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MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS DIGEST

APRIL 2026

Complete one-month revision compiled from daily current affairs for APPSC, TGPSC, UPSC and other competitive exams

104

Current Affairs
Articles

40

Quick Revision
One-Liners

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Practice MCQs
with Explanations

11 subject-wise sections • Polity to Awards & Sports • Exam-focused fact bullets

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How to use this digest

Read one section at a time and tick off each article after revision. The bullets under every title carry the core facts - names, numbers, articles of the Constitution and locations - that examiners pick for Prelims. After finishing the sections, attempt the 40 one-liners as rapid recall, then take the 20 practice MCQs in exam conditions before checking the Answers & Explanations at the end. Revisit this digest once a week until the facts stick.

1. Polity & Governance

Women's Reservation Act Comes into Force: 33% Quota Operational

- ▶ The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023 - popularly the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam - was brought into force on 16 April 2026 through a notification by the Union Ministry of Law and Justice.
- ▶ It provides 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies.
- ▶ The reservation does NOT apply to the Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils.
- ▶ Reserved seats will rotate after each delimitation exercise to ensure fair distribution across constituencies.
- ▶ The reservation will remain in force for 15 years; Parliament may extend the period.

Lok Sabha Rejects the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill

- ▶ The Bill proposed increasing Lok Sabha strength to 850 seats and operationalising the women's quota before the 2029 general elections.
- ▶ It was defeated as it failed to secure the special majority required under Article 368 (majority of the House plus two-thirds of members present and voting).
- ▶ Following the defeat, the government withdrew the Delimitation Bill, 2026 and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026.
- ▶ Core controversy: linking women's reservation to a fresh delimitation based on Census data; southern states feared losing relative representation to northern states.
- ▶ A special majority is any voting requirement higher than simple, absolute or effective majority, used mainly for constitutional amendments.

Union Cabinet Clears Amendments to Fast-Track Women's Reservation

- ▶ The Union Cabinet approved amendments to implement the Women's Reservation Act from the 2029 general elections instead of waiting for a fresh census.
- ▶ Implementation will be based on 2011 Census data; the earlier route (new census plus delimitation) could have delayed the quota until about 2034.
- ▶ The proposal envisaged expanding the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 seats.
- ▶ Of the proposed 816 seats, 273 seats (33%) were to be reserved for women.
- ▶ Constituencies were to be redrawn through delimitation using the 2011 Census of India.

Census 2027: World's First Fully Digital Census Begins

- ▶ India launched Census 2027, the world's first fully digital national census; the exercise began on 1 April 2026.
- ▶ It is the 16th Census of India and the 8th after Independence, conducted under the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
- ▶ Phase I - Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO): 1 April 2026 to 30 September 2026, covering buildings, amenities and household assets.
- ▶ Phase II - Population Enumeration: February 2027, with 1 March 2027 as the reference date.
- ▶ Background: first census in 1872 (non-synchronous), first complete census in 1881; the last census was held in 2011 (2021 delayed by COVID-19).

Parliament Adjourned Sine Die: Key Procedures

- ▶ The extended Budget Session was adjourned sine die after the defeat of the 131st Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha.
- ▶ Adjournment sine die means terminating a sitting without fixing a date for the next meeting; it is done by the Speaker (Lok Sabha) or Chairman (Rajya Sabha).
- ▶ It ends only the sitting, not the session; pending Bills and business do not lapse.
- ▶ Adjournment suspends a sitting for a fixed time and is also ordered by the presiding officer.
- ▶ Prorogation formally terminates a session and is done by the President of India, usually after adjournment sine die; Bills do not lapse on prorogation.

Harivansh Elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman for a Third Term

- ▶ Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for a third consecutive term.
- ▶ He became the first nominated member to hold the office of Deputy Chairman.
- ▶ The office is established under Article 89; the Deputy Chairman is elected by Rajya Sabha members from among themselves by simple majority.
- ▶ Under Article 90, the office is vacated on ceasing to be a member, by resignation to the Chairman, or by removal.
- ▶ Removal requires a resolution passed by an effective majority (majority of all the then members) after a 14-day notice.

President Nominates Harivansh to Rajya Sabha under Article 80

- ▶ President Droupadi Murmu nominated Harivansh Narayan Singh to the Rajya Sabha, filling a vacancy among the nominated members.
- ▶ Article 80 deals with the composition of the Rajya Sabha: maximum strength 250, current strength 245.
- ▶ 12 members are nominated by the President for excellence in art, literature, science and social service.
- ▶ Seats are allotted to states on the basis of population; Uttar Pradesh has the highest representation (31 seats).
- ▶ Members serve 6-year terms, with one-third retiring every two years, making the Rajya Sabha a permanent body.

Rajya Sabha Reconstitutes Panel of Vice-Chairpersons

- ▶ Six members from different political parties were nominated to the reconstituted Panel of Vice-Chairpersons.
- ▶ Panel members preside over the House in the absence of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman.
- ▶ The panel is nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (the Vice-President of India).
- ▶ The panel usually has up to 6 members, occasionally extended to 8 for broader representation.
- ▶ A panel member cannot preside when both the offices of Chairman and Deputy Chairman are vacant; the President then appoints a member to perform the duties.

Notice Seeking CEC's Removal Rejected by Presiding Officers

- ▶ Chairpersons of both Houses rejected an Opposition notice seeking removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.
- ▶ Article 324(5) gives the CEC security of tenure: removal only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.
- ▶ Grounds are limited to proved misbehaviour or incapacity, following the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 route.
- ▶ A removal motion needs at least 100 Lok Sabha MPs or 50 Rajya Sabha MPs to initiate; if admitted, a 3-member inquiry committee (SC judge, HC Chief Justice, distinguished jurist) investigates.
- ▶ If charges are proved, both Houses must pass the motion with a special majority before the President orders removal.

Recusal of Judges: Concept in Focus

- ▶ Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma of the Delhi High Court rejected a plea by Arvind Kejriwal seeking her recusal in the Delhi excise policy case.
- ▶ Recusal is the voluntary withdrawal of a judge from a case due to a possible conflict of interest.
- ▶ It protects judicial impartiality, fair trial and public confidence in courts.
- ▶ Typical grounds: personal relationship with parties, financial interest, or prior professional involvement in the matter.
- ▶ Recusal is guided by judicial ethics rather than codified law; parties may request it, but the final decision rests with the judge.

Governor Bound by Cabinet Advice on Remission: Madras High Court

- ▶ The Madras High Court ruled that the Governor cannot act independently in remission matters and must follow the advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 161.
- ▶ Article 161 empowers the Governor to grant pardon, reprieve, respite, remission and commutation of sentences.
- ▶ Pardon removes the punishment completely; remission reduces the duration of the sentence; commutation substitutes a lighter punishment.
- ▶ The Governor's clemency power applies only to offences against laws within the State's executive power.
- ▶ It is analogous to the President's power under Article 72, which additionally covers court-martial and death sentences.

Right to Menstrual Health Recognised under Article 21

- ▶ In *Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Union of India*, the Supreme Court recognised the right to menstrual health as part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21.
- ▶ Key directions include provision of free sanitary pads in schools and separate toilets for girls.
- ▶ Article 21 protects life and personal liberty and is available to citizens and foreigners (except enemy aliens).
- ▶ A.K. Gopalan (1950) gave Article 21 a narrow reading; Maneka Gandhi (1978) expanded it to require fair, just and reasonable procedure.
- ▶ The judgment continues the judicial expansion of Article 21 linking it with Articles 14 and 19.

Supreme Court Declines Plea on Ashoka Chakra Display Guidelines

- ▶ The Supreme Court refused to entertain a petition seeking directions to frame specific rules for displaying the Ashoka Chakra on the national flag.
- ▶ The Court noted that the Flag Code of India already governs the use and display of the national flag.
- ▶ The Ashoka Chakra is inspired by the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath (Mauryan period).
- ▶ It is a navy blue, 24-spoked wheel placed at the centre of the white band of the flag.
- ▶ The present national flag design was adopted on 22 July 1947.

Supreme Court Seeks Replies on RTE Implementation PIL

- ▶ The Supreme Court asked the Centre, States and UTs to respond to a PIL demanding effective implementation of the Right to Education Act.
- ▶ RTE Act, 2009 flows from Article 21A, inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002, making education a fundamental right for children aged 6-14.
- ▶ The Act mandates free and compulsory education (Classes I-VIII) and 25% reservation in private unaided schools for EWS children.
- ▶ Supporting provisions: Article 45 (early childhood care - DPSP) and Article 51A(k) (fundamental duty of parents).
- ▶ PIL features relaxed locus standi, epistolary jurisdiction and suo motu action; Justices P. N. Bhagwati and V. R. Krishna Iyer pioneered it in India.

