadership globally.

### Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 Winners Announced

23 April 2026

- Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka won top honours at Laureus Awards 2026; the event celebrated global sporting excellence; Paris Saint-Germain was named Team of the Year.

### WEF Announces Young Global Leaders Class of 2026

23 April 2026

- World Economic Forum named 118 leaders in YGL Class of 2026; Indian leaders include Isha Ambani and Jay Shah; the programme focuses on global leadership development.

### International Mother Earth Day 2026 Observed on April 22

23 April 2026

- International Mother Earth Day is observed on April 22 to promote environmental protection; the 2026 theme is "Our Power, Our Planet"; it emphasises sustainability and ecological balance.

### Rupee Crosses 94

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Indian rupee (INR) breached the psychological barrier of 94 per US Dollar for the first time, despite active intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This marks the currency's fourth consecutive session of decline.

### INS Sudarshini arrives at Las Palmas, Spain

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini arrived at Las Palmas, Spain, as part of her ongoing transoceanic deployment under Lokayan 26.

### Union Minister Meghwal inaugurates new office of Ministry of Law and Justice at Kartavya Bhawan-2

24 & 25 April 2026

- Minister for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, today inaugurated the new office of the Ministry of Law and Justice at the newly constructed Kartavya Bhawan-2 located on Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

### Ministry of Rural Development finalises Calendar of SARAS Aajeevika Melas

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Ministry of Rural Development has finalised the Calendar of SARAS Aajeevika Melas at the National Level for the Financial Year 2026-27, aimed at promoting rural livelihoods, women entrepreneurship and traditional crafts across the country.

### NAMASTE Scheme achieves milestone in advancing dignity and safety of sanitation workers

24 & 25 April 2026

- The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem Scheme has marked a significant milestone in advancing dignity, safety and sustainable livelihoods for sanitation workers across the country.

### MEA Secretary Sibi George meets UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres

24 & 25 April 2026

- Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs, Sibi George, has called on Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres.

### RBI Monetary Policy Committee keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.25% amid global uncertainties

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee has unanimously decided to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent, citing rising global uncertainties and inflation risks.

### Government launches VM Frames National Filmmaking Competition to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram

24 & 25 April 2026

- Government has launched VM Frames National Filmmaking Competition to mark 150 Years of Vande Mataram.

### India Approves ₹30 Billion Currency Swap for Maldives

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Government of India approved a ₹30 billion swap facility for Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework; it strengthens India's financial support to its neighbour; the move enhances regional economic stability and cooperation.

### Ministry of Culture Launches 'VM Frames' Filmmaking Competition

24 & 25 April 2026

- The Ministry of Culture launched 'VM Frames' to mark 150 years of Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay; it invites youth participation in filmmaking categories; awards worth ₹50 lakh aim to promote cultural awareness.

### BharatGen and L&T Join Hands for Sovereign AI Platform

24 & 25 April 2026

- BharatGen Technology Foundation partnered with Larsen & Toubro entities to build India's sovereign AI compute platform; the project focuses on AI chips, data centres, and language models; it strengthens India's AI self-reliance under IndiaAI Mission.

### Jio Financial Services Partners Allianz for Insurance JV

24 & 25 April 2026

- Jio Financial Services signed a pact with Allianz to form a 50:50 insurance joint venture; it combines digital reach with global expertise; the partnership targets India's growing insurance market.

**ACC Extends Tenure of PSU Bank Chiefs**

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- The Appointments Committee led by Narendra Modi extended tenures of MDs and CEOs of Bank of India and Bank of Baroda; it also extended Indian Bank ED's term; the move ensures leadership continuity in public sector banks.

**Nasscom Appoints Srikanth Velamakanni as Chairman**

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- NASSCOM appointed Srikanth Velamakanni as Chairman for 2026–27; he succeeds Sindhu Gangadharan; the appointment reflects leadership transition in India's IT sector.

**NASA Unveils Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope**

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- NASA unveiled the Roman Space Telescope to study dark matter and exoplanets; it will survey vast regions of the universe; the mission advances space research and cosmology.

**Oscar-Winning Designer Dean Tavoularis Passes Away**

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- Dean Tavoularis passed away at 93 in Paris; he was known for films like The Godfather; he won an Academy Award for Best Art Direction.

