

YEAR 2

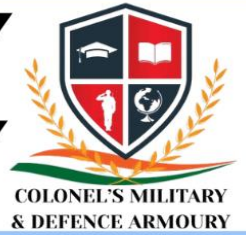


VOLUME 11



MAY 2026

COLONEL'S MILITARY & DEFENCE ARMOURY



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW OF

Dr Devi Prasad Shetty

(CHAIRMAN
NARAYANA HRUDAYALAYA
LIMITED)

ON WORLD HEALTH DAY



TOP LEADERSHIP CHANGES
AT IA: NEW VCOAS & 3 NEW
ARMY COMMANDERS



ANTARCTICA'S WILDLIFE
FACES GROWING CLIMATE
THREAT



FOREIGN COUNTRY FOCUS:
INDIA-S AFRICA RELATIONS
ON A NEW HIGH



NEPAL'S TRANSFORMATION:
BALENDRA SHAH, A FORMER
RAPPER IS THE NEW PM



US-IRAN TRUCE TALKS IN PAKISTAN
FAIL: WEST ASIA STILL IN TURMOIL,
HORMUZ REMAINS BLOCKED



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NK ANKIT SINGH



LNK AMOL



NK ROSHAN

3 Aspirants from 21 MAHAR & 49 Infantry Brigade mentored by Team ESELEI Achieve Success in SSB Interviews
Guided by the expert mentorship of Team ESELEI at Meerut Cantt in 2025, aspirants from 21 MAHAR & 49 Infantry Brigade have cleared their respective SSB Interviews and are now undergoing Officer Training at Indian Military Academy Dehradun, wef Jan 2026

A Note of Gratitude to the Mentors

"Our sincere thanks to Ruchika Mam, Jyoti Mam, and Bhasker Sir for their invaluable guidance and support throughout this journey!"



SEP RANJEET SINGH



RFN PRADEEP KANWAR



HAV KAMAL RANA

Three aspirants from 21 SIKH, 3/3 GR, and 3/5 GR (F/F) have successfully cleared their SSB Interviews, marking a significant milestone in their military careers.
Trained at Bhatinda & Delhi Cantts (Dec25' & Feb 26'), these candidates—securing recommendations for their respective ACC and SCO entries—excelled under the expert mentorship of Team ESELEI. Guided by Brig Milan Mathur, Col Bhasker Gupta, and Capt SK Yadav, they gained the strategic clarity essential for success.

A Note of Gratitude to the Mentors

"Our sincere thanks to Team ESELEI for their exceptional mentorship. The insights and disciplined approach provided by our mentors were crucial to our preparation and final recommendation. Jai Hind, Sir—we did it!"

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW Dr Devi Prasad Shetty : Chairman Narayana Hrudayalaya Limited	7
2. INTERNATIONAL NEWS	11
3. NATIONAL NEWS	19
4. DEFENCE NEWS	25
5. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT NEWS	33
6. SPORTS NEWS	38
7. ECONOMIC NEWS	43
8. A QUIZ TO RATTLE YOUR BRAINS	45
9. FOREIGN COUNTRY FOCUS : INDIA-SOUTH AFRICA TIES	48
10. PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR CIVIL SERVICES MAINS	52
11. READER'S PAGE	54



FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF'S DESK



Hello readers of CMDA-the Current Affairs Newsmag for India's youth. As the weather heats up across India- so has the situation in West Asia, which, after the failed talks in Pakistan, now seems headed for a continued turmoil, with no end in sight to the senseless violence unleashed by the bullies-USA-Israel, who seem to be hell-bent upon destroying world peace, just for their vested interests! By the way, other similar remark by the foot in mouth President Trump has angered Indians to no end, wherein he called our land a "hell-hole", inviting public wrath & a severe response from our MEA spokesperson, calling it "uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste".

April was the month of Navratras, so I too got roped into a pooja by Shri Gulab Singh, Director of Warriors Defence Academy, Lucknow, where I've started teaching Current Affairs. And, it was end of semester exams period, plus the NDA entrance written test was held on 12 April, wherein approx. 3 lakhs appeared, for the 394 vacancies, making the selection ratio nearly.0013 % or approx. 750 candidates per seat. This is where magazines like CMDA and our Hybrid SSB Course, the brochure of which is along-side, come in. We give you expert guidance and the right method as well as material, that shall ensure success-provided you work hard and follow our guidelines. As you can see, Team ESELEI is also growing from strength to strength, with 6 of our mentored candidates having got recommended in last 6 months, and many more shall follow in next 6!



Friends, coming to our monthly theme, 8th April was celebrated across the globe as **World Health Day**-so what better than to make our readers meet a Dr-a heart specialist beyond compare-who's devoted a lifetime to making healthcare affordable to all in India, and now runs a very successful chain of hospitals-under the **NARAYANA HEALTH brand-Dr Devi Prasad Shetty**. He's proudly transformed the healthcare environment in Karnataka, with a very successful "**Yeshasvini Scheme**", of low-cost health Insurance; replicating the same across Gujarat soon and is hoping that State Govts across the length & breadth of our medically deprived country, shall soon take up the challenge in their own respective State, so that overall the country's healthcare benefits. So, read all about his pioneering vision and exploits in our Interview of the Month section.

As regards International News, our News-writer Anjney Singh **reports** about strategic, economic, and political dimensions of the Middle East ceasefire negotiations; including how the continuing turmoil is leading to energy market volatility across the world. He then talks of rise of a new political outfit in Nepal- the RSP, and how its leader, the former rapper, a young Balendra Shah has caught the imagination of the masses



Watching a PBKS Vs LSG IPL match with extended family at the magnificent new stadium of PCA, at Chandigarh.

and won with a thumping majority. Next, he discusses trade diplomacy in transition wherein both the India–Canada & India–US trade ties have seen a positive reset; then reports on Earth day 2026: with global climate mobilization & policy shifts-rising voices across continents. Lastly, he reports on two high-profile visits to India in this month-by the German Chancellor & President of South Korea-both taking bilateral ties to a new high. Anjney has also covers the **Foreign Country Focus**-with **India-S Africa relations** being dissected in detail, on the occasion of S Africa’s National day.

Towards National news, Journalist **Nandini Kumari & Asstt Editor Mahima** jointly talk of **India’s census 2027** beginning with self-enumeration & mobile data collection; the unique & green Delhi-Dehradun Corridor being thrown open to the public by the PM; India declaring a regulatory framework for online gaming from May 1, 2026, under the **Promotion & Regulation of Online Gaming Act, 2025**. They report on the decline of a long-standing insurgency-**Naxalism in India having been almost eradicated**; India’s new **AI tool ‘Abhay’** being launched-to counter online scams; the much delayed **Jewar Airport** of Noida being finally innaugurated, and **India’s 99th Ramsar site-Shekha Jheel in UP** being recognised, and lastly report on the ongoing **Assembly polls in 5 States and the UT of Pondicherry, with TN & Bengal** being the clinchers!

In Defence coverage by Yogesh Dixit, he brings us news that Indian Army has undergone top leadership changes in April, with **Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth appointed as the Vice Chief**, thus setting in motion the chain for his accession as the Chief, once the current incumbent, Gen Dwivedi retires in Jul’26, and 3 Army Commanders being changed/shuffled. Next, he reports that Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by RM Rajnath Singh, **approves procurement proposals worth ₹2.38 lakh crore**, marking one of the largest approvals; **MoD having signed a ₹1,950 cr deal with BEL to supply indigenous mountain radars to the IAF**; that Army is set to induct **‘Silent Scout’ electric motorcycles** to enhance mobility and stealth; and acceleration in induction of **Light Combat Hепtr-Prachand**-to expand the attack helicopter fleets of Army & IAF. He also reports of Indian Armed Forces conducting **Jt Exs with Egyptian &Uzbek armies**; **Navy having s commissioned INS Aridhaman**, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN)-strengthening India’s sea-based nuclear capability & strategic deterrence.