Gerrymandering: Concept Explained

- ▶ Opposition parties accused the government of using the Women's Reservation Act as a cover for gerrymandering during the delimitation debate.
- ▶ Gerrymandering is the manipulation of constituency boundaries to favour a party, group or candidate.
- ▶ Packing concentrates opposition voters into a few constituencies, wasting their votes.
- ▶ Cracking splits opposition voters across many constituencies so they form a majority nowhere.
- ▶ Kidnapping shifts a strong opponent's voter base into another constituency to weaken them; the practice undermines free and fair elections.

India's First Openly Queer MP Enters Rajya Sabha

- ▶ Senior Supreme Court advocate Menaka Guruswamy became India's first openly queer Member of Parliament, entering the Rajya Sabha.
- ▶ The development marks a milestone for LGBTQIA+ representation in Indian politics.
- ▶ LGBTQIA+ is an umbrella term covering lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex and other identities.
- ▶ The Rajya Sabha is the permanent Upper House with a maximum strength of 250; it cannot be dissolved.
- ▶ Members are indirectly elected by State Legislative Assemblies through proportional representation; one-third retire every two years.

Tamil Nadu Votes: Record Turnout in Assembly Election

- ▶ Elections to the 234-member 17th Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly were held in a single phase on 23 April 2026.
- ▶ The state recorded a voter turnout of about 85% - the highest ever in Tamil Nadu's assembly election history.
- ▶ Counting was scheduled for early May 2026, with the Election Commission declaring results on 4 May.
- ▶ Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), founded by actor Vijay, contested its first-ever assembly election and emerged as the single largest party.
- ▶ The verdict ended nearly six decades of alternating Dravidian-party dominance in the state.

2. National Schemes & Missions

PMGSY-III Extended till March 2028

- ▶ The Union Cabinet approved continuation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase III beyond March 2025, up to March 2028.
- ▶ Target: upgrading 1,25,000 km of rural roads connecting Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs), higher secondary schools and hospitals.
- ▶ PMGSY was launched in 2000 under the Ministry of Rural Development as a centrally sponsored scheme for all-weather rural connectivity.
- ▶ Funding pattern: 60:40 between Centre and States; 90:10 for North-East and Himalayan states.
- ▶ Eligibility (2011 Census): habitations of 500+ in plains, 250+ in NE/Himalayan/tribal/desert areas, and 100+ in LWE-affected districts.

PM MUDRA Yojana Completes 11 Years

- ▶ Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), launched on 8 April 2015, completed 11 years; its motto is to 'Fund the Unfunded'.
- ▶ It provides collateral-free loans to micro and small enterprises through the Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance.
- ▶ Loan categories: Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,001 to Rs 5 lakh), Tarun (Rs 5-10 lakh).
- ▶ A new Tarun Plus category offers Rs 10-20 lakh for entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid Tarun loans.
- ▶ The scheme promotes entrepreneurship and financial inclusion at the grassroots.

Government e-Marketplace (GeM): Key Facts

- ▶ GeM is the national online public procurement portal for common-use goods and services of government departments and PSUs.
- ▶ Launched in 2016 under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- ▶ Built on three pillars: Inclusion, Efficiency and Transparency.
- ▶ Key initiatives: SWAYATT (startups, women and youth through e-transactions), Womaniya (women entrepreneurs and SHGs) and Start-up Runway.
- ▶ GeM enables end-to-end procurement, reducing intermediaries and improving value for public money.

GeM Womaniya Crosses 2 Lakh Women Entrepreneurs

- ▶ Over 2 lakh women-led Micro and Small Enterprises are now registered under the GeM Womaniya initiative.
- ▶ In FY 2025-26 these enterprises secured about 13.7 lakh government orders.
- ▶ Womaniya integrates women-led businesses and SHGs directly into government procurement.
- ▶ Direct access to ministries, departments and PSUs removes intermediaries and improves margins.
- ▶ The initiative advances inclusive economic growth through a fully digital, transparent platform.

'Vishwa Sutra - Weaves of India for the World' Launched

- ▶ The Ministry of Textiles launched 'Vishwa Sutra' in April 2026 to take Indian handlooms to the global fashion stage.
- ▶ Developed by the Office of the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ▶ 30 distinct handloom weaves, one from each chosen state, were reinterpreted with design inspirations from 30 countries.
- ▶ The designer collection debuted at the 61st Femina Miss India event in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ▶ It reflects the 'Vocal for Local to Global' vision and the 5F value chain - Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

KABIL Gets Argentina Clearance for Lithium Exploration

- ▶ Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) received environmental clearance from Argentina for deep exploration of lithium-rich brine blocks.
- ▶ Lithium, called 'White Gold', is critical for EV batteries, renewable-energy storage and electronics.
- ▶ KABIL is a joint venture under the Ministry of Mines: NALCO (40%), Hindustan Copper (30%) and MECL (30%).
- ▶ Its mandate is to identify, acquire and develop overseas critical and strategic mineral assets.
- ▶ The clearance strengthens India's critical-mineral security for the clean energy transition.

World Health Day 2026

- ▶ Observed on 7 April, marking the founding of the World Health Organization in 1948.
- ▶ 2026 theme: 'Together for Health. Stand with Science'.
- ▶ The theme stresses scientific collaboration and evidence-based decision-making for people, animals, plants and the planet.
- ▶ The first World Health Day was celebrated in 1950.
- ▶ Each year the day highlights a priority health concern identified by WHO.

World Homoeopathy Day 2026

- ▶ Observed on 10 April, the birth anniversary of Samuel Hahnemann, founder of homoeopathy.
- ▶ 2026 theme: 'Homoeopathy for Sustainable Health'.
- ▶ Homoeopathy was developed in Germany in the late 1700s; the name derives from Greek homoios (similar) and pathos (suffering).
- ▶ Core principles include the Law of Similars and individualised, whole-person treatment.
- ▶ The day promotes awareness of homoeopathy within India's AYUSH systems.

3. Andhra Pradesh

APCNF among 4 Finalists for the Food Planet Prize

- ▶ Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) became a finalist for the Food Planet Prize 2026.
- ▶ APCNF, launched in 2016 and implemented by Rythu Sadhikara Samstha (RySS), aims to transition all 60 lakh farmers of AP to chemical-free natural farming.
- ▶ It is the world's largest agroecology programme, covering over 18 lakh farmers across about 9 lakh hectares.
- ▶ Focus areas: zero chemical inputs, soil health restoration and climate-resilient agriculture.
- ▶ APCNF earlier won the Gulbenkian Prize for Humanity (2024); the Food Planet Prize (established 2019, Curt Bergfors Foundation) is the world's largest environmental award at USD 1.5 million.

Andhra University Gets Rs 500 Crore Centenary Grant

- ▶ The AP Chief Minister announced a Rs 500 crore grant to Andhra University during its centenary celebrations.
- ▶ The university was established in 1926 under the Andhra University Act, 1925.
- ▶ Founder Vice-Chancellor: Sir C. R. Reddy; the second Vice-Chancellor was Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, later President of India.
- ▶ It initially started in Vijayawada and shifted to its permanent campus at Visakhapatnam (Peda Waltair) in 1930.
- ▶ The grant supports infrastructure and academic modernisation in the centenary year.

Google's \$15 Billion AI Data Centre Hub at Visakhapatnam

- ▶ Andhra Pradesh launched a major digital infrastructure project with Google's \$15 billion (about Rs 1.35 lakh crore) AI data centre hub in Vizag.
- ▶ Locations: Tarluvada (main), with additional sites at Adavivaram and Rambilli, across about 601 acres.
- ▶ Initial capacity of 1 GW, expandable up to 5 GW - among the largest data centre hubs in India.
- ▶ The project is executed through Google's subsidiary Raiden Infotech in partnership with Adani Infra.
- ▶ It is expected to strengthen India's position in artificial intelligence and global data services.

AP Space City Coming Up Near Tirupati

- ▶ Andhra Pradesh is developing India's first dedicated Space City in Tirupati district.
- ▶ Location: Routhusuramala village, Thottambedu mandal - a 2,600-acre industrial cluster.
- ▶ Objectives: attract global and domestic space-sector investment and promote private participation in space technology.
- ▶ The project supports a self-reliant space ecosystem in line with India's space reforms.
- ▶ It also encourages deep-tech innovation, including AI and data analytics.

India's First Quantum Test Beds Launched in Andhra Pradesh

- ▶ AP established India's first Quantum Test and Reference Facilities in the Amaravati region.
- ▶ 1Q Quantum Facility at Medha Towers, Gannavaram, developed by Qubitekk, focuses on advanced quantum hardware testing.
- ▶ 1S Quantum Facility at SRM University is based on superconducting quantum technology for R&D.;
- ▶ Quantum test beds validate performance and reliability and provide certification standards for quantum systems.
- ▶ The launch positions AP as a leader in India's emerging quantum technology ecosystem.