**UN Spanish Language Day 2026 Observed on April 23**

24 &amp; 25 April 2026

- The United Nations observes Spanish Language Day on April 23; it promotes multilingualism and cultural diversity; the date honours writer Miguel de Cervantes.

**India-Africa Forum Summit 2026 Branding Launched**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- S. Jaishankar launched the logo, theme and website for IAFS-IV; the summit will be held in May 2026 in New Delhi; it highlights India-Africa strategic partnership and cooperation.

**Govt Expands Procurement Under PM-AASHA and Pulses Mission**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- The Ministry of Consumer Affairs Food and Public Distribution expanded procurement in Chhattisgarh and launched pulse procurement in Bihar; it is

supported by NAFED; the move aims to stabilise prices and boost farmer income.

**Akashvani Launches Nationwide Tune and Jingle Contest**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- All India Radio and MyGov launched contests to mark 90 years of broadcasting; citizens can create signature tunes and jingles; the initiative promotes public participation in media innovation.

**NASA Unveils Roman Space Telescope for Dark Matter Study**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- NASA introduced the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope; it will study dark matter and exoplanets; the mission will enhance understanding of the universe.

**India Selected for FIFA Women's Development Programme**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- FIFA selected India for Women's Development Programme 2026; it aims to improve commercial viability of women's football; the initiative supports long-term sports growth.

**International Girls in ICT Day 2026 Observed on April 23**

26 &amp; 27 April 2026

- The day promotes women's participation in ICT careers globally; the 2026 theme focuses on AI and digital future; it is led by International Telecommunication Union.

**MoEFCC-NBA Launch Grassroots Biodiversity Governance Project**

28 April 2026

- MoEFCC and NBA launched a 5-year biodiversity governance project in Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya in April 2026; supported by GEF and UNDP with USD 4.88 million funding for 2025–2030; integrates biodiversity into GDPs while strengthening PRIs and BMCs; promotes community-led conservation with livelihoods through ABS, CSR, and green micro-enterprises.

**Six Border Villages in J&K Included Under Vibrant Villages Programme-II**

28 April 2026

- Government included six border villages in Kathua, J&K under VVP-II in April 2026; aims to boost development and reduce out-migration from frontier areas; VVP launched by MHA focuses on

comprehensive border development; VVP-II approved with Rs 6,839 crore outlay covering all International Land Borders.

### DRDO Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms in Maharashtra

28 April 2026

- DRDO unveiled advanced tracked and wheeled armoured platforms in April 2026 for Indian Army; part of FICV programme to replace BMP-2K Sarath IFVs; developed by VRDE with 65% indigenous content targeting 90%; manufactured by Tata Advanced Systems and Bharat Forge with MSME support.

### IITM Pune Installs X-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mahabaleshwar

28 April 2026

- IITM installed X-Band Doppler Weather Radar at Mahabaleshwar under Mission Mausam in April 2026; located at 1,400 m altitude for real-time tracking of rainfall, clouds, and storms; enhances nowcasting up to 3 hours for Maharashtra regions; IITM signed MoU with ISRO's SAC for advanced meteorological products.

### MSJE Launches SMILE-Beggary Survey Mobile App

28 April 2026

- MSJE launched SMILE-Beggary Survey Mobile App during Chintan Shivir 2026 in Chandigarh; supports rehabilitation through shelter, skills, and reintegration under SMILE Scheme; enables real-time data capture, geo-tagging, and monitoring across 181 cities; creates national database and links beneficiaries with healthcare, counselling, and livelihood services.

### Mission Jagrook Launched at 38th SEBI Foundation Day

28 April 2026

- FM Nirmal Sitharaman launched Mission Jagrook at SEBI's 38th Foundation Day in April 2026; aims to protect retail investors from fraud and misinformation; highlighted rising cyber risks to financial markets; urged expansion of investor awareness in regional languages and action against fin-fluencers.

### RBI Approves Reappointment of B. Ramesh Babu as KVB CEO

28 April 2026

- RBI approved reappointment of B. Ramesh Babu as MD & CEO of Karur Vysya Bank for third term (2026–2028); he has led KVB since 2020 focusing on

retail and MSME lending; previously served as DMD & COO at SBI; helped KVB double its business from Rs 1 trillion to Rs 2 trillion in just 4 years.