One of my students at a recent SSB Interviews mentoring Course conducted at Delhi Cantt-Rfn KPradeep Kanwar -got proudly recommended.

Lastly, he reports about **Army's first blue-water sailing expedition, 'Samudra Sahas'**, being flagged off from Mumbai, as part of **Regt of Artillery's Bi-Centenary**, which incidentally was launched with my **Regt-Veer Marathas of 69 Med Regt!**

As regards **Science, Tech & Environment News**, **Yuvanshi Hooda** reports about **Hudsonian Godwit**, a migratory bird, **travels 30,000 km annually from the Arctic to South America**, but whose numbers are steadily declining; Scientists at **CERN's Large Hadron Collider** having discovered a **new proton-like particle**, but four times heavier than a proton, and **how Antarctica's wildlife faces growing climate threat**.

She then talks about **India's first open-access quantum reference facility opening in Amaravati**-a major step towards India's Quantum future; about a **new Airport plan for Puri, in Orissa, being rejected** over bird strike risk, and of a **new test for diagnosing**

urinary tract infections using the iPRISM platform.

Towards Economic News-Anand Srivastava analyses why the **Official Development Assistance has fallen globally by 23% in 2025**; why private lending has taken a hit worldwide with names like **Blue Owl, Apollo, KKR & BlackRock just shutting their taps**, and why **RBI has pressed a pause at its rate revision**, and why it matters to Indian economy. Anand also gives us those **20 Quiz Questions** to rack your brain with, plus **5 CSE Mains Questions**, with one solved for your comfort!

Wrt Sports News, this desk, temporarily **under Yogesh Dixit**, reports that **India came overall 2nd at the World Junior Wushu tourney & came on top at the World Para Archery event held at Bangkok**, with powerful performances from Sheetal Devi & Payal Nag. Yogesh also reports that Bangladesh won the South Asian Football Federation U-20 Championship 2026, beating India 4-3 on penalties in the final held in Malé, Maldives; **India delivering a strong performance at Asian Boxing Elite Championships '26** held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, securing 16 medals; **Nitin Gupta** creating history at the 24th National Junior Athletics held in Tumkur, Karnataka, **becoming the first Asian athlete to break the 19-minute barrier in the 5km race walk**. He also covers the **FIDE Candidates Chess**, the **Asian Badminton Championship**, & the **Asian Wrestling Tourney** held in Jordan.

This month's reader's page features heart-touching articles/Poems by talented girls from Pacific World School, G Noida West. Readers-we invite schools & colleges, to showcase their talented writers. Do get in touch with the Ed-in-Chief or our mktg men- **Anjaney Singh**, on anjneysingh0@gmail.com or **Anand** at srivastavaanand900@gmail.com.

Readers- this unique magazine prides itself in originality of content-and there's no parallel to match this effort, because there we carry no commercials-to distract you from the news! Plus, it's not available in the open market, and comes to you exclusively through subscriptions only! **Pl renew your subscriptions, both print & digital, for whomsoever its due. Keep Reading & remain smiling, always! Do send in your feedbacks on our WhatsApp numbers/e-mail/SM handles!**

JAI HIND Col (Dr) Bhasker Gupta (retd), cmda.newsmag@gmail.com

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

DR DEVI PRASAD SHETTY, CHAIRMAN, NARAYANA HRUDAYALAYA LIMITED

Brief Profile

A cardiac surgeon of repute and a successful entrepreneur, Dr Shetty is a highly respected luminary for his ingenious ideas for reforms in the healthcare sector. His visionary leadership to make quality healthcare affordable for all has drawn global recognition. A strong advocate of technology for efficient healthcare delivery, Dr Shetty takes deep interest in creating and developing software products and applications to achieve time and cost efficiency while minimizing clinical errors in healthcare delivery. Dr. Shetty pioneered pediatric cardiac surgery in India. His inspiring journey is chronicled in the Netflix documentary "The Surgeon's Cut".

Founder-Chairman at Narayana Health Group of Hospitals-with 40 healthcare facilities & 6,000 beds, it recently acquired a chain of surgical centres in UK, plus operates in Cayman Islands, besides UK & India. Under his stewardship, Narayana Health has recently ventured into a unique Health Insurance model – to be both a healthcare provider and a health insurer. For example, **Yeshaswini**, a very inexpensive micro health insurance scheme benefitting more than 3.4 million rural poor, in Karnataka, jointly with the State Govt.





He is also a renowned academicians-plus current Chairman, Board of Governors, IIM, Bangalore; Chairman of Academics Committee of Healthcare Sector Skill Council & member of Governing Board of National Health Authority of India. Earlier, he's served as a Member, Board of Governors of MCI as well as, has a US Patent registered as inventor. He's recipient of several prestigious awards including the Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri, The Economist Innovation Award, Financial Times Arcelor Mittal 'Boldness in Business' Award, Nikkei Asia Prize for Economic and Business Innovation. He has also been awarded honorary doctorates

from the University of Minnesota, IIT Madras & IIT Kanpur.

THE INTERVIEW

Q1. CMDA: Dr Shetty, it's a privilege to be speaking with an acclaimed surgeon like you. Sir, what's a harsh truth about becoming a great Dr that no one tells students early enough?

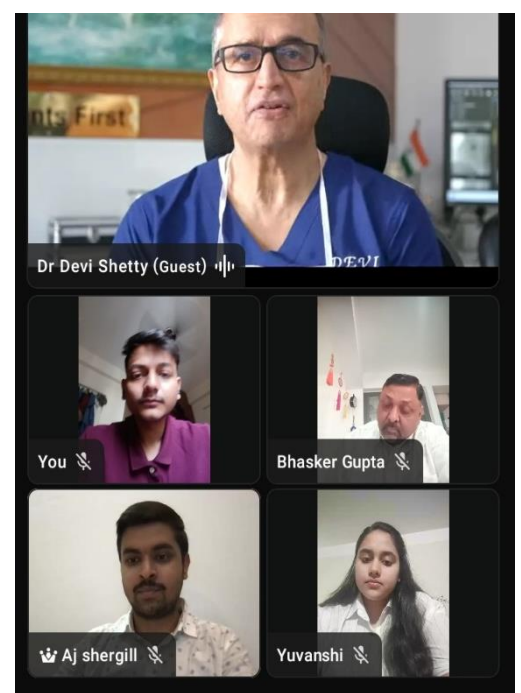
Ans: Dr Devi Shetty (DDS): The simple truth is that this profession is all about compassion & endurance, so be ready to sweat it out and enter only if you have the passion to do so! We have allowed medical education to become an elitist pursuit, but the reality is that the *"magic"* in a doctor's fingers often comes from the *"fire in the belly"* found in those from modest backgrounds. Students aren't told that you will be working 12-18-hour days for decades; So if you're here for a comfortable lifestyle, then you're in the wrong profession!

Q2. CMDA: In your entire career, was there a moment where a decision you made still keeps you up at night?