Amaravati Quantum Valley (AQV) Project: Foundation Laid

- ▶ AP laid the foundation stone for the Amaravati Quantum Valley project at Uddandarayunipalem village, Amaravati.
- ▶ AQV is envisioned as India's first integrated quantum ecosystem.
- ▶ Major technology partners: IBM India, TCS and Larsen & Toubro.
- ▶ Key facilities: QChipIN (India's largest open quantum testbed), a Quantum Innovation Centre (IBM-TCS), and a Quantum Reference Facility at SRM University.
- ▶ A Rs 200 crore cryogenic component facility by Amber Group will be India's first for quantum cryogenic components.

Jonnagiri Gold Project: India's First Private Gold Mine

- ▶ The Jonnagiri Gold Project in Kurnool district is set to begin full commercial production in May 2026.
- ▶ It is India's first large-scale private gold mining project after Independence.
- ▶ Covers 598 hectares including Jonnagiri, Erragudi and Pagidirayi villages.
- ▶ Developed by Geomysore Services India Pvt Ltd, backed by Deccan Gold Mines Ltd, with investment above Rs 400 crore.
- ▶ Annual production target: 750 kg to 1 tonne of gold; certified resources 13.1 tonnes, exploration potential up to 42.5 tonnes.

Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary Boundary Issue

- ▶ The AP government approached the Supreme Court-appointed Central Empowered Committee (CEC) to revise the boundaries of Kolleru Wildlife Sanctuary.
- ▶ Demand: shift the sanctuary boundary from the 5th to the 3rd contour level, reducing the area by about 20,000 acres in line with NBWL recommendations.
- ▶ The 2006 limits (G.O. Ms. No. 120) have caused friction with local fishermen and farmers; the CEC has flagged the state's delay in fixing final boundaries.
- ▶ Kolleru, between the Krishna and Godavari deltas, is India's largest shallow freshwater lake; the sanctuary (est. 1999) spans about 308 sq km.
- ▶ It is a Ramsar site (2002), famous for migratory birds such as the Grey Pelican, and acts as a natural flood-balancing reservoir.

AP Pashu Kisan Credit Card (PKCC) Scheme

- ▶ AP introduced the PKCC scheme to provide institutional credit to livestock farmers.
- ▶ Collateral-free loans up to Rs 1.60 lakh at 7% interest; loans up to Rs 3 lakh as per banking norms.
- ▶ Prompt repayment within a year earns a 3% interest subvention, reducing the effective rate to 4%.
- ▶ Eligibility covers land-owning farmers, tenant farmers and SHG members across the state.
- ▶ Aims: reduce dependence on moneylenders, promote scientific livestock practices and strengthen the dairy economy.

Project Punarvika for Children with Rare Diseases

- ▶ AP launched Project Punarvika to support children suffering from rare and life-threatening diseases.
- ▶ It will coordinate with the Government of India to strengthen rare-disease policy implementation and funding.
- ▶ The project plans collaboration with global pharma and biotech companies for advanced therapies.
- ▶ Strategic tie-ups aim to reduce the high cost of rare-disease treatment.
- ▶ A structured support ecosystem will provide medical, logistical and counselling assistance to families.

Five Animal Shelters per District Announced

- ▶ AP announced five dedicated animal shelters in every district to manage stray, abandoned and seized animals.
- ▶ Shelters will come up near constituency headquarters for easy access and monitoring.
- ▶ Goals: reduce road accidents, improve public safety and ensure humane treatment of animals.
- ▶ Funding: Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or VB-G RAM G.
- ▶ VB-G RAM G (2025) replaced MGNREGA, guaranteeing 125 days of wage employment with 60:40 Centre-State funding (90:10 for special category states) and a 60-day pause during peak farm seasons.

Free Power Scheme for Weavers

- ▶ AP introduced a Free Power Scheme to support the handloom and powerloom sectors.
- ▶ Handloom weavers get up to 200 free units per month; powerloom units up to 500 units per month.
- ▶ Total beneficiaries: 1,04,488 weaver families.
- ▶ Coverage: about 93,000 handloom households and 11,488 powerloom units.
- ▶ The scheme reduces input costs and supports traditional livelihood sectors.

HNSS & GNSS Projects to Boost Tirumala-Tirupati Water Supply

- ▶ AP announced plans to enhance drinking water supply to Tirumala and Tirupati by strengthening the HNSS and GNSS projects.
- ▶ Handri-Neeva Sujala Sravanti (HNSS) is among the longest lift irrigation projects of Rayalaseema, using up to 40 TMC of Krishna floodwaters.
- ▶ HNSS irrigates about 6.02 lakh acres and supplies drinking water to nearly 33 lakh people across Kurnool, Anantapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Kadapa and Chittoor.
- ▶ Galeru-Nagari Sujala Sravanti (GNSS) diverts surplus Srisailem water, irrigating about 2.6 lakh acres in Kadapa, Chittoor and Nellore.
- ▶ Both projects are crucial for the drought-prone Rayalaseema region.

AP Public Debt Projected at Rs 7.11 Lakh Crore

- ▶ The AP Budget 2026-27 projects state public debt at Rs 7,11,094 crore (Budget Estimate).
- ▶ The 2025-26 Revised Estimate stood at Rs 6,35,177 crore.
- ▶ Debt-to-GSDP ratio is about 36%, broadly stable since 2024-25.
- ▶ Debt has risen steadily from Rs 3.50 lakh crore in 2020-21 to over Rs 7 lakh crore in 2026-27.
- ▶ Debt is rising in absolute terms but remains sustainable relative to GSDP.

AP Agriculture Budget 2026-27: Rs 53,753 Crore

- ▶ The AP Agriculture and Allied Sectors Budget 2026-27 has a total outlay of Rs 53,753 crore.
- ▶ Major allocations: Rs 14,277 crore for irrigation, Rs 13,722 crore for farm electricity subsidy, Rs 500 crore for the Price Stabilisation Fund.
- ▶ Thrust areas: natural farming, digital agriculture, crop diversification and remunerative prices.
- ▶ Other priorities: cutting post-harvest losses and boosting food processing.
- ▶ AP contributes about 10% of India's agricultural production; agriculture forms 33.2% of GSDP (Rs 5.39 lakh crore of Rs 17.62 lakh crore).

Kondaveedu Fort to Get Holistic Development

- ▶ The Union Government announced a comprehensive development plan for Kondaveedu Fort, AP's largest hill fort.
- ▶ The 14th-century fortress is located in Palnadu district.
- ▶ It was established by Prolaya Vema Reddy and served as the capital of the Reddy Kingdom (1328-1482).
- ▶ Later rulers included the Gajapatis of Odisha, Vijayanagara (captured by Sri Krishnadevaraya in 1516), the Golconda Sultanate, the French and the British.
- ▶ The fort is known for its strategic hilltop location and layered history.

4. Telangana

Governor Clears Two MLC Nominations under Governor's Quota

- ▶ The Telangana Governor approved the nomination of M. Kodandaram (academic-activist) and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin as MLCs.
- ▶ Nominations are made under Article 171(5) of the Constitution.
- ▶ The Governor nominates one-sixth of the total members of the Legislative Council on the advice of the State Cabinet.
- ▶ Nominees must have special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, the cooperative movement or social service.
- ▶ Legislative Councils are the Upper Houses of state legislatures; members also come via local bodies, graduates, teachers and MLA constituencies.

Telangana Caste Survey: Complete Data Published

- ▶ Telangana officially published the results of its 2024-25 caste survey covering 1.12 crore families and 3.55 crore people.
- ▶ Backward Classes form the largest group at 56.33% (non-Muslim BCs 46.25%, Muslim BCs 10.08%).
- ▶ Scheduled Castes account for 17.43% and Scheduled Tribes 10.45% of the population.
- ▶ Other Castes (general category) constitute 15.79%, including about 2.48% OC Muslims.
- ▶ Madiga (10.3%) is the largest single community; around 12 lakh people declined to declare caste.

Six-Circuit Tourism Strategy Rolled Out

- ▶ Telangana introduced a comprehensive tourism strategy built around six thematic circuits.
- ▶ Spiritual Circuit: Yadagirigutta, Bhadrachalam, Basar, Vemulawada, Ramappa and more; Heritage Circuit: Warangal, Charminar cluster and others.
- ▶ Eco-Wellness & Tribal Circuit covers Nallamala, Jannaram, Nagarjuna Sagar and Vikarabad belts.
- ▶ Crafts Circuit highlights Pochampally Ikat, Narayanpet and Gadwal handlooms.
- ▶ Water Circuit (Kuntala, Pochera, Gayatri waterfalls) and Buddhist Circuit (Phanigiri, Nelakondapalli, Buddhavanam, Dhulikatta) complete the six.