### India Tops Medal Tally at ISSF Junior World Cup 2026

28 April 2026

- India topped medal tally at ISSF Junior World Cup 2026 in Cairo with 16 medals including 5 gold; AIN finished second and France third; event saw participation of 284 shooters from 25 countries; next event is ISSF Junior World Championship 2026 in Germany.

### India to Host SAFF Women's Championship 2026 in Goa

28 April 2026

- India will host SAFF Women's Championship 2026 in Goa from May 24 to June 7; first time hosting since 2016; six teams divided into two groups with top teams advancing to semifinals; Pakistan withdrew due to lack of government clearance.

### Sabastian Sawe Creates History at London Marathon 2026

28 April 2026

- Kenya's Sabastian Sawe won London Marathon 2026 with record time of 1:59:30; became first athlete to run sub-two-hour marathon in competitive race; broke previous record set in 2023; Tigst Assefa won women's race while Marcel Hug and Catherine Debrunner won wheelchair events.

### FIDE Joins International World Games Association

28 April 2026

- FIDE joined International World Games Association in April 2026 becoming its 40th member; move strengthens recognition of mind sports globally; enhances IWGA's global footprint with millions of chess players; opens possibility of chess inclusion in future World Games.

### Guru Muni Narayana Prasad Passes Away

28 April 2026

- Spiritual leader and Padma Shri awardee Muni Narayana Prasad passed away in April 2026 at age 87; head of Narayana Gurukulam since 1999; authored around 130 books on Vedanta and philosophy; received Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award twice.

### International Day of Women in Industry 2026 –

**April 21**

28 April 2026

- First International Day of Women in Industry observed on April 21, 2026; theme focuses on women's leadership in industrial development; declared by UNIDO in 2025; aims to promote gender equality in global industry; inaugural event held in Vienna with exhibitions and awards.

**World Malaria Day 2026 – April 25**

28 April 2026

- World Malaria Day observed on April 25, 2026 with theme "Driven to End Malaria"; aims to raise awareness and promote elimination efforts; established by WHO in 2007; evolved from Africa Malaria Day initiative.

**International Delegate's Day 2026 – April 25**

28 April 2026

- International Delegate's Day observed on April 25, 2026 marking its 7th edition; highlights role of delegates in global governance; established by UNGA in 2019; commemorates San Francisco Conference that led to formation of the United Nations.

**India–New Zealand FTA Signed with Duty-Free Access & USD 20 Billion Investment**

29 April 2026

- India and New Zealand signed FTA in April 2026 at New Delhi to boost trade and economic cooperation; India gets 100% duty-free access on 8,284 tariff lines while liberalising 70.03% lines; New Zealand opened 118 services sectors including IT, education, finance, and tourism; agreement includes USD 20 billion investment commitment over 15 years.

**NITI Aayog Report on Effective City Governance Released**

29 April 2026

- Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar released NITI Aayog report on city governance in April 2026; focuses on strengthening urban institutions for million-plus cities; identifies issues like weak leadership, fiscal constraints, and capacity gaps; highlights role of urbanisation in achieving Viksit Bharat 2047 and USD 30 trillion economy.

**Jordan Joins India-led ISA, CDRI and GBA Initiatives**

29 April 2026

- Jordan joined ISA, CDRI, and Global Biofuels Alliance in April 2026 strengthening India ties; move boosts cooperation in clean energy, climate resilience, and sustainable fuels; supports Jordan's renewable

target and infrastructure resilience; enhances India's global climate leadership and bilateral trade prospects.

**UNESCO Expands Global Geoparks Network to 241 Sites**

29 April 2026

- UNESCO added 12 new Global Geoparks in April 2026 taking total to 241 across 51 countries; aims to protect geological heritage and promote sustainable development; geoparks follow bottom-up approach with local participation; status granted for 4 years with periodic revalidation.

**India–Kenya Sign Customs Cooperation MoU**

29 April 2026

- India and Kenya signed customs cooperation MoU during 10th JTC meeting in April 2026; aims to improve trade facilitation, risk management, and faster clearance; includes exchange of pre-arrival goods information; strengthens cooperation in pharma, agriculture, fintech, energy, and manufacturing sectors.