Ans: DDS: In the business of healthcare, one should be ready to make many mistakes! What haunts me are memories from that *"pre-reform"* era, where a child would die simply because their parents didn't have 5,000 rupees. Those sleepless nights were the catalyst for my life's mission. Today, knowing that we have a government committed to schemes like **Ayushman Bharat**, I sleep better-finally India is building a system where no citizen is *one illness away from bankruptcy*.

Q3. CMDA: How do you envision AI transforming the future of healthcare delivery, particularly in resource-constrained settings?

Ans: DDS: AI is the "digital specialist" that the government can now deploy to every village. It doesn't replace the doctor; it *"de-skills"* complexity. Nowadays → its analysing data diagnosing planning the treatment, all on its own! It allows a technician to interpret a





complex ECG or predict a cardiac arrest 24 hours in advance. However, 80% of hospitals across the world still don't use digital records, so we have a long way to go. At Narayana Healthcare, **we already have 50 Software Engineers working on this**. So, AI is the only way to bypass the 100-year wait to train enough specialists for India's population.

Q4. CMDA: What role do you see emerging technologies like **telemedicine and wearables** playing in preventive healthcare?

Ans: DDS: We are shifting from "Sick-care" to a national preventive ecosystem. Govt's push for the National Digital Health Mission is revolutionary. Wearables and predictive AI allow us to treat the human body like an aircraft engine—detecting "faults" before a crash occurs. Plus, as I said earlier, AI helps in the difficult part by doing differential diagnosis. By scaling these through the government's digital backbone, we are moving towards a future where AI will be used legally to get a 2nd medical opinion. So, in short, all tech tools make healthcare safe & accessible.

Q5: CMDA: Why do most govts struggle to replicate the "**Narayana Model**" of low-cost care, which you have successfully implemented in Karnataka?

Ans: DDS: Historically, many governments viewed healthcare as a cost to be managed. As per some figures, its penetration is only 16% across India. However, all that is now changing. The current Govt at the Centre has made a paradigm shift—they now see healthcare as an investment in human capital. While other nations are trapped in expensive, outdated models, India is using "**economies of scale**" to drive down costs, treating healthcare as a high-volume logistics challenge—to be solved through efficiency.

Q6: CMDA: What is the single biggest policy failure standing between rural India and basic healthcare?

Ans: DDS: The past failure was the artificial scarcity of specialists due to elitist training rules—imagine no specialist for a nearly 600 million population! However, I'm impressed by the current government's expansion of medical seats (having added 75k seats in the last 10 years and plans afoot to add 75k more in the next 5 years); as also upgrading of district hospitals into teaching hospitals. This is exactly how we will get doctors into rural India—by training local youth who desire to serve their own communities.

Q7: CMDA: Is Healthcare a right or service? And have India's policymakers answered this?

Ans: DDS: Healthcare must be a right independent of wealth, and India's policymakers have answered this decisively through schemes like Ayushman Bharat. We are becoming a global case study for healthcare as a fundamental economic right—only thing left is to make health insurance cheaper—affordable for all—**less than what a cup of Coffee costs—Rs 16**

per day, as Karnataka has done! However, we must remember 3 things that are common with foreign Govts successfully giving free healthcare:

1. They have a smaller target base-less than 20 million to achieve;
2. They have a very high Tax to GDP ratio- maybe 25 to 30%;
3. They spend 10-15% of GDP on it (India spends only 1.5% in contrast).



Q8: CMDA: What stops initiatives like “Yeshasvini” from becoming a national resource?

Ans: DDS: Initially, it was a **"Trust Gap,"** but today's Govts have become progressive & risk takers. The challenge used to be convincing people that micro-payments could fund heart surgeries. Today, with digital payments push and flagship health schemes, these *"fairy tales"* have become a reality for 500 million people. So, in the cost of a mobile connection rent of say Rs 500 pm, India can easily make people buy affordable Health Insurance. So I hope more State Govts will come forward and through the BPL card or any such scheme, make sure that health insurance is available to all.

Q9: CMDA: How will you dispel the belief that specialists are only interested in *"churning money"*?

Ans: DDS: You dispel it by showing that efficiency is an act of mercy. When we work with govts to treat the underprivileged, we prove that being *"money-minded"* & *"mission-minded"* aren't mutually exclusive-efficiency creates the surplus that allows us to be compassionate. Let me assure you, with my 50 years of experience, that **99.9% of doctors are committed, and that is the truth!**

Q10: CMDA: What is your message to the youth and the readers of CMDA magazine?

Ans: DDS: My simple message to all Indians is- there are so many people around you, who make your life comfortable daily-the maids-cooks-drivers- cleaners, etc. Just ask, what happens when they fall sick- do they have health insurance? Do something which possibly

protects them from this emergency- contribute to give them affordable healthcare.



I also **appreciate the efforts being done by Col Bhasker and his team** to bring forth such issues into the public domain-and hope that your readers will understand and make that change happen. So, ***don't be a spectator to India's golden era-be a part of it. Dream big & do not fear failure!***

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MIDDLE EAST CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS: STRATEGIC, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL DIMENSIONS

Introduction: The ceasefire negotiations, that were underway after Trump's unilateral pause in operations- started between the US, Iran & regional actors- indicating a pivotal juncture in Middle Eastern geopolitics. Structured around a reported 15-point framework, the talks were driven by a convergence of military restraint, economic necessity, and political signalling.

From Washington's perspective, the priority lies in stabilizing global energy markets and reopening the Strait of Hormuz, where shipping disruptions have stranded thousands of vessels.

Importance of a Ceasefire: USA views the proposed ceasefire as a mechanism to safeguard trade routes & prevent escalation into a wider regional war. For Tehran, the calculus is more complex. Publicly, Iranian leaders deny formal negotiations, projecting defiance to maintain domestic legitimacy. Privately, however, the economic strain of sanctions and maritime blockades compels consideration of limited concessions.

Saudi Arabia's involvement adds weight to the process. As a regional power and oil exporter, Riyadh's alignment with Washington underscores the urgency of de-escalation. Yet its position is shaped by the need to balance deterrence against Iran with domestic security imperatives. Smaller Gulf states, already reeling from attacks on merchant vessels, view the ceasefire as essential to restoring confidence in maritime security.

The Economic dimension: is immediate. Oil prices, which surged during the conflict, fell below \$100 once news of negotiations surfaced. This decline highlights the sensitivity of global markets to Middle Eastern stability. For importing nations in Asia-Europe, a ceasefire promises relief from inflationary pressures and energy insecurity.



Conclusion: Still, skepticism remains. Iran's warning to the US that "*continuing confrontation is futile*" reflects both resistance and bargaining. Analysts caution that without verifiable guarantees- covering militia activity, maritime safety, and sanctions relief- the ceasefire risks becoming a temporary pause rather than a durable settlement. Ultimately, the negotiations embody the intersection of strategic ambition and regional stability. Their success will depend on whether all parties can reconcile immediate economic imperatives with long-term security commitments.

ENERGY MARKET VOLATILITY: STRATEGIC DIMENSIONS AND GLOBAL REPURCUSSIONS

“Energy security is the lifeblood of modern economies; when disrupted, it reshapes the global order.”

Historical Context

Energy markets have long mirrored geopolitical turbulence. The oil shocks of 1973, the Gulf wars of 1990–91, and the Russia–Ukraine conflict in 2022–23 revealed how supply disruptions destabilize economies. Today, escalating tensions in West Asia—drone strikes on Kuwait’s aviation fuel reserves, missile attacks on Qatar’s oil tankers, and Israeli operations in Lebanon—have once again unsettled critical supply chains.