Bharat Future City: NGT Refuses Stay

- ▶ The National Green Tribunal refused to halt Telangana's Bharat Future City project proposed over nearly 30,000 acres.
- ▶ The petitioner alleged that mandatory environmental approvals under the EIA framework were bypassed.
- ▶ The project spans 56 revenue villages in 7 mandals between the Srisailem and Nagarjunasagar highways.
- ▶ NGT, established under the NGT Act, 2010, is chaired by a retired SC judge or HC Chief Justice with a 5-year, non-renewable tenure.
- ▶ NGT aims to dispose of cases within 6 months; appeals lie to the Supreme Court within 90 days; the Wildlife (Protection) Act and Forest Rights Act fall outside its jurisdiction.

Two New Airports Approved: Warangal and Adilabad

- ▶ The Government of India approved development of two new airports in Telangana.
- ▶ Warangal (Mamnoon) airport, historically a training airfield, will be redeveloped by the Ministry of Civil Aviation as an aviation hub for north Telangana.
- ▶ Adilabad airport will be developed by the Ministry of Defence as a dual-use facility.
- ▶ The dual-use model combines military training operations with civilian air services.
- ▶ The projects aim to boost regional connectivity, tourism and economic growth.

5. Economy & Banking

RBI Keeps Repo Rate at 5.25%; Neutral Stance Retained

- ▶ In its first monetary policy of FY 2026-27, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee unanimously kept the repo rate at 5.25% under Governor Sanjay Malhotra.
- ▶ Other rates: SDF 5.00%, MSF 5.50%, Bank Rate 5.50%.
- ▶ The neutral stance signals equal focus on inflation control and growth, with data-driven flexibility.
- ▶ The MPC, set up under the amended RBI Act (2016), has 6 members - 3 from RBI and 3 government nominees - chaired by the RBI Governor.
- ▶ Its mandate is price stability with an inflation target of 4% (plus/minus 2%) while supporting growth.

New CPI Series with Base Year 2024 Introduced

- ▶ MoSPI introduced a new Consumer Price Index series with base year 2024 = 100; retail inflation stood at 2.75% in January 2026.
- ▶ The base year was updated from 2012 to 2024 to reflect current household consumption patterns.
- ▶ Weights were realigned: food and beverages reduced; services and housing increased.
- ▶ The basket expanded from 299 to 358 items (308 goods, 50 services), adding streaming services, value-added dairy, fitness equipment and more; rural house rent included for the first time.
- ▶ Classification now follows COICOP 2018, moving from 6 groups to 12 divisions; CPI guides RBI's monetary policy.

PLFS Annual Report 2025: Key Labour Data

- ▶ MoSPI released the Periodic Labour Force Survey Annual Report 2025.
- ▶ Unemployment Rate remained stable at 3.1%.
- ▶ Labour Force Participation Rate stood at 59.3%; Worker Population Ratio at 57.4%.
- ▶ PLFS, launched in 2017, is conducted by the National Statistical Office.
- ▶ Quarterly bulletins cover urban areas (Current Weekly Status); annual reports cover rural and urban areas (Usual Status).

National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP) 2.0 Launched

- ▶ The Union Finance Minister launched NMP 2.0, a five-year roadmap (FY 2026-2030) for monetising public infrastructure.
- ▶ Total monetisation target: Rs 16.72 lakh crore, with a private investment target of Rs 5.8 lakh crore; developed by NITI Aayog.
- ▶ NMP follows the 'asset recycling' model - leasing, not selling: the government retains 100% ownership.
- ▶ Private players operate and maintain assets for fixed periods (typically 30-60 years) against upfront or periodic payments.
- ▶ Focus is exclusively on brownfield assets that are already built and generating revenue, minimising execution risk.

India to Feature in World Bank's B-READY Report 2026

- ▶ India will be included in the World Bank's Business Ready (B-READY) Report 2026.
- ▶ B-READY is the World Bank's new flagship assessment, launched in 2024.
- ▶ It replaced the discontinued Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) Index.
- ▶ The framework assesses the business environment, investment climate and regulatory quality.
- ▶ Inclusion will benchmark India's reforms against global best practices.

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool Approved

- ▶ The Union Cabinet approved the Bharat Maritime Insurance (BMI) Pool amid global shipping disruptions from the West Asia conflict.
- ▶ It is a government-backed mechanism with a sovereign guarantee of Rs 12,980 crore.
- ▶ Initial duration is 10 years, extendable by 5 more; managed by GIC Re under a Governing Body.
- ▶ It covers maritime risks, including war-risk cover, for India-linked shipping.
- ▶ Objectives: reduce dependence on foreign insurers and ensure uninterrupted insurance for Indian shipping.

Borrowers' Platform Launched by Developing Countries

- ▶ Developing countries launched the first-ever Borrowers' Platform during the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings 2026.
- ▶ It is a collective forum on sovereign debt aimed at strengthening borrowers' voice in global debt governance.
- ▶ UNCTAD serves as the permanent secretariat, providing technical and administrative support.
- ▶ The platform is governed by finance ministers of participating nations.
- ▶ A seven-country working group guides implementation - chaired by Egypt with Pakistan as vice-chair; other founders include Colombia, Honduras, Maldives, Nepal and Zambia.

Iran War and the Risk of Stagflation

- ▶ The Iran conflict of 2026 disrupted global energy supplies and raised fears of stagflation.
- ▶ Stagflation combines stagnant growth, high unemployment and high inflation simultaneously.
- ▶ Disrupted oil routes pushed up global crude prices, fuel costs and transport costs.
- ▶ Higher energy prices feed inflationary pressure while slowing global growth.
- ▶ The episode underlines India's vulnerability to imported energy inflation.

DA Hiked from 58% to 60% for Central Government Employees

- ▶ On 18 April 2026 the Union Cabinet approved an additional 2% instalment of Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief.
- ▶ DA/DR rises from 58% to 60% of basic pay/pension, effective retrospectively from 1 January 2026.
- ▶ It benefits about 50.46 lakh central government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners.
- ▶ Additional annual burden on the exchequer: about Rs 6,791 crore.
- ▶ The revision follows the accepted formula based on the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations.

6. Science & Technology

Chandrayaan-4: ISRO Selects Mons Mouton as Landing Site

- ▶ ISRO identified Mons Mouton, a flat-topped mountain near the lunar south pole, as the landing site for Chandrayaan-4.
- ▶ The site lies near the South Pole-Aitken Basin, one of the largest and oldest impact basins in the Solar System.
- ▶ Chandrayaan-4 is India's first lunar sample-return mission, marking a shift from exploration to advanced capability.
- ▶ The south pole region holds water-ice deposits and scientifically unexplored terrain.
- ▶ Success would place India among the few nations to return lunar samples.

ISRO to Launch G20 Satellite in 2027

- ▶ India proposed a G20 satellite mission, expected to launch in 2027.
- ▶ The satellite will support climate and environmental monitoring for G20 nations.
- ▶ It will also aid weather forecasting and disaster management.
- ▶ The mission embodies space diplomacy - shared data for shared challenges.
- ▶ It follows India's announcement of the initiative during its G20 leadership.

YUVIKA: ISRO's Young Scientist Programme

- ▶ Yuva Vigyani Karyakram (YUVIKA) is ISRO's educational initiative for school students.
- ▶ It provides early exposure to space science and technology.
- ▶ The programme encourages students to pursue STEM careers.
- ▶ It was highlighted by the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology as a key scientific-awareness initiative.
- ▶ Selected students attend hands-on sessions at ISRO centres.

Antariksh Venture Capital Fund (AVCF): India's First Spacetech Fund

- ▶ AVCF is India's first dedicated venture capital fund for the space sector.
- ▶ Target corpus: Rs 1,600 crore, with about Rs 1,005 crore already committed.
- ▶ Anchor investor IN-SPACE has committed Rs 1,000 crore.
- ▶ The fund is managed by SIDBI Venture Capital Limited, a SIDBI subsidiary.
- ▶ It provides risk capital to early and growth-stage spacetech startups.

Mission MITRA: Preparing Gaganyatris for Space

- ▶ Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment) evaluates India's astronaut-designates for Gaganyaan.
- ▶ Conducted by ISRO, it tests physical, psychological and teamwork capabilities in extreme conditions.
- ▶ Four astronaut-designates took part: Shubhanshu Shukla, Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan and Angad Pratap.
- ▶ Testing was carried out in the high-altitude regions of Ladakh.
- ▶ The assessment feeds into crew selection for India's first human spaceflight.

E20 Petrol with RON 95 Mandatory Nationwide

- ▶ From 1 April 2026, sale of E20 petrol with a minimum Research Octane Number of 95 became mandatory across India.
- ▶ E20 blends 80% petrol with 20% ethanol derived from sugarcane, maize and food grains.
- ▶ Ethanol is renewable, cutting crude imports and emissions.
- ▶ RON measures resistance to engine knocking; the earlier standard was RON 91.
- ▶ Higher octane improves performance under high pressure and temperature.