**ONGC Forms JV with MRPL and OPaL for Petrochemical Integration**

29 April 2026

- ONGC approved JV with MRPL and OPaL in April 2026 for integrated petrochemical marketing; aims to optimise supply chain, reduce costs, and improve margins; enhances domestic capacity and supports Atmanirbhar Bharat; positions ONGC as integrated energy major.

**Sigma Advanced Systems Signs ₹3,800 Crore Deal with Rolls-Royce**

29 April 2026

- Sigma Advanced Systems signed 7-year ₹3,800 crore deal with Rolls-Royce in April 2026; covers manufacturing of aerospace components and engine parts; strengthens India–UK manufacturing collaboration; enhances global OEM positioning and long-term revenue stability.

**Vikram-1: India's First Private Rocket Flagged Off**

29 April 2026

- Telangana CM flagged off Vikram-1 rocket by Skyroot Aerospace in April 2026; India's first private orbital launch vehicle targeting LEO missions; designed to carry up to 350 kg satellites; launch planned for June 2026 from Sriharikota pending approvals.

**Sport**

29 April 2026

- ISSF and IPC signed agreement in April 2026 to transfer para shooting governance; aims to unify Olympic and Paralympic shooting structures; implementation subject to approval in 2026 General Assembly; transition expected from 2027 to 2028.

**Olympic Medallist Gurbax Singh Grewal Passes Away**

29 April 2026

- Indian hockey player Gurbax Singh Grewal passed away in April 2026 at age 84; part of 1968 Olympic bronze-winning team; contributed to Indian hockey as player, coach, and administrator; also served Mumbai Hockey Association.

**World Penguin Day 2026 – April 25**

29 April 2026

- World Penguin Day observed on April 25 to raise awareness about penguin conservation; originated in 1972 based on migration of Adélie penguins; now covers all 18 penguin species globally; highlights environmental challenges and conservation efforts.

**World Veterinary Day 2026 – April 25**

29 April 2026

- World Veterinary Day observed on April 25, 2026 highlighting role of veterinarians; 2026 theme focuses on food and health security; initiated by World Veterinary Association in 2000; promotes animal health, welfare, and public safety.

**International Chernobyl Disaster Remembrance Day 2026 – April 26**

29 April 2026

- Observed on April 26 to honour victims of 1986 Chernobyl disaster; 2026 marks 40th anniversary of nuclear tragedy; established by UNGA in 2016; raises awareness on long-term environmental and health impacts.

**World Intellectual Property Day 2026 – April 26**

29 April 2026

- World IP Day observed on April 26 to promote awareness about intellectual property rights; 2026 theme focuses on sports innovation; established by WIPO in 2000; highlights role of patents, copyrights, and trademarks in creativity and economy.

**UP Launches 10-Year Warranty Model for Rural Water Schemes**

29 April 2026

- Uttar Pradesh introduced 10-year warranty model under Jal Jeevan Mission in April 2026; ensures accountability of agencies for operation and maintenance; promotes solar-powered water schemes for efficiency; strengthens monitoring with labs and citizen charter system.

**TRAI Extends Deadline for Telecom Consumers Protection Draft Regulations**

29 April 2026

- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has extended the deadline to submit written comments for the Draft of Telecom Consumers Protection (Thirteenth Amendment) Regulations, 2026.

## AGRICULTURE · 14

**The 'Tea Mark' Quality Certification Scheme**

3 April 2026

- Target: Eligible tea manufacturers registered under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003.
- Q2. Is the "Tea Mark" scheme mandatory for all Indian tea producers? A) Yes, all citizens must use it.
- The state-run Tea Board of India is introducing a new certification called "Tea Mark", expected to roll out in May 2026.
- Total Consumption (2023): ~1,197 million kgs.