Key Fact: The Strait of Hormuz channels nearly **20% of global oil trade**, making it the most strategic chokepoint in current volatility.

Present Dynamics: Crude oil prices have fluctuated between **\$95–\$110 per barrel** in early April 2026. Gold retreated to **\$4,650 per ounce** and silver to **\$72.48 per ounce**, reflecting shifting investor sentiment. The volatility is systemic, driven by military escalation, maritime insecurity, and fragile supply routes.

Pointer: Energy infrastructure has become a weapon of war, with attacks on Gulf hubs directly impacting global supply.

Global Consequences

- **Europe:** Faces renewed insecurity after reduced Russian gas flows.
- **Asia:** Import-dependent economies like Japan, South Korea, and India confront rising costs.

- **United States:** Despite shale reserves, remains entangled due to military commitments & alliance structures.

Data Point: Global inflationary pressures rose by **0.5–0.7%** in April 2026 due to energy price spikes.

India’s Exposure

India consumes nearly **5 million bpd**, out of which **85% is imported**, making us the world’s **3rd largest oil importer**. Rising crude prices strain fiscal balances, widen the current account deficit, and fuel domestic inflation. Strategic petroleum

reserves of **5.33 million tonnes** may provide temporary relief but cannot offset structural dependence.



Key Concern: Every \$1 increase in crude, adds \$1.5 billion to our annual import bill.
Strategic Alternatives

- **Renewables:** Expand solar and wind capacity beyond the current **175 GW**.
 - **Green H2:** Scale up pilot projects to reduce industrial dependence on fossil fuels.
 - **Diversification:** Build energy partnerships with Africa and Latin America.
 - **Corridors:** Strengthen the India–Middle East–Europe Eco Corridor for resilience.
- Conclusion:** Energy market volatility is no longer a cyclical fluctuation but a systemic shock rooted in geopolitics. For India and the world, the challenge lies in transforming vulnerability into opportunity-through diversification, innovation, and strategic foresight. Hence, it's not merely an energy crisis; but a test of global strategic endurance.

NEPAL'S POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION: BALENDRA SHAH IS THE NEW PM: RISE OF RSP

Introduction: Nepal's March 2026 general elections marked a decisive break from entrenched dynastic politics. The **Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP)** secured a commanding majority in the House of Representatives, winning **182 out of 275 seats**. Established parties such as the **Nepali Congress** and **CPN (UML)** suffered heavy losses, reflecting public frustration with corruption and governance failures.



Leadership Shift

At the centre of this transformation is **Balendra Shah**, a 35-year-old rapper-turned-activist and former Kathmandu mayor, now sworn in as the new PM. His rise symbolizes generational change. Shah's Cabinet is composed largely of professionals from journalism, law, and academia, signalling a deliberate departure from patronage-driven politics toward merit-based

governance.

Governance Agenda

Shah's first major initiative was adoption of a **100-point Governance Reform Agenda**. Among his notable measures, was a **formal state apology to Dalit communities**-for centuries of caste-based discrimination-an unprecedented move in Nepal's political history. He also emphasized:

- Transparency and anti-corruption mechanisms
- Digitization of public services
- Decentralization of decision-making
- Youth employment and education reform

Economic Challenges

The administration faces the dual challenge of addressing unemployment and stimulating growth. By focusing on **youth employment, education reform, and climate resilience**, the RSP seeks to align governance with long-term sustainability. Digital accountability and institutional transparency are central to restoring public trust.

Regional Implications

Nepal's political reset carries significant implications for **India–Nepal relations**. Bilateral ties are expected to recalibrate under youth-led diplomacy, with trade facilitation and cultural exchange gaining prominence. India's strategic interests—border security, hydropower cooperation, and regional stability—will now intersect with a government less bound by traditional alignments.

Global Perspective

Internationally, Nepal's democratic renewal has drawn attention as a model for societies seeking generational change. RSP's rise, driven by grassroots mobilization and civic activism, demonstrates how public demand for integrity can reshape electoral mandates.

Conclusion: Nepal's new government faces formidable challenges—economic recovery, federal consolidation, and geopolitical balancing—but its emergence signals a rare moment of clarity in South Asian politics: a generational mandate for clean governance, inclusive reform, and democratic resilience.



US–IRAN TRUCE TALKS IN PAKISTAN: A GEOSTRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

Diplomatic Significance of Islamabad



The decision to convene truce negotiations at Pakistan's Nur Khan Air Base reflects the **strategic centrality of Islamabad** in regional diplomacy. Pakistan's geographic position—bridging South Asia, the Persian Gulf, and Central Asia—renders it a natural interlocutor between Washington and Tehran. Hosting such talks enhances Pakistan's profile as a **mediator in high-stakes conflict management**, while simultaneously reinforcing its relevance in global security discourse.

Washington's Strategic Imperatives

For the United States, the initiative is driven by the need to **contain escalation** following Iran's regime shift under the Revolutionary Guards. The truce effort is not a pursuit of reconciliation but a

calculated attempt to **stabilize the regional security architecture** and safeguard global energy flows. By engaging through Pakistan, Washington demonstrates a preference for **indirect diplomacy and strategic restraint**, avoiding direct confrontation while signaling readiness to recalibrate its Middle East posture.

Tehran's Negotiating Position

Iran approaches the dialogue from a position of **assertive deterrence**. The Revolutionary Guards, now entrenched as the ruling authority, view negotiations as a tactical maneuver to consolidate power and project resilience. Their objective is to **sustain strategic depth against Israel and the US**, leveraging talks as a temporary buffer while reinforcing military and ideological control at home.

Pakistan's Balancing Role

Islamabad's involvement underscores its **dual balancing act**: maintaining credibility with Washington while preserving functional ties with Tehran. By facilitating dialogue, Pakistan seeks to **reassert diplomatic agency** beyond its traditional South Asian security concerns. However, this role carries inherent risks, as deeper entanglement in Middle Eastern rivalries could expose Pakistan to **spillover instability**.

Broader Geostrategic Implications

- **Energy Security:** A truce could mitigate volatility in oil and precious metals markets.
- **Regional Dynamics:** Failure risks intensifying the Iran–Israel confrontation, with potential Gulf and Russian involvement.
- **US Policy Shift:** Reliance on proxy diplomacy highlights Washington's evolving approach toward **conflict management rather than regime transformation**.

Conclusion: The US–Iran truce talks in Pakistan represent a **strategic experiment in mediated diplomacy**, aimed at managing escalation rather than achieving durable peace. The outcome will shape the **post-Khamenei balance of power** in the Middle East and determine whether Pakistan can credibly position itself as a stabilizing actor in a volatile geopolitical theatre.

INDIA–CANADA & INDIA–US TRADE RESET: TRADE DIPLOMACY IN TRANSITION

Introduction: On March 10, 2026, India's external trade posture reflected a **dual recalibration**—reviving Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) negotiations with Canada while cautiously engaging the US amid tariff disputes. This dual track underscores New Delhi's pursuit of **strategic autonomy**, balancing resource security with economic resilience.

Canada: Energy and Nuclear Cooperation

India's renewed CEPA dialogue with Canada included a framework for **uranium supply**, reinforcing civil-nuclear cooperation. This initiative serves as a **strategic hedge** against energy volatility triggered by instability in West Asia. By diversifying nuclear fuel imports, India strengthens its **long-term energy security** while deepening ties with a G7 partner.