India's First Fast Breeder Reactor Achieves Criticality

- ▶ The indigenous 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, achieved first criticality.
- ▶ Criticality is the stage when a reactor sustains a controlled, self-sustaining chain reaction.
- ▶ The PFBR was developed by BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited).
- ▶ Fast breeder reactors generate more fissile material than they consume, enabling efficient fuel use.
- ▶ It is central to Stage II of India's three-stage nuclear power programme and long-term thorium utilisation.

India's First Semiconductor SEZ Approved at Dholera

- ▶ India approved its first semiconductor fabrication Special Economic Zone at Dholera, Gujarat, notified on 16 April 2026.
- ▶ The project is spearheaded by Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited.
- ▶ It boosts Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat by reducing dependence on imported chips.
- ▶ An SEZ is a defined area treated as foreign territory for trade and tariffs, with tax benefits and duty-free imports.
- ▶ SEZs are governed by the SEZ Act and SEZ Rules, 2006.

ICMR Begins Human Trials for Improved KFD Vaccine

- ▶ ICMR initiated human clinical trials for an improved vaccine against Kyasanur Forest Disease (KFD).
- ▶ KFD, or 'Monkey Fever', is caused by a Flavivirus.
- ▶ It is transmitted by the bite of infected hard ticks (*Haemaphysalis spinigera*).
- ▶ Hosts include monkeys, rodents and shrews; the disease is endemic to the Western Ghats.
- ▶ Symptoms range from fever, headache and muscle pain to haemorrhagic complications in severe cases.

CSIR's 'Designer Rice': High-Protein, Low-GI Innovation

- ▶ Scientists at CSIR-NIIST developed a nutritionally enhanced 'designer rice'.
- ▶ Protein content is 20-22%, nearly three times that of regular rice (6-8%).
- ▶ Glycaemic index is below 55, ensuring slow glucose release - useful in managing Type 2 diabetes.
- ▶ It is fortified with iron, folic acid and vitamin B12 to fight anaemia and deficiencies.
- ▶ The product uses extrusion-based food architecture - a non-GMO processing technology.

7. Defence & Security

Rs 39,000 Crore Ghatak Stealth Drone Project Cleared

- ▶ The Defence Ministry approved a Rs 39,000 crore project to develop the Ghatak stealth drone.
- ▶ Ghatak is an Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV), also called the Remotely Piloted Strike Aircraft programme.
- ▶ It is being developed by DRDO with indigenous technology.
- ▶ The platform is designed for deep-penetration strike missions in hostile territory.
- ▶ It will significantly enhance the IAF's unmanned strike capability.

Prajna: AI-Based Satellite System for Internal Security

- ▶ The Government introduced Prajna, an advanced AI-powered satellite imaging and analytics system.
- ▶ It was developed by DRDO.
- ▶ Prajna is designed to assist the Ministry of Home Affairs in monitoring and security operations.
- ▶ It provides real-time satellite imagery with AI analytics for quick decision-making.
- ▶ Primary uses: surveillance, border management and internal security.

Russia Clears R-37M Missile Export to India

- ▶ Russia approved export of the R-37M (RVV-BD) ultra-long-range air-to-air missile to India.
- ▶ Range: about 300-400 km - among the longest in the world; speed exceeds Mach 6.
- ▶ The missile will arm the Su-30MKI fleet, boosting Beyond Visual Range (BVR) capability.
- ▶ AAM types: Within Visual Range (under 30 km, infrared-guided) and BVR (beyond 37 km, radar-guided).
- ▶ India's indigenous BVR missiles include Astra Mark I and Mark II.

Agni-III Successfully Test-Fired

- ▶ India test-fired the Agni-III intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM).
- ▶ Range: about 3,000-3,500 km, covering deep targets in South and East Asia.
- ▶ Payload: up to 1.5 tonnes - conventional or nuclear; two-stage solid-fuel propulsion.
- ▶ India's nuclear arsenal is managed by the Strategic Forces Command under the Nuclear Command Authority.
- ▶ NCA structure: Political Council (chaired by PM - sole authority to order a strike), Executive Council (chaired by NSA) and SFC (3-star Commander-in-Chief).

AS-HAPS Approved for the Indian Air Force

- ▶ The Defence Acquisition Council approved induction of Airship-Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (AS-HAPS).
- ▶ AS-HAPS are solar-powered, unmanned platforms operating in the stratosphere (18-25 km).
- ▶ They bridge the gap between UAVs (low altitude, short endurance) and satellites (high cost).
- ▶ Advantages: very long endurance and cost-effectiveness compared with satellites.
- ▶ They will boost persistent surveillance and communication relay.

INS Aridhaman: India's Third Nuclear Missile Submarine

- ▶ INS Aridhaman (S4), India's third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), was commissioned in April 2026.
- ▶ It belongs to the Arihant class, built under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project.
- ▶ SSBN fleet status: INS Arihant (2016), INS Arighaat (Aug 2024), INS Aridhaman (Apr 2026).
- ▶ A fourth boat (likely INS Arisudan) is in sea trials, expected around 2027.
- ▶ SSBNs anchor India's credible, sea-based second-strike capability.

INS Taragiri Commissioned at Visakhapatnam

- ▶ INS Taragiri (F41), a stealth guided-missile frigate, was commissioned at the Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam.
- ▶ It is the fourth ship of Project 17A (Nilgiri class).
- ▶ Built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai.
- ▶ Project 17A comprises seven advanced stealth frigates built by MDL and GRSE.
- ▶ Sister ships include Nilgiri, Himgiri, Udaygiri, Dunagiri, Vindhyagiri and Mahendragiri.

INS Arnala: First Indigenous ASW Shallow Watercraft

- ▶ The Indian Navy commissioned INS Arnala, the first indigenously designed Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Watercraft (ASW-SWC).
- ▶ It is designed for anti-submarine operations in shallow coastal waters.
- ▶ Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro.
- ▶ The class strengthens coastal defence and underwater surveillance.
- ▶ It showcases indigenous warship design and construction capability.

INS Malwan: Second ASW-SWC Delivered

- ▶ The Navy received 'Malwan', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft.
- ▶ It was built by Cochin Shipyard Limited.
- ▶ The craft is designed to detect and neutralise enemy submarines in littoral zones.
- ▶ It enhances coastal security and shallow-water ASW capability.
- ▶ The ASW-SWC programme runs parallel at GRSE and CSL shipyards.

GRSE Hands Over Three Warships in a Single Day

- ▶ Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers handed over Dunagiri, Sanshodhak and Agray to the Indian Navy.
- ▶ Dunagiri is the fifth Project 17A (Nilgiri-class) stealth frigate.
- ▶ Agray is the fourth of eight Arnala-class ASW Shallow Water Craft.
- ▶ Sanshodhak is the final ship of the Survey Vessel (Large) project.
- ▶ The triple delivery underscores India's growing indigenous shipbuilding capacity.

INS Sanshodhak Completes the Survey Vessel (Large) Project

- ▶ INS Sanshodhak, the fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large), was delivered at GRSE Kolkata.
- ▶ The SVL series comprises INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, INS Ikshak and INS Sanshodhak.
- ▶ The vessels conduct hydrographic surveys and seabed mapping.
- ▶ Their data supports navigation safety and maritime operations.
- ▶ The project completion is a milestone for indigenous survey-ship construction.

INS Krishna: Navy's Indigenous 'Floating Classroom'

- ▶ The Navy unveiled INS Krishna (Yard 18003), the first indigenous Cadet Training Ship.
- ▶ It is the first of three planned Cadet Training Ships.
- ▶ Designed and built by Larsen & Toubro; launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Chennai.
- ▶ The ship will serve as a 'floating classroom' for naval officer cadets.
- ▶ It advances indigenisation in defence manufacturing.

8. Environment & Ecology

Shekha Jheel Becomes India's 99th Ramsar Site

- ▶ Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh, was designated India's 99th Ramsar Site.
- ▶ The wetland hosts 249 recorded bird species, with 62 species directly dependent on its ecosystem.
- ▶ It lies on the Central Asian Flyway, hosting migrants such as the bar-headed goose and painted stork.
- ▶ The CAF is one of 9 major global flyways, linking Arctic breeding grounds with Indian-subcontinent wintering grounds across 30 countries.
- ▶ Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.

Two Biodiversity Repositories Notified under the Biological Diversity Act

- ▶ The National Biodiversity Authority notified two institutions as designated repositories under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- ▶ Repositories officially store and document biological materials - voucher specimens, microbial cultures and marine organisms.
- ▶ Referral Centre 'Bhavasagara' at CMLRE, Kochi specialises in deep-sea biodiversity and marine voucher specimens.
- ▶ Agharkar Research Institute, Pune was notified for its MACS Collection of Microorganisms and National Fungal Culture Collection.
- ▶ The move strengthens biodiversity research, species identification and regulated commercial use.