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                             | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>NABARD Grade A</b> | ARD (Agri-Marketing & Supply Chain); Plantation Sector | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>State PCS</b>      | Agriculture & Export Promotion (Assam/WB/Kerala)       | <b>Critical</b> |

**Southeast Asia's Agri-Tech Opportunity: Lessons from India**

3 April 2026

- The Reality Check: After a peak of \$750 million in 2022, investment fell 70% by 2025 due to a "sharp correction" as investors realized the difficulty of scaling across fragmented markets.
- The Failure Rate: Over 60% of venture collapses between 2022 and 2025 were caused by premature regional expansion.
- Exit Strategy: Corporate acquisitions account for 75% of exits. The report suggests that SEASA should look at India's BSE SME and NSE Emerge platforms as models for providing IPO routes to growth-stage startups.
- Q1. According to the report, what is the primary reason for the 60% collapse in agri-tech ventures between 2022 and 2025?

| Exam                  | Focus Area                                   | Relevance Level |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>NABARD Grade A</b> | ARD (Agri-Tech & Financing Models)           | <b>Critical</b> |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>    | ESI (Sustainable Development & Agri-Finance) | <b>Moderate</b> |

**Advancing India's Fisheries Sector: Scaling the Blue Economy**

8 April 2026

- Production Surge: Total production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes (FY 2024-25), a 106% increase from 2013-14 levels.
- Export Record: Seafood exports hit ₹62,408 crore in

2025, dominated by frozen shrimp exports to the US and China.

- Global Standing: India is the second-largest fish producer, contributing 8% of global output.
- Economic Driver: Fisheries account for 7.43% of Agricultural GVA—the highest share among all agricultural sub-sectors.

| Challenges                                                                     | Strategic "Way Ahead"                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Post-Harvest Loss:</b><br>Perishable catch wastage due to poor cold chains. | <b>Infrastructure:</b> Modernizing harbors to meet international sanitary (SPS) standards.            |
| <b>Near-Shore Overfishing:</b><br>Depletion of resources close to the coast.   | <b>Deep-Sea Fishing:</b> Subsidizing advanced vessels to tap into the <b>24 lakh sq. km EEZ</b> .     |
| <b>Climate Vulnerability:</b><br>Cyclones and rising sea temperatures.         | <b>Sustainable Governance:</b> Strict implementation of the <b>2025 Sustainable Fisheries Rules</b> . |
| <b>Low Productivity:</b> Inland yields are below global benchmarks.            | <b>FFPO Empowerment:</b> Strengthening <b>2,195</b> Farmer Producer Orgs for collective bargaining.   |

**Soil Sakhis**

9 April 2026

- Reach: 2,394 farmers across 9 drought-prone talukas.
- Economic Gain: Farmers have reported yield increases of up to 40% (e.g., in mango orchards).
- Livelihood: Soil Sakhis earn ₹8,000–10,000 per month, providing them with financial independence.
- Q5. The Mann Deshi Foundation, which started this initiative, is also famous for starting the country's first:

| Question  | Answer   | Explanation                                                                                                      |
|-----------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Q1</b> | <b>B</b> | Excess fertilizer releases Nitrous Oxide (\$N_2O\$), a potent greenhouse gas. Optimization cuts these emissions. |
| <b>Q2</b> | <b>C</b> | The project focuses on the drought-prone "Western Maharashtra" region.                                           |
| <b>Q3</b> | <b>B</b> | They bridge the gap between scientific labs and field application.                                               |
| <b>Q4</b> | <b>B</b> | High limestone can affect nutrient uptake; identifying it allowed for corrective organic farming.                |
| <b>Q5</b> | <b>B</b> | Chetna Gala Sinha's legacy in rural finance anchors the foundation's trust with farmers.                         |

**Blue Revolution 2.0**

12 &amp; 13 April 2026

- Production Surge: National fish production has

increased by 106% since 2013–14, reaching a record 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.

- **Productivity Gains:** Average productivity in reservoirs has doubled from 50 kg/hectare in 2006 to 100 kg/hectare today.
- **Inland Dominance:** Interestingly, 75% of India's total fish production now comes from inland fisheries (freshwater, brackish, and saline) rather than the sea.
- **Regional Leaders:** Madhya Pradesh holds the largest area under reservoirs (6 lakh hectares), while Tamil Nadu boasts the highest number (over 8,000).