For Canada, the engagement aligns with its Indo-Pacific strategy, offering access to India's expanding market and reinforcing bilateral trust.

United States: Trade Friction & Strategic Autonomy

In parallel, India faced **countervailing duties on solar exports** imposed by Washington. This dispute highlights the tension between India's **Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) policy** and US protectionist measures. While defense and strategic cooperation remain strong, trade relations reveal persistent friction. India's cautious approach reflects a **realist calculation**-maintaining security partnerships while resisting economic dependency.

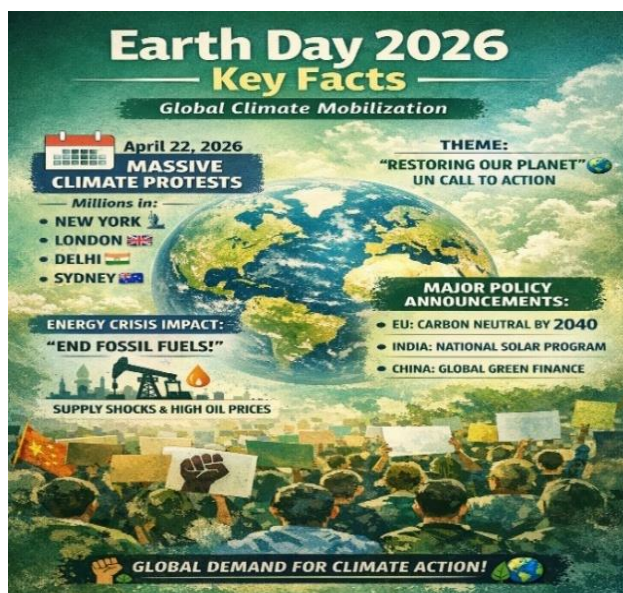
Strategic Balancing Act

India's simultaneous engagement with Canada-US illustrates a **balancing strategy**:

- **Energy Security:** Leveraging Canadian uranium to stabilize supply chains.
- **Trade Resilience:** Diversifying partnerships to reduce vulnerability to US tariffs.
- **Diplomatic Autonomy:** Preserving independence in economic choices while sustaining strategic partnerships.

Conclusion: India's trade diplomacy in March 2026 demonstrates a **layered approach to global engagement**-strengthening energy security through Canada while managing friction with the US. This recalibration reflects New Delhi's ambition to act as a **resilient power in a fragmented global order**, prioritizing **strategic autonomy, diversified partnerships & eco sovereignty**.

EARTH DAY 2026: GLOBAL CLIMATE MOBILIZATION & POLICY SHIFTS-RISING VOICES ACROSS CONTINENTS



Introduction: On April 22, 2026, Earth Day became more than a symbolic observance-it transformed into a worldwide mobilization. From **New York to Delhi, London to Sydney**, millions of citizens marched, demanding urgent action on fossil fuel reduction and renewable energy adoption. The protests reflected growing frustration with governments perceived as slow to respond to escalating climate risks.

Policy Announcements and Strategic

Commitments: Govts seized the moment to unveil new initiatives:

- **EU** pledged stricter carbon neutrality targets for **2040**, accelerating green transition.
- **India** launched a national solar expansion program aimed at reducing dependence on imported oil, a move tied directly to recent energy market volatility.
- **China** introduced a global green finance framework to support developing nations in adopting sustainable practices.

These announcements underscored how climate activism is increasingly shaping state policy, linking environmental sustainability to geopolitical stability.

Interconnection with Geopolitical Tensions

The timing was significant. Just days earlier, the **Iran–US Gulf crisis** had disrupted oil supply chains, driving up global fuel prices. Protesters highlighted the connection: reliance on fossil fuels not only accelerates climate change but also exposes nations to geopolitical shocks. This dual pressure reinforced the urgency of transitioning to renewable energy.

Symbolism and Global Resonance

The theme “**Restoring Our Planet**”, emphasized by the UN, resonated strongly. It became a rallying point for collective responsibility, bridging environmental activism with broader concerns about energy security, economic resilience & social justice. The mobilization showed that climate issues are no longer siloed-but central to global governance.

To Sum Up: Earth Day 2026 marked a turning point in climate politics. Unlike previous years, the mobilization was not only about awareness, but about **direct policy influence**. The convergence of environmental activism and geopolitical energy crises amplified the urgency of change. EU, India & China’s announcements suggest that climate protests are now a **strategic driver of policy**, not merely symbolic gestures. It also highlighted 3 critical dynamics, demonstrating that climate activism has matured into a **geopolitical force**, shaping both domestic and international agendas.

- **Public Pressure:** Mass mobilization is forcing governments to act faster.
- **Geopolitical Linkages:** Energy crises are accelerating the renewable transition.
- **Global Solidarity:** Climate action is increasingly framed as a shared responsibility across nations.

HIGH PROFILE VISITS TO INDIA BY AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR & SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT



Austrian Chancellor Dr Christian Stocker paid a historic official visit to India from April 14–17, 2026, marking the first visit by an Austrian Chancellor in over 4 decades. Accompanied by a high-level business delegation, he held talks with PM Modi, focusing on bolstering cooperation in technology, trade (semiconductors, renewables) & defence, including the launch of a new Working Holiday Programme. This visit, following PM Modi's visit to Austria in 2024, has further accelerated the positive momentum in bilateral relations.

Highlights

Significance: This was Chancellor Stocker's first visit to Asia, highlighting India's growing importance in Austria's foreign policy and strengthening the India-EU strategic partnership.

Key Discussions: Both leaders emphasized the need for peace in Ukraine & West Asia, as well as bolstering bilateral ties, focusing on trade, technology & talent.

Agreements: Signing of multiple agreements and the operationalization of a bilateral Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) to facilitate investments between Austrian and Indian firms.



Business Focus: A high-level delegation, including Minister of Economy, Energy and Tourism Dr. Wolfgang Hattmannsdorfer & reps from over 60 companies, highlighted the focus on trade and investment in sectors like semiconductors and renewable energy.

South Korean President Lee Jae-Myung paid a 3-day visit from **April 19–21**, marking the first by a South Korean leader in 8 years. It aimed at strengthening the India-Korea "Special Strategic Partnership," with focus on enhancing eco, tech & defence cooperation. It was designed to recalibrate the bilateral relationship and "revitalise" ties that had seen limited high-level engagement in previous years



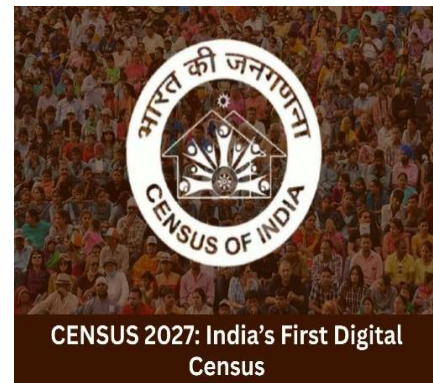
Highlights

- **Bilateral Summit:** President Lee held talks with PM Modi at Hyderabad House, focusing on deepening collaboration in semiconductors, defence production, green energy, and trade.
- **"Chips to Ships" Framework:** A significant focus was on the "chips to ships" strategy-i.e. a boost to cooperation in shipbuilding, maritime logistics & SC supply chain resilience.
- **Key Agreements:** 15+ agreements (MoU's) spanning shipbuilding, technology, sustainability & energy security, were inked.
- **Joint Strategic Vision:** Both sides gave a roadmap to deepen the Special Strategic Partnership across political, eco & tech domains, reaffirming a target of \$50 billion in trade by 2030.