Kali Tiger Reserve: Draft ESZ Notification Issued

- ▶ The Union Environment Ministry issued a draft notification for an Eco-Sensitive Zone around Kali Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.
- ▶ ESZs are buffer 'shock absorbers' around national parks, sanctuaries and tiger reserves.
- ▶ They are notified under Section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 - the term ESZ itself is not in the Act.
- ▶ ESZs generally extend up to 10 km, flexible by ecological sensitivity and population density.
- ▶ Prohibited: commercial mining, sawmills, large hydro; regulated: tourism, road expansion; permitted: organic farming and eco-friendly livelihoods.

CMS COP15 Concludes in Brazil; 40 Species Get Protection

- ▶ The 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species concluded at Campo Grande, Brazil.
- ▶ COP15 granted protection to 40 additional migratory species.
- ▶ CMS, the Bonn Convention, operates under UNEP and is the only global convention exclusively for migratory species.
- ▶ Appendix I lists endangered species needing strict protection and hunting bans.
- ▶ Appendix II lists species requiring international cooperative agreements.

COP31 (2026): Türkiye's 'Future COP' Vision

- ▶ Türkiye proposed a 'COP of the Future' vision for COP31 under the UNFCCC, to be hosted at Antalya.
- ▶ Türkiye leads the Action Agenda while Australia plays a key role in negotiations under a novel partnership model.
- ▶ UNFCCC was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and entered into force in 1994.
- ▶ It has 198 Parties; the secretariat is at Bonn, Germany.
- ▶ The COP is the supreme decision-making body; the first COP met in Berlin in 1995.

India Withdraws Bid to Host COP33 (2028)

- ▶ India withdrew its bid to host the 33rd Conference of Parties (COP33) scheduled for 2028.
- ▶ COP is the annual climate summit under the UNFCCC framework.
- ▶ UNFCCC aims to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations to prevent dangerous climate change.
- ▶ The Kyoto Protocol set binding targets for developed countries.
- ▶ The Paris Agreement aims to keep warming well below 2 degrees C, preferably 1.5 degrees C.

India to Ban New HFC Projects after 2027

- ▶ The Environment Ministry decided that no new environmental clearances will be given for HFC production from 1 January 2028, with no expansion of existing units after 31 December 2027.
- ▶ Hydrofluorocarbons are man-made gases used as non-ozone-depleting substitutes for CFCs and HCFCs.
- ▶ HFCs have zero Ozone Depletion Potential but very high Global Warming Potential - hundreds to thousands of times CO₂.
- ▶ The step aligns with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, ratified by India in 2021.
- ▶ As a Group 2 developing country, India must cut HFCs 10% by 2032 and 20% by 2037.

India Becomes 3rd Largest in Renewable Energy Capacity

- ▶ India surpassed Brazil to become the world's third-largest country by renewable energy capacity.
- ▶ Global ranking: China first, the United States second, India third, Brazil fourth.
- ▶ India's non-fossil capacity totals 283.46 GW.
- ▶ Breakdown: solar 150.26 GW, wind 56.09 GW (4th largest globally), large hydro 51.41 GW, nuclear 8.78 GW.
- ▶ The milestone supports India's 500 GW non-fossil capacity goal for 2030.

India Targets 100 GW Nuclear Power by 2047

- ▶ India announced plans to expand nuclear capacity from 8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047 - over a ten-fold increase.
- ▶ The National Nuclear Energy Mission (Budget 2025-26) has a Rs 20,000 crore allocation for indigenous technologies.
- ▶ Target: at least 5 indigenous Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) by 2033.
- ▶ SMRs (up to 300 MW) are factory-built, quicker to install (3-5 years) and use passive safety systems.
- ▶ Reforms to the Atomic Energy Act and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act are proposed to enable private participation.

India Leads in Nagoya Protocol Compliance Certificates

- ▶ India has issued over 56% of all Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) worldwide.
- ▶ IRCCs certify that access to genetic resources is legal, approved and based on agreed benefit-sharing.
- ▶ The Nagoya Protocol (2010) is a legally binding agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ▶ It prevents biopiracy through Prior Informed Consent and Mutually Agreed Terms with provider countries.
- ▶ India's lead reflects its strong Access and Benefit Sharing regime under the Biological Diversity Act.

9. International Relations

3rd India-Nordic Summit to be Held in Oslo

- ▶ The 3rd India-Nordic Summit will be held in Oslo, Norway, on 15-16 May 2026.
- ▶ Focus areas: sustainability, climate change and Arctic governance, alongside trade and technology.
- ▶ Previous summits: Stockholm (2018) and a virtual summit (2022).
- ▶ Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, plus Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Åland.
- ▶ The grouping shares close political cooperation and strong tax-funded welfare models.

India-China Resume SCO Engagement after Ladakh De-escalation

- ▶ India and China resumed bilateral engagement under the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation after Ladakh tensions eased.
- ▶ SCO was founded on 15 June 2001 in Shanghai; headquarters: Beijing; official languages: Russian and Chinese.
- ▶ It evolved from the Shanghai Five (1996) of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.
- ▶ Current membership is 10, including India, Pakistan (2017), Iran (2023) and Belarus (2024).
- ▶ The Council of Heads of State is the top body; RATS at Tashkent handles counter-terrorism cooperation.

UK Pauses Chagos Islands Transfer to Mauritius

- ▶ The UK paused its plan to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius over US concerns.
- ▶ In 1965 the UK separated Chagos from Mauritius, creating the British Indian Ocean Territory.
- ▶ Around 2,000 Chagossians were displaced (1968-73) to build the joint UK-US base at Diego Garcia.
- ▶ The ICJ ruled in 2019 that the separation was illegal and the UK should end its administration; the UNGA backed Mauritius.
- ▶ The pause stems from the lack of formal approval from the United States.

Iran Threatens Closure of Bab al-Mandeb Strait

- ▶ Iran warned that its regional allies may block the Bab al-Mandeb Strait amid the West Asia conflict.
- ▶ Bab al-Mandeb ('Gate of Tears') connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean.
- ▶ Bordering countries: Yemen on the Arabian side; Djibouti and Eritrea on the African side.
- ▶ About 12% of global seaborne oil trade and 8% of LNG shipments pass through it.
- ▶ Closure would force rerouting via the Cape of Good Hope, raising costs and stoking global inflation.

India Sends BCG Vaccines to Afghanistan

- ▶ India dispatched 13 tonnes of BCG vaccines and essential materials to Afghanistan.
- ▶ The supplies support Afghanistan's child immunisation programme against tuberculosis.
- ▶ BCG, developed in 1921 from attenuated Mycobacterium bovis, is the only licensed TB vaccine.
- ▶ TB is caused by Mycobacterium tuberculosis and spreads through airborne droplets.
- ▶ Forms include pulmonary TB (most common) and extra-pulmonary TB affecting lymph nodes, bones, kidneys or the brain.

Hungary Election: Orban's 16-Year Rule Ends

- ▶ Hungary's parliamentary election was held on 12 April 2026.
- ▶ The opposition Tisza Party led by Peter Magyar won a landslide - about 141 of 199 seats on final results.
- ▶ Viktor Orban's Fidesz-led government was unseated after 16 consecutive years; Orban conceded defeat.
- ▶ Turnout was about 79.6%, the highest since Hungary's first free election in 1990.
- ▶ Tisza's 3.3 million votes were the most any Hungarian party has ever received.

10. History & Culture

500 Years of the First Battle of Panipat (1526)

- ▶ India marked the 500th anniversary of the First Battle of Panipat, fought on 21 April 1526.
- ▶ Babur defeated and killed Ibrahim Lodi, the last Delhi Sultan of the Lodi dynasty.
- ▶ Afghan nobles Daulat Khan Lodi and Alam Khan had invited Babur to invade India.
- ▶ The battle ended the Delhi Sultanate (1206-1526) and founded the Mughal Empire, which lasted nearly 300 years.
- ▶ It introduced gunpowder warfare to India, transforming military tactics.

Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti 2026

- ▶ The Prime Minister paid tribute to Adi Shankaracharya (788-820 CE), revered as 'Jagatguru', on his Jayanti.
- ▶ He systematised Advaita Vedanta (non-dualism) and revived Hindu philosophy.
- ▶ He founded four mathas: Sringeri (south), Dwaraka (west), Puri (east) and Badrinath (north).
- ▶ Core concepts: Brahman (ultimate reality), Atman (the self, identical with Brahman) and Maya (illusion).
- ▶ His Mahavakya 'Aham Brahmasmi' captures the essence of Advaita.