### National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)

12 & 13 April 2026

- **Why in News:** Approved as a standalone Centrally Sponsored Scheme in late 2024; received a major budgetary boost in the Union Budget 2025–26.
- **Cluster-Based Approach:** Aims to establish 15,000 clusters (each ~50 hectares) across the country.
- **Financial Incentive:** Farmers receive ₹4,000 per acre per year for two years to support the transition.
- **Ministry:** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW)

### Reforming India's Fertilizer Policy

14 April 2026

- **Quantitative Rationing:** Reducing urea supply to states by 10–15% and using land records to allocate specific quotas per farmer.
- **The Liquid Revolution:** Shifting the subsidy focus to Liquid Urea, which boasts a 90% Nutrient Use Efficiency (NUE) when applied via drip irrigation (fertigation).
- **The recent volatility in West Asia** has served as a wake-up call for India's agricultural sector. With a 70% import dependency for fertilizers and their feedstocks, India's food security is currently tethered to global geopolitical stability.
- [4] KCC numbers, Satellite imagery, and Rainfall data

| Parameter                | Data Detail                                                        | Strategic Impact                                                        |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Import Dependency</b> | <b>70%</b> (Includes finished products and raw materials)          | High vulnerability to maritime chokepoints like the Strait of Hormuz.   |
| <b>Urea Economics</b>    | Domestic Price: <b>&lt;\$70/t</b> vs. Global Price: <b>\$795/t</b> | Massive arbitrage (over 10x) drives smuggling and industrial diversion. |
| <b>Efficiency Gap</b>    | Granular Urea: <b>35–40% NUE</b>                                   | 60% of applied urea is wasted, polluting air and groundwater.           |
| <b>Climate Impact</b>    | <b>273x</b> potency                                                | Nitrous oxide from excess nitrogen is far more damaging than \$CO_2\$.  |

### Digital tracking of urea sales

15 April 2026

- Urea was first synthesized artificially by Friedrich Wöhler in 1828, marking a major milestone in organic chemistry.
- [3] The conflict has led to a shortage of farm laborers in India.
- [4] West Asia is the primary supplier of tractors to India.
- **Answers:** Q.1: [2] | Q.2: [3] | Q.3: [3] | Q.4: [2]

### Fixing India's Fertiliser Subsidy

19 & 20 April 2026

- India's fertiliser subsidy bill crossed ₹1.87 trillion by February 2026, exceeding the Budget's revised estimates even before the fiscal year ended.
- **The Imbalance:** Heavily subsidised Urea (selling at ₹270 per 45-kg bag) versus high global prices (~\$850/tonne) has led to an agronomic crisis.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT):** Experts suggest moving to a per-acre cash transfer directly to farmers' bank accounts. This protects farmer income while allowing the price of Urea to rise to market levels, discouraging waste.
- Q3. What is the primary advantage of shifting to a "Direct Benefit Transfer" (DBT) for fertilisers?

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                                          |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Issues related to Direct & Indirect Farm Subsidies; Buffer Stocks & Food Security) |
| <b>SSC / Banking</b> | Economic Terms (NBS, DBT, Fiscal Deficit)                                                |
| <b>State PCS</b>     | Agrarian Economy & Soil Health Schemes                                                   |

### Accelerating India's High-Value Crop Diversification

21 April 2026

- **GVO Contribution:** Horticulture contributes 37% of the Gross Value Output (GVO) in the agricultural sub-sector.
- **Growth Leader:** With a 4.45% growth rate over the last decade, it is the fastest-growing segment of Indian agriculture.
- **Gestation Period:** Crops like Sandalwood take 15–20 years to mature, creating a "income gap" for small farmers.
- **The "Cold Chain" Gap:** Unlike wheat, tomatoes and flowers rot in days. India currently loses roughly 20–30% of horticulture value due to poor post-harvest logistics.

| Region | Focus Crops | Key Strategic Objective |
|--------|-------------|-------------------------|
|--------|-------------|-------------------------|

| Region                 | Focus Crops                   | Key Strategic Objective                                                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Coastal Regions</b> | Coconut, Cashew, Cocoa        | Replacing aging plantations; branding Indian Cashew as a global premium product. |
| <b>North East</b>      | Agarwood (Oud)                | Harnessing the ₹2,000 crore market in Tripura/Assam via CITES-aligned exports.   |
| <b>Himalayan/Hilly</b> | Walnuts, Pine Nuts (Chilgoza) | High-density tribal-led cultivation to boost income in J&K and Himachal.         |
| <b>Pan-India</b>       | Intercropping Models          | Growing Cocoa under Coconut/Arecanut canopies to maximize land-use efficiency.   |