NATIONAL NEWS

INDIA'S CENSUS FINALLY BEGINS: SELF-ENUMERATION & MOBILE DATA COLLECTION

Introduction: On 1st April '26, Govt of India launched Census 2027, marking a historic shift as the country begins its first fully digital population census. Initiated by the President-Droupadi Murmu through self-enumeration, the exercise reflects a major transformation in how demographic data is collected and used. As India's 16th Census, it introduces technology-driven processes and greater citizen participation.



About Census 2027

- A nationwide exercise capturing demographic, socio-economic, and housing data.
- First census using digital tools and online platforms.
- Conducted under the Census Act, 1948, ensuring confidentiality.
- Supports policy planning and welfare programmes.

Digital Transformation

- Enumerators will use mobile applications instead of paper forms.
- Enables real-time monitoring, faster processing, and improved accuracy.
- Features secure systems with encryption and authentication.
- Reflects a shift toward efficient, data-driven governance.

Two Phases: PhI: House-listing & Housing Census (April–Sep 2026)

- Covers housing conditions, amenities, and assets.
- Includes a 15-day self-enumeration window.
- Uses 33 structured questions.

Phase II: Population Enumeration (Feb 2027): Collects data on demographics, education, migration, and fertility.

Key Dates, Self-Enumeration, and Scale & Participation

- The reference date is March 1, 2027, with Oct 1, 2026 for regions like Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Himachal J& K.



- Citizens can use self-enumeration to submit data online in 16 languages, receiving a unique ID and reducing the need for physical visits.
- With a budget of ₹11,718.24 crore, its world's largest data collection exercise, with over 55,000 households participating on day one.

Conclusion: Census 2027 marks a decisive move toward digital governance and efficient administration. By combining technology, security, and public participation, it strengthens India's capacity for informed policymaking and inclusive development over the next decade.

PM INAUGURATES DELHI-DEHRADUN CORRIDOR

Introduction: On 15th April PM Modi undertook a significant visit, highlighting both India's spiritual heritage & infra development, inaugurating the Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira in Karnataka & the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor.

Spiritual & Cultural Highlights

- The Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira at Adichunchanagiri Hills symbolizes service, wisdom, and enduring spiritual values rooted in India's traditions.



- Tribute was paid to Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji for his significant contributions to education, healthcare, and community upliftment.
- Reinforces Karnataka's importance as centre of spiritual-cultural heritage.

Infrastructure & Economic Development

- The Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor strengthens connectivity between Delhi and Dehradun.
- It reduces travel time by half (2.5 hrs now), boost trade & create employment opportunities.
- The corridor improves access to key destinations in Uttarakhand, including Haridwar and Rishikesh.

Sustainability & Tourism: The project includes a **12-km elevated wildlife corridor** to protect biodiversity and ensure safe animal movement. It enhances tourism to Uttarakhand's religious destinations & its identity as **Devbhoomi-Land of Gods**.

Conclusion: The twin initiatives reflect a balanced approach preserving India's cultural roots while accelerating modern infrastructure growth, highlighting a governance model that integrates tradition with development.

WEST BENGAL & TAMIL NADU GO TO POLLS

Introduction-The 2026 assembly elections in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu witnessed an unprecedented surge in voter participation. These elections highlight heightened political

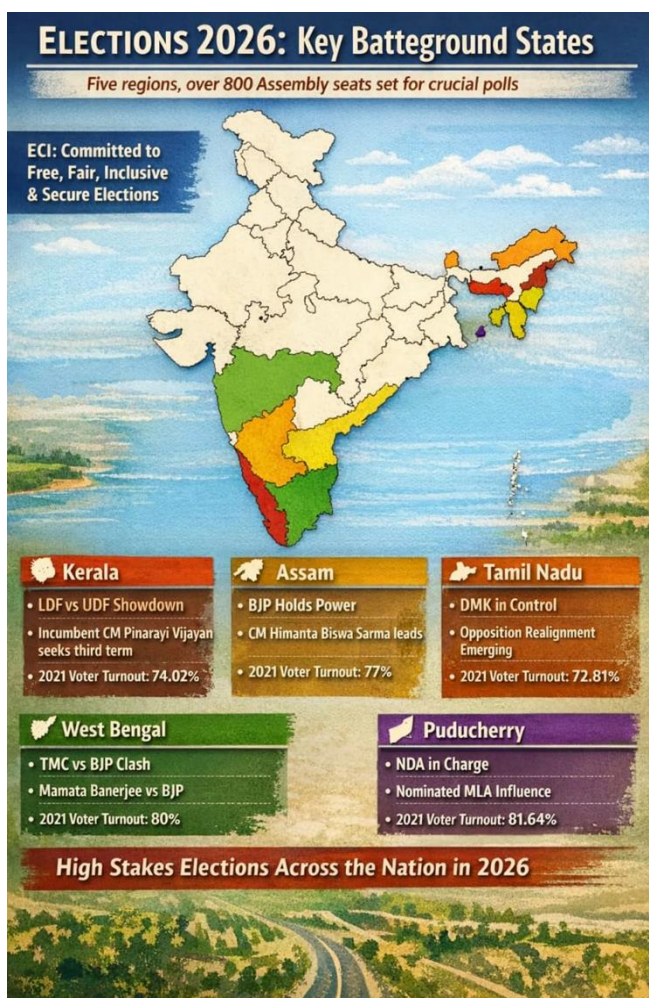


awareness, intense competition, and a renewed public engagement in shaping state leadership.

Historical Context -Both states have long held distinct political identities. West Bengal has traditionally been dominated by regional forces like the Trinamool Congress, while Tamil Nadu politics has revolved around Dravidian parties-DraVIDa Munnetra Kazhagam & All India Anna DraVIDa Munnetra Kazhagam. Historically, voter turnout in these states has been high compared to national averages. However, the 2026 elections have broken previous records set during the 2011 assembly polls-78.3% in Tamil Nadu and 84.7% in West Bengal-indicating a significant shift in voter enthusiasm.

Key Contests -In Tamil Nadu, the election turned into a triangular contest:

- DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance emphasized its “Dravidian Model” of governance.
- AIADMK, in alliance with BJP, campaigned on corruption-free administration.
- Actor Vijay added a new dimension, attracting younger voters and creating a buzz among first-time participants.



Meanwhile, West Bengal continues to witness a high-stakes political contest, with regional dominance being challenged amid strong campaigning and strategic positioning by national parties. We also saw historic participation: **Tamil Nadu:** 85.13% turnout; **W Bengal:** 92.59% voter turnout. Despite the enthusiasm, certain areas reported tension, particularly in pockets of West Bengal known for electoral sensitivities. Concerns over security, political clashes & voter intimidation were closely monitored. Besides, **Puducherry, Assam & Kerala too went for polls simultaneously.**

What Went Right- Authorities ensured largely peaceful polling through:

- Enhanced security deployment
- Strict monitoring of sensitive booths
- Efficient management of polling stations

Several factors contributed to the success of these elections:

- Increased youth participation and first-time voters
- Effective voter awareness campaigns

- Improved accessibility to polling booths
- Strong election management by authorities

Conclusion-With the second phase of polling in West Bengal scheduled for April 29, all eyes are now on May 4, when votes will be counted. The results are expected to significantly influence regional and national political narratives.

JEWAR AIRPORT INNAUGURATED

Introduction - The development of Noida International Airport, which was inaugurated on 28th March, by PM Modi, represents a major leap in India's aviation infrastructure. Planned in Western UP, this greenfield project aims to strengthen global connectivity, reduce congestion in existing airports, and accelerate economic growth across northern India.