107th Anniversary of the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

- ▶ 13 April 2026 marked 107 years since the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of 1919.
- ▶ The roots lay in the Rowlatt Act ('Black Act') allowing detention without trial, and the arrests of Dr Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr Satyapal.
- ▶ On Baisakhi day, troops under Brigadier-General Dyer fired on an unarmed gathering in Amritsar, blocking the only exit.
- ▶ British figures put deaths at 379; Indian estimates exceeded 1,000.
- ▶ Tagore renounced his knighthood; Gandhi returned the 'Kaiser-i-Hind'; the Hunter Commission (1919) censured Dyer but imposed no real punishment; the outrage fuelled the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22).

Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Jayanti

- ▶ The Prime Minister paid tribute to Mahatma Jyotiba Phule on his birth anniversary (11 April).
- ▶ In 1848, with Savitribai Phule - India's first woman teacher - he started the first girls' school at Bhide Wada, Pune.
- ▶ He founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (1873) to fight caste discrimination.
- ▶ His book 'Gulamgiri' (1873) compared caste oppression with racial slavery in America; he popularised the term 'Dalit'.
- ▶ The title 'Mahatma' was conferred in 1888; Ambedkar counted Phule among his three gurus with Buddha and Kabir.

80th Anniversary of the Royal Indian Navy Revolt (1946)

- ▶ 2026 marks 80 years of the RIN Revolt, which began on 18 February 1946 at HMIS Talwar, Bombay.
- ▶ Around 20,000 naval ratings joined; the Naval Central Strike Committee was led by M. S. Khan.
- ▶ Causes: poor food, racial discrimination, low pay and the inspiration of INA trials.
- ▶ Demands included better conditions, equal treatment and release of INA prisoners; the revolt ended on 23 February 1946.
- ▶ Seen as the 'final nail in the coffin' of British rule, it hastened the 1947 transfer of power.

New Guidelines on 'Vande Mataram'

- ▶ The Union Government issued new guidelines requiring all six stanzas of the official version of Vande Mataram to be rendered first when performed with the National Anthem.
- ▶ Vande Mataram was written by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and later included in Anandamath (1882).
- ▶ Rabindranath Tagore first sang it publicly at the 1896 INC session in Calcutta.
- ▶ Madam Bhikaji Cama unfurled an early national flag inscribed 'Vande Mataram' at Stuttgart (1907).
- ▶ On 24 January 1950 the Constituent Assembly accorded it National Song status, equal in honour to Jana Gana Mana.

Bust of C. Rajagopalachari Unveiled at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- ▶ The President unveiled a bust of Chakravarti Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- ▶ Rajaji was the first and only Indian Governor-General of independent India (1948-50).
- ▶ A close associate of Gandhi, he was called the 'conscience-keeper of the Mahatma'.
- ▶ He took part in the Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement and the Vedaranyam Salt Satyagraha (1930).
- ▶ He proposed the C.R. Formula (1944) to resolve the Congress-Muslim League deadlock.

Samrat Samprati Museum Inaugurated in Gandhinagar

- ▶ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Museum at Koba Tirth, Gandhinagar, on Mahavir Jayanti.
- ▶ Samrat Samprati (c. 224-215 BCE) was a Mauryan emperor, grandson of Ashoka and son of Kunala.
- ▶ He converted to Jainism under monk Suhastin.
- ▶ He is known for building Jain temples and commissioning lakhs of Tirthankara idols.
- ▶ The museum showcases his role in spreading Jain teachings across India.

11. Awards & Sports

Aronyak Ghosh Becomes India's 95th Chess Grandmaster

- ▶ Kolkata's Aronyak Ghosh (born 2003) became India's 95th Grandmaster in April 2026.
- ▶ He earned his final GM norm at the 23rd Bangkok Chess Club Open, scoring 7/9 and tying for first place.
- ▶ He is the 12th Grandmaster from West Bengal.
- ▶ Earlier norms came at the Sants International Open (2023) and Annemasse Masters (2024).
- ▶ He became the fourth Indian to complete the GM title in 2026.

Laureus World Sports Awards 2026

- ▶ The ceremony was held on 20 April 2026 at the Palacio de Cibeles, Madrid, honouring 2025 achievements.
- ▶ Sportsman of the Year: Carlos Alcaraz (tennis); Sportswoman of the Year: Aryna Sabalenka (tennis).
- ▶ Team of the Year: Paris Saint-Germain, after their first UEFA Champions League title.
- ▶ Breakthrough: F1 champion Lando Norris; Comeback: Rory McIlroy after his Masters win; Young Sportsperson: Lamine Yamal.
- ▶ Gymnastics legend Nadia Comaneci received the Lifetime Achievement Award; Futbol Mas took the Sport for Good Award.

Wisden Almanack 2026: Indians Dominate

- ▶ Indian cricketers took seven of the nine major awards in the Wisden Almanack 2026, published in April.
- ▶ Four of the five Cricketers of the Year are Indians: Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Rishabh Pant and Mohammed Siraj (with Haseeb Hameed).
- ▶ Gill's 754 runs in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy - including 269 at Edgbaston - set an India record for a series in England.
- ▶ Leading Cricketer in the World: Mitchell Starc; Leading Woman Cricketer: Deepti Sharma.
- ▶ Selection of four players from one country in a single year is exceptionally rare.

12. Quick Revision - 40 One-Liners

1. The Women's Reservation Act (106th Amendment) came into force on 16 April 2026, providing 33% quota in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.
2. The 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill (Lok Sabha strength 850) was defeated for want of special majority.
3. Census 2027 is the world's first fully digital census; Phase I began 1 April 2026; reference date 1 March 2027.
4. Census 2027 is India's 16th census and the 8th after Independence.
5. Harivansh Narayan Singh became the first nominated member elected Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman (third term, Article 89).
6. The CEC can be removed only like a Supreme Court judge - Article 324(5).
7. Madras HC: the Governor is bound by Cabinet advice on remission under Article 161.
8. In Dr. Jaya Thakur case, the Supreme Court read the right to menstrual health into Article 21.
9. Menaka Guruswamy became India's first openly queer MP (Rajya Sabha).
10. Tamil Nadu's 234-seat assembly election on 23 April 2026 saw a record turnout of about 85%.
11. PMGSY-III stands extended till March 2028 to upgrade 1.25 lakh km of rural roads.
12. PM MUDRA Yojana completed 11 years; Tarun Plus loans go up to Rs 20 lakh.
13. GeM Womaniya crossed 2 lakh registered women-led MSEs with 13.7 lakh orders in FY 2025-26.
14. 'Vishwa Sutra' of the Textiles Ministry reimagines 30 Indian weaves with design cues from 30 countries.
15. KABIL (NALCO 40%, HCL 30%, MECL 30%) got Argentina's clearance for lithium exploration.
16. World Health Day 2026 theme: 'Together for Health. Stand with Science'.
17. APCNF of Andhra Pradesh is a Food Planet Prize 2026 finalist; it earlier won the Gulbenkian Prize (2024).
18. Google's \$15 billion AI data centre hub is coming up at Tarluvada near Visakhapatnam (1 GW, expandable to 5 GW).
19. India's first dedicated Space City is being developed at Routhusuramala village near Tirupati (2,600 acres).
20. Amaravati Quantum Valley is India's first integrated quantum ecosystem; QChipIN will be India's largest open quantum testbed.
21. Jonnagiri (Kurnool) is India's first major private gold mine since Independence.
22. AP Budget 2026-27 projects public debt at Rs 7.11 lakh crore (about 36% of GSDP).
23. Telangana nominated M. Kodandaram and Mohammad Azharuddin as MLCs under Article 171(5).
24. Telangana caste survey: BCs 56.33%, SCs 17.43%, STs 10.45%, OCs 15.79%.
25. RBI kept the repo rate at 5.25% with a neutral stance in the first MPC of FY 2026-27.
26. The new CPI series uses base year 2024 = 100 with 358 items under COICOP 2018.
27. PLFS 2025: unemployment 3.1%, LFPR 59.3%, WPR 57.4%.
28. NMP 2.0 targets Rs 16.72 lakh crore of asset monetisation over FY 2026-2030.
29. The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool carries a Rs 12,980 crore sovereign guarantee and is managed by GIC Re.
30. DA/DR rose from 58% to 60% w.e.f. 1 January 2026.
31. Chandrayaan-4, India's lunar sample-return mission, will land at Mons Mouton near the lunar south pole.
32. E20 petrol with RON 95 became mandatory nationwide from 1 April 2026.

33. India's 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam achieved criticality (BHAVINI).
34. India's first semiconductor SEZ was notified at Dholera, Gujarat (Tata Semiconductor).
35. INS Aridhaman is India's third SSBN, after INS Arihant and INS Arighaat.
36. Shekha Jheel (Aligarh, UP) is India's 99th Ramsar site, on the Central Asian Flyway.
37. India is now 3rd globally in renewable energy capacity (283.46 GW non-fossil), behind China and the US.
38. India issues over 56% of the world's IRCCs under the Nagoya Protocol.
39. Peter Magyar's Tisza Party ended Viktor Orban's 16-year rule in Hungary's 12 April 2026 election.
40. Wisden 2026: four Indians - Gill, Jadeja, Pant, Siraj - among the five Cricketers of the Year; Aronyak Ghosh became India's 95th chess GM.