### Overhauling the Sugarcane (Control) Order

23 April 2026

- **A:** The Ministry has invited comments from all stakeholders (farmers, mill owners, and states) until May 20, 2026. This is the final window for the industry to influence the rules before they become law.
- **The 14-Day Deadline:** Sugar mills are now legally mandated to pay farmers within two weeks of cane delivery.
- **15% Penal Interest:** If a mill misses this window, it must pay an annual interest rate of 15% on the delayed amount directly to the farmer.
- **Ethanol-to-Sugar Conversion:** For pricing and regulatory parity, the draft establishes that 600 litres of ethanol produced from sugarcane feedstock is equivalent to one tonne of sugar.

| Exam Focus Area     | Relevance Level                                             |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>     | GS-3 (Agriculture: Pricing, Ethanol Blending, Land Arrears) |
| <b>NABARD / AFO</b> | Rural Development and Agri-Policy (FRP, By-product value)   |

### IIT Ropar's Integrated Agricultural Intelligence Ecosystem

23 April 2026

- **Accuracy:** Delivers forecasts with up to 99% accuracy, validated by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).
- **Impact:** Designed to reduce crop losses by 7-9% and save 20-30% of irrigation water.
- **A:** Yes, the deployment of the initial 100 weather stations and the advisory platform is being offered at no cost to farmers in Punjab as part of the CoE's mission.
- **National Expansion:** After the Punjab rollout, the

system is targeted for expansion to Haryana, UP, Bihar, Maharashtra, and other states by June 2026.

| Exam Focus Area         | Relevance Level                                                              |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>         | GS-3 (Agriculture: E-technology in the aid of farmers; S&T: AI applications) |
| <b>NABARD Grade A/B</b> | Agriculture & Rural Development (IT in Agriculture, Precision Farming)       |

### Government Hikes Wheat Procurement Target

24 & 25 April 2026

- **Q1: C** (A 15% increase to 34.5 MT.)
- **Q2: C** (Farmers seek the higher guaranteed price when market rates fall.)
- **Reducing FCI Dependency:** Historically, millers relied on the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to release stocks through the Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS).
- **Q2.** What is the primary reason more farmers are opting for government procurement this year?

| Exam Focus Area      | Relevance Level                                                |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>UPSC CSE</b>      | GS-3 (Economy: Agriculture, MSP, Buffer Stocks, Food Security) |
| <b>RBI Grade B</b>   | Phase II: ESI (Agriculture, Inflation, Rural Economy)          |
| <b>SSC / Bank PO</b> | General Awareness (Current MSP, Procurement targets, FCI)      |

### NAAS Policy Paper: Enhancing the Economic Viability of FPOs

26 & 27 April 2026

- **Credit & Market Gaps:** Limited access to formal bank credit and weak links to the actual buyers in the market.
- **Q: What are "Economies of Scale"? A:** It is a proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production. For an FPO, it means that buying seeds for 1,000 farmers is much cheaper per bag than buying for just 10 farmers.
- **Answers:** Q1: B | Q2: C | Q3: B
- **Leadership of NAAS:** The academy is headed by Mangi Lal Jat, who is also the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

| Recommended Buyer                      | Purpose of Procurement                                                           |
|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Indian Railways</b>                 | Procurement of food items for catering and non-food commodities.                 |
| <b>The Military</b>                    | Bulk procurement of fresh and processed agricultural goods for the armed forces. |
| <b>Food Corporation of India (FCI)</b> | Prioritizing FPOs over traditional middlemen for grain procurement.              |

**TEST YOURSELF · AGRICULTURE**

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. India's fertiliser subsidy bill crossed \_\_\_\_\_ by February 2026, exceeding the Budget's revised estimates even before the fiscal year ended.
2. A new report titled "The Opportunity for AgriTech Investment in Southeast Asia" highlights that digitalization could unlock \_\_\_\_\_ in Southeast Asia by 2033.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: Eligible tea manufacturers registered under the Tea (Marketing) Control Order, 2003.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Total production reached 197.75 lakh tonnes (FY 2024–25), a 106% increase from 2013–14 levels.
5. \_\_\_\_\_: National fish production has increased by 106% since 2013–14, reaching a record 197.75 lakh tonnes in 2024–25.

**Answers** 1 ₹1.87 trillion · 2 \$90 billion in annual GDP gains · 3 Target · 4 Production Surge · 5 Production Surge

## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS · 3

**The Hindu Kush Range**

5 &amp; 6 April 2026

- The range stretches for 800 kilometers across Central and South Asia. It acts as a bridge between the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent, spanning 8 nations:
- A magnitude 5.9 earthquake recently struck Afghanistan's Hindu Kush region.
- Highest Point: Tirich Mir (7,708 m) in the Chitral District of Pakistan.
- Khyber Pass: The most famous gateway between Afghanistan and Pakistan, used by silk road traders and invaders like Alexander the Great and Babur.

| Exam            | Focus Area                                            | Relevance Level |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| UPSC CSE        | GS-1 (Physical Geography); GS-3 (Disaster Management) | High            |
| SSC / State PCS | World Geography: Highest Peaks & River Origins        | High            |

**Military Escalation In The Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia And The Pacific: UNDP Report**

15 April 2026

- HDI Stagnation: India is projected to lose between 0.03 and 0.12 years of Human Development Index (HDI) progress due to the crisis.
- Poverty Rate: Under the most severe 28-day conflict scenario, India's poverty rate is estimated to climb to 24.2% (from a pre-crisis level of 23.9%).

- Import Dependency: India meets 90% of its oil needs through imports, with over 40% of crude and 90% of LPG coming from West Asia.
- Fertilizer Crisis: More than 45% of India's fertilizer imports originate in West Asia. Furthermore, 85% of domestic urea production relies on imported regasified LNG.

**17th Petersberg Climate Dialogue (2026)**

29 April 2026

- Launched in 2010 by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, it serves as an informal, high-level bridge between formal UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs).
- Attendance: Ministers and high-level officials from ~40 countries, representing both developed and developing economies.
- A major highlight of the 2026 Dialogue was the public debut of the unprecedented split-leadership model for COP31:
- Pacific Focus: Both nations used the Petersberg Dialogue to emphasize that the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific will be the centerpiece of COP31.

| Exam Focus Area   | Relevance Level                                                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| UPSC CSE          | GS-3 (Environmental Conservation, Global Groupings, Climate Finance) |
| State PSCs        | Global climate summits and India's role in the Troika                |
| General Awareness | Environmental facts and international diplomacy                      |

**TEST YOURSELF · INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Fill the blank from memory, then check. Answers are at the foot of the box.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: India is projected to lose between 0.03 and 0.12 years of Human Development Index (HDI) progress due to the crisis.
2. Launched in \_\_\_\_\_ by former German Chancellor Angela Merkel, it serves as an informal, high-level bridge between formal UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs).
3. The range stretches for \_\_\_\_\_ across Central and South Asia. It acts as a bridge between the Middle East and the Indian Subcontinent, spanning 8 nations:

**Answers** 1 HDI Stagnation · 2 2010 · 3 800 kilometers

## REPORTS · 1

**Knight Frank Wealth Report 2026**

28 April 2026

- Billionaire Share: India is expected to hold 8% of the world's total billionaires by 2031 (up from 6.7% today).
- Rising Stars: Hyderabad and Chennai have also seen significant expansion in their ultra-rich populations since 2015.
- Real Estate: Prime residential property in Mumbai saw an 8.7% price increase in 2025, ranking 10th globally in price growth.
- The report defines Ultra-High Net-Worth Individuals

(UHNWIs) as those with a net worth of \$30 million (approx. ₹283 crore) or more.

| Rank | Country           | UHNWI Population (2026) |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 1    | 🇺🇸 United States  | 251,352                 |
| 2    | 🇨🇳 China          | 121,677                 |
| 3    | 🇩🇪 Germany        | 38,215                  |
| 4    | 🇬🇧 United Kingdom | 27,876                  |
| 5    | 🇫🇷 France         | 21,518                  |
| 6    | 🇮🇳 India          | 19,877                  |

## THE CLASSROOM BEHIND THIS BOOK

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of the top ten scorers

**32**

final selections, one batch

**12**

reached the interview

**Daily**

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|                                    |                                                                                                                                          |
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"Your notes should fit on one page a week. Cut until they do."

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