13. Practice MCQs - 20 Questions

Q1. The Women's Reservation Act, which came into force on 16 April 2026, was enacted as which Constitutional Amendment?

- A. 102nd Amendment
- B. 104th Amendment
- C. 106th Amendment
- D. 108th Amendment

Q2. The Women's Reservation Act does NOT apply to which of the following?

- A. Lok Sabha
- B. State Legislative Assemblies
- C. Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils
- D. None of the above

Q3. Census 2027 will be conducted with which reference date for population enumeration?

- A. 1 April 2026
- B. 30 September 2026
- C. 1 February 2027
- D. 1 March 2027

Q4. Who became the first nominated member to be elected Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha?

- A. Gyanesh Kumar
- B. Harivansh Narayan Singh
- C. M. Kodandaram
- D. Menaka Guruswamy

Q5. Under Article 324(5), the Chief Election Commissioner can be removed in the same manner as:

- A. A High Court judge
- B. A Supreme Court judge
- C. The Attorney General
- D. The CAG

Q6. In April 2026, the Supreme Court recognised which of the following as part of Article 21?

- A. Right to internet access
- B. Right to menstrual health
- C. Right to housing
- D. Right to minimum wages

Q7. 'Packing' and 'cracking' are techniques associated with:

- A. Defection
- B. Gerrymandering
- C. Proportional representation
- D. Anti-incumbency

Q8. The VB-G RAM G scheme, which funds AP's new animal shelters, replaced which programme?

- A. PMGSY
- B. MGNREGA
- C. NRLM
- D. PMAY-G

Q9. The Amaravati Quantum Valley project's QChipIN facility will be:

- A. India's first semiconductor fab
- B. India's largest open quantum testbed
- C. A cryogenic research lab
- D. An AI supercomputer centre

Q10. The Jonnagiri Gold Project, India's first private gold mine, is located in which district?

- A. Palnadu
- B. Kurnool
- C. Anantapur
- D. Chittoor

Q11. According to the Telangana caste survey, Backward Classes constitute what share of the population?

- A. 46.25%
- B. 50.12%
- C. 56.33%
- D. 60.45%

Q12. In its first MPC meeting of FY 2026-27, the RBI kept the repo rate at:

- A. 5.00%
- B. 5.25%
- C. 5.50%
- D. 6.00%

Q13. The new CPI series introduced by MoSPI uses which base year?

- A. 2012
- B. 2018
- C. 2022
- D. 2024

Q14. NMP 2.0 sets a five-year monetisation target of:

- A. Rs 6 lakh crore
- B. Rs 10.5 lakh crore
- C. Rs 16.72 lakh crore
- D. Rs 20 lakh crore

Q15. Chandrayaan-4 will attempt a landing at which lunar site?

- A. Shiv Shakti Point
- B. Mons Mouton
- C. Oceanus Procellarum
- D. Mare Tranquillitatis

Q16. India's first Fast Breeder Reactor that achieved criticality is located at:

- A. Kudankulam
- B. Kalpakkam
- C. Kakrapar
- D. Tarapur

Q17. INS Aridhaman, commissioned in April 2026, is India's:

- A. First aircraft carrier
- B. Second stealth frigate
- C. Third nuclear ballistic missile submarine
- D. Fourth survey vessel

Q18. India's 99th Ramsar site, Shekha Jheel, is located in:

- A. Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bharatpur, Rajasthan
- C. Etawah, Uttar Pradesh
- D. Gaya, Bihar

Q19. CMS COP15, which granted protection to 40 new migratory species, was held in:

- A. Gandhinagar, India
- B. Campo Grande, Brazil
- C. Bonn, Germany
- D. Samarkand, Uzbekistan

Q20. Who won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in April 2026?

- A. Jannik Sinner
- B. Lando Norris
- C. Carlos Alcaraz
- D. Mondo Duplantis

14. Answers & Explanations

Q1. Correct Answer: (C) 106th Amendment

The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam is formally the Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023. It was notified by the Law Ministry on 16 April 2026, providing 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for 15 years.

Q2. Correct Answer: (C) Rajya Sabha and Legislative Councils

The 33% quota covers only the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies. The Rajya Sabha and State Legislative Councils, being indirectly elected/nominated Houses, are excluded from the reservation.

Q3. Correct Answer: (D) 1 March 2027

Phase I (Houselisting) runs from April to September 2026, while Phase II (Population Enumeration) takes place in February 2027 with 1 March 2027 as the reference date. It is the world's first fully digital census.

Q4. Correct Answer: (B) Harivansh Narayan Singh

Harivansh Narayan Singh, nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the President under Article 80, was elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman for a third consecutive term. The office is provided under Article 89 of the Constitution.

Q5. Correct Answer: (B) A Supreme Court judge

Article 324(5) protects the CEC's tenure: removal requires proved misbehaviour or incapacity established through the Supreme Court judge removal procedure. This involves a special majority of both Houses following the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 process.

Q6. Correct Answer: (B) Right to menstrual health

In *Dr. Jaya Thakur vs Union of India*, the Court held the right to menstrual health to be part of the right to life under Article 21. It directed free sanitary pads and separate girls' toilets in schools.

Q7. Correct Answer: (B) Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering manipulates constituency boundaries for partisan gain. Packing concentrates opposition voters in few seats, while cracking scatters them so they form a majority nowhere; 'kidnapping' shifts an opponent's base to another constituency.

Q8. Correct Answer: (B) MGNREGA

Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) replaced MGNREGA in 2025. It guarantees 125 days of wage employment with 60:40 Centre-State funding and a 60-day pause during peak agricultural seasons.

Q9. Correct Answer: (B) India's largest open quantum testbed

QChipIN, expected within 12 months, will be India's largest open quantum testbed. AQV at Uddandarayunipalem, Amaravati is India's first integrated quantum ecosystem with partners IBM, TCS and L&T.;

Q10. Correct Answer: (B) Kurnool

The 598-hectare project lies in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh, developed by Geomysore Services India backed by Deccan Gold Mines. Full commercial production is targeted from May 2026 with 750 kg to 1 tonne of gold annually.

Q11. Correct Answer: (C) 56.33%

BCs form 56.33% - non-Muslim BCs 46.25% plus Muslim BCs 10.08%. SCs account for 17.43%, STs 10.45% and OCs 15.79%; Madiga (10.3%) is the largest single community.

Q12. Correct Answer: (B) 5.25%

The MPC unanimously held the repo rate at 5.25% and retained the neutral stance. The SDF stands at 5.00% and the MSF and Bank Rate at 5.50%.

Q13. Correct Answer: (D) 2024

The base year moved from 2012 to 2024 = 100, with the basket expanded from 299 to 358 items and first-time inclusion of rural house rent. Classification shifted to COICOP 2018 with 12 divisions.

Q14. Correct Answer: (C) Rs 16.72 lakh crore

NMP 2.0 (FY 2026-2030), prepared by NITI Aayog, targets Rs 16.72 lakh crore through leasing brownfield public assets. The government retains ownership while private players operate assets for 30-60 years.

Q15. Correct Answer: (B) Mons Mouton

ISRO selected Mons Mouton, a flat-topped mountain near the lunar south pole close to the South Pole-Aitken Basin. Chandrayaan-4 is India's first lunar sample-return mission.

Q16. Correct Answer: (B) Kalpakkam

The 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, built by BHAVINI, achieved a self-sustaining chain reaction. It is the key to Stage II of India's three-stage nuclear programme.

Q17. Correct Answer: (C) Third nuclear ballistic missile submarine

INS Aridhaman (S4) is the third Arihant-class SSBN after INS Arihant (2016) and INS Arighaat (2024), built under the Advanced Technology Vessel project. SSBNs provide India's sea-based nuclear second-strike capability.

Q18. Correct Answer: (A) Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in Aligarh district hosts 249 bird species and lies on the Central Asian Flyway. The CAF links Arctic breeding grounds with the Indian subcontinent across 30 countries.

Q19. Correct Answer: (B) Campo Grande, Brazil

The 15th COP of the Convention on Migratory Species (Bonn Convention) concluded at Campo Grande, Brazil. CMS, under UNEP, is the only global convention exclusively devoted to migratory species.

Q20. Correct Answer: (C) Carlos Alcaraz

Carlos Alcaraz took the top male honour for the first time, with Aryna Sabalenka named Sportswoman of the Year, at the Madrid ceremony on 20 April 2026. PSG won Team of the Year and Nadia Comaneci received the Lifetime Achievement Award.