Further Insights

- **Strategic Location Advantage:** Situated near Jewar, the airport will connect key cities like Agra, Mathura, and Gautam Budh Nagar to global markets, reducing travel time and enhancing regional accessibility.
- **Boost to Industrial Growth:** Improved air connectivity will integrate local industries with international supply chains. Industrial corridors and logistics hubs in western UP are expected to grow, attracting both domestic and foreign investment.
- **Tourism Expansion:** Proximity to major tourist destinations like Agra and Mathura will increase visitor inflow, potentially generating higher revenue and encouraging the development of new tourism circuits.
- **Decongestion of Delhi Airport:** Will significantly reduce pressure on Indira Gandhi International Airport, which is nearing its max capacity, ensuring smoother passenger and cargo operations in the NCR region.
- **Public-Private Partnership Model:** Developed under a PPP model, the project is led by Zurich Airport International AG, ensuring global standards in design, technology, and management.
- **Phased Expansion Plan:** Phase 1 covers around **1,334 hectares** with two runways, while long-term plans aim to expand the airport to **7,200 acres with six runways**, making it one of the largest airports in Asia.



- **Strong Connectivity Network:** Located 700 m from Yamuna Expressway, its linked to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway. Future connectivity through Palwal–Khurja Expressway will further enhance regional access.

Conclusion- Noida International Airport is poised to become a transformative project for northern India. By combining infrastructure development with economic opportunity, it will

not only strengthen aviation capacity but also drive industrialization, tourism, and regional integration.

INDIA’S 99TH RAMSAR SITE: SHEKHA JHEEL IN UP

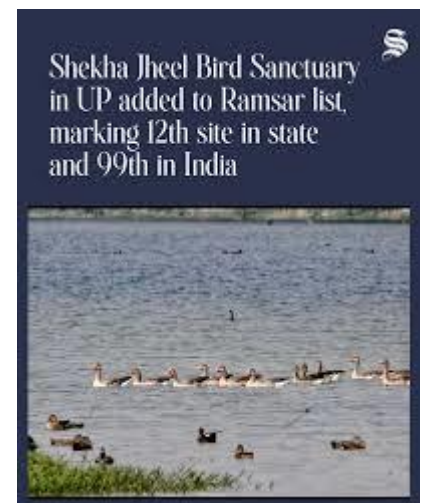
Introduction: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the inclusion of Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary in UP as India’s 99th Ramsar site on April 22, 2026. Located in Aligarh, it highlights India’s growing commitment to wetland conservation & biodiversity protection, raising UP’s total Ramsar sites to 12.

Ecological Importance of Shekha Jheel: The wetland maintains ecological balance and biodiversity, serving as a key habitat for migratory birds along the Central Asian Flyway, including Bar-headed Goose, Painted Stork & various waterfowl species.

Boost to Biodiversity, Livelihoods & Climate Security: The designation enhances ecosystem conservation, species protection, climate regulation, eco-tourism & local employment, while encouraging community participation.

What is a Ramsar Site? - A Ramsar Site is a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention (1971), vital for biodiversity conservation, groundwater recharge, flood control, and climate stability.

Conclusion: This Recognition strengthens India’s position in global wetland conservation & reflects a sustained push toward environmental sustainability.



INDIA’S NEW AI TOOL ‘ABHAY’ TO PROTECT FROM ONLINE SCAMS

Introduction: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched an AI-powered chatbot named 'Abhay' to help citizens verify official notices and avoid falling victim to digital scams. Unveiled by India's CJI, Surya Kant, the initiative comes amid rising cases of cyber fraud and marks a significant step toward using AI for public safety & cybercrime prevention.

What is the 'Abhay' AI Chatbot? - 'Abhay' is an AI-based verification tool that allows users to check whether notices claiming to be from the CBI are genuine or fake, helping prevent panic and financial fraud.

Tackling the Rising Threat of Digital Arrest Scams: The chatbot targets digital arrest scams, where fraudsters impersonate officials, issue fake notices, and extort money, with such crimes reportedly involving losses of nearly ₹54,000 crore.

Role of AI in Modern Policing: It reflects a shift toward tech-driven policing, using AI for fraud detection, digital forensics & real-time citizen assistance.

Conclusion: The 'Abhay' chatbot acts as a first line of defense against cyber fraud, empowering citizens with instant verification tools while strengthening trust in digital governance and law enforcement.



PM MARKS OPENING OF KEDARNATH DHAM; CHARDHAM YATRA COMMENCES



On 22nd April, PM Modi expressed deep reverence on the sacred occasion of the opening of the doors of Shri Kedarnath Dham in Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, marking the commencement of this year's Chardham Yatra. On the occasion, the shared his heartfelt sentiments through a letter addressed to all devotees visiting Uttarakhand for the Yatra, and extend his best wishes and prayers for their well-being. Highlighting the spiritual significance of the occasion, Modi noted that the

journey to Kedarnath Dham is a divine celebration of India's enduring faith, unity, and rich cultural traditions. He emphasized that such pilgrimages offer a glimpse into the country's eternal heritage and spiritual consciousness.

TOP HIERARCHY LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT INDIAN ARMY



Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth is Vice Chief of Army Staff: On 01 April 2026, Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth assumed the appointment of VCOAS.

Commissioned into Armoured Corps in Dec 1986, he brings 4 decades of operational experience across conventional & counter-insurgency environments. His command profile spans from leading an Armoured Regiment in the desert sector, to CI Force in J&K, to commanding the Sudarshan Chakra Corps. Notably, on elevation to Army

Commander, he held charge of both SW & Southern Commands, a rare distinction reflecting high trust in his leadership across frontiers.

He has held key roles in capability development and perspective planning, directly contributing to the Army's Long-Term Integrated Perspective Plan and force modernisation roadmap. His international exposure includes serving as an Op Officer with a UN Mission in Angola. He is a recipient of the PVSM, UYSM & AVSM, underscoring his distinguished service, at both Op & strategic levels.

Lt Gen Sandeep Jain assumes command of Southern Command:

Wef 01 April 2026, Lt Gen Jain is the new Southern Army Commander. Commissioned into the MAHAR Regiment in June 1988, he has commanded an Infantry Bn (including UN Mission in South Sudan), an Infantry Brigade in a Strike Corps, a Counter Insurgency Force & a Pivot Corps in North Comd. His op experience includes Op Pawan, UN Msn in Ethiopia & multiple tenures along the LoC & the North East. Before this, he was Chief of Staff at HQ South Comd, contributing to capability development & op preparedness-ensuring continuity in leadership. He is decorated with AVSM & Sena Medal.



Lt Gen VMB Krishnan is the new Eastern Army Commander: On 01 April, Gen



Krishnan assumed command. Commissioned into the Dogra Regt on 11 June 1988, he has commanded an Infantry Battalion & a Brigade in Siachen, an Infantry Division & the elite Brahmastra Corps, reflecting extensive operational leadership across critical formations. A key highlight is his tenure as Quarter Master General at Army HQs, where he led major reforms in supply chain management and infra. He has also served as DG IT at Army HQs and as Defence Attaché in London. He also holds the appointments of Colonel of Dogra Regiment & Dogra Scouts.

Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh takes over Western Command:



Lt Gen PP Singh, after serving as VCOAS, has moved to West Comd wef 01 April 2026. Commissioned into 4 PARA SF in Dec 1987, he has extensive operational experience across high-altitude and sensitive sectors along both North & West borders, including participation in Op Pawan and multiple counter-insurgency tenures along the LoC & IB. His key distinction was as DG Operational Logistics, where he enhanced operational mobility, logistics integration & sustainment. As VCOAS, he contributed to force structuring, capability development & overall operational preparedness of the Indian Army. Awarded with AVSM & Sena Medals (twice), he brings strong continuity in leadership to West Comd.

COL PUROHIT PROMOTED TO BRIGADIER RANK

In a rare and significant personnel decision, Army has promoted **Col Shrikant Prasad Purohit** to Brigadier rank, following directions from the **Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)**. This move comes after years of prolonged legal proceedings that stalled his career progression, underscoring the critical role of institutional mechanisms in ensuring service justice and fair career reviews.



Why this promotion is significant is because Col Purohit had earlier been indicted in a false case as co-accused with other Hindutva protagonists, in the now infamous Malegaon Blasts of 2008, and had suffered the ignominy of being under trial & under custody of ATS Maharashtra for 17 years, before being acquitted by a special NIA court in Jul 2025, for lack of evidence. He resumed service in Aug 2025 & was then promoted to Colonel rank.

Such advancements are particularly uncommon in cases involving lengthy legal disputes, yet this promotion reinforces the military's commitment to accountability and the integrity of its grievance redressal processes. Ultimately, the transition highlights the Army's adherence to legal mandates, ensuring that fairness in career trajectory is maintained even amidst the most complex legal challenges.

DAC CLEARS DEFENCE PROPOSALS TO BOOST MILITARY CAPABILITY

Introduction: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved defence procurement proposals worth ₹2.38 lakh crore, marking one of the largest approvals aimed at strengthening India's military capabilities.

About

- The approvals cover a wide range of acquisitions for the Army, Navy & the IAF, focusing on modernisation & capability enhancement.
- A major component includes upgrades & additional systems for the S-400 AD system, significantly strengthening India's long-range air defence network.
- DAC also cleared proposals for overhaul & upgrade of Su-30MKI fighter aircraft engines, thus improving combat readiness of IAF's frontline fleet.
- For the Army, approvals include artillery systems, armoured platforms & advanced mobility solutions, aimed at enhancing firepower and battlefield mobility.
- Indian Coast Guard will also benefit from the procurement of advanced vessels and platforms, improving coastal security and maritime surveillance capabilities.
- A majority of approvals are aligned with indigenous procurement, providing a boost to Indian defence companies-Bharat Electronics Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers.



Conclusion: Strengthening air defence, aviation readiness, land systems and maritime capabilities will not only enhance India's overall combat preparedness but also support the long-term goal of building a technologically advanced and indigenous defence ecosystem for India.

INDIA SIGNS DEAL FOR INDIGENOUS MTN RADARS

Introduction: The Ministry of Defence has signed a ₹1,950 crore contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to supply indigenous mountain radars for the IAF, aimed at strengthening surveillance & air defence in high-altitude regions.

About

- The radars are specially designed for mountainous and high-altitude terrain, where conventional radar coverage is limited due to terrain masking and extreme weather conditions.



- These systems will enhance low-level detection capability, allowing the IAF to track aircraft, drones & other aerial threats in difficult border areas.
- The deployment is particularly significant for sensitive sectors along northern borders, improving early warning and response time against potential threats.

- The contract includes supply, installation & integrated support, ensuring long-term operational effectiveness and maintenance.

- BEL, as a key defence PSU, continues to play a central role in India's AD network modernisation, especially in radar & electronic warfare systems.

Conclusion: The mountain radar deal strengthens India's AD coverage in challenging terrains where visibility & detection are critical. By combining indigenous technology with strategic deployment, the move enhances surveillance capability and pushes towards a self-reliant defence system.

INS ARIDHAMAN STRENGTHENS INDIA'S SEA-BASED NUCLEAR DETERRENT

Introduction: The Indian Navy has commissioned INS Aridhaman, a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), thereby strengthening India's sea-based nuclear capability & strategic deterrence.



Highlights

- INS Aridhaman, a part of the Arihant-class SSBNs, is powered by a nuclear reactor, enabling long-duration submerged operations without frequent surfacing.
- It is equipped to carry submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBMs), including K-series missiles such as K-15 and K-4.
- The platform has a higher missile carrying capacity compared to INS Arihant, allowing deployment of more SLBMs during patrols.
- It uses a vertical launch system (VLS) for underwater missile firing, with a credible second-strike capability, which is essential for nuclear deterrence.
- The submarine supports continuous at-sea deterrence, ensuring the survivability of nuclear assets.
- The SSBN projects have been developed with contributions from DRDO & Indian ship-building agencies.

Conclusion: The commissioning of a third in the series of indigenous nuclear submarines strengthens India's nuclear triad by enhancing its sea-based deterrent. With nuclear propulsion, SLBM capability & extended endurance, it ensures a credible & survivable strategic force.

ARMY RECEIVES 'PRAHAR' LIGHT MACHINE GUNS

Introduction: The Indian Army has received the first batch of 2,000 'Prahar' Light Machine Guns (LMGs), manufactured by Adani Defence & Aerospace, which were delivered much ahead of schedule, thereby enhancing frontline firepower and infantry capabilities.

Highlights

- These 7.62 mm calibre LMGs were manufactured at the company's small arms facility in Gwalior, MP, under the ***Make in India*** initiative.
- The first batch was delivered 11 months ahead of the contracted timeline, highlighting faster execution in defence

manufacturing.

- Total contract is for 40,000 LMGs, in phases.
- Prahar LMG is designed to provide higher reliability, sustained fire capability, and improved performance in diverse operational conditions.
- Their induction will enhance the firepower of infantry units, particularly in high-intensity combat and counter-terror operations.
- Ministry of Defence highlighted that early delivery reflects improving efficiency in India's defence production ecosystem.

Conclusion: Induction of Prahar LMGs marks a significant step in strengthening infantry capabilities while supporting indigenous defence manufacturing.

DIABETES & OBESITY AMONG TOP CAUSES OF DISABILITY IN THE ARMY

Introduction: A report by the Ministry of Defence shows that lifestyle diseases like diabetes and obesity are major causes of disability in the Indian Army.

Highlights

- Conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity are key contributors, placing personnel in a low medical category (LMC).
- A large share of disabilities now comes from lifestyle-related disorders, not combat injuries.



- Other factors include cardiovascular, musculoskeletal, and stress-related conditions.



- This trend, which has assumed unmanageable proportions in the last 2 decades (especially among Officers), severely affects operational readiness, manpower availability, and long-term fitness, which ultimately endangers national security.
- This report also highlights the need for preventive health measures and better fitness management- now it's up to the MoD to ensure these are implemented.

Conclusion: The rise of lifestyle diseases as a major cause of disability highlights a critical shift in health challenges, making preventive care essential for maintaining the combat readiness of our Defence Forces.

ARMY TO INDUCT SILENT SCOUT MOTORCYCLE



Introduction: Indian Army is set to induct 'Silent Scout' electric motorcycles to enhance mobility and stealth in reconnaissance and covert missions, especially in sensitive and forward operational areas.

Highlights

- The Silent Scout bikes are electric-powered platforms, enabling near-silent movement, which is critical for maintaining stealth during covert and surveillance operations.
- These motorcycles are designed for reconnaissance, patrol, and special operations, allowing troops to move quickly without revealing their position.
- The platform improves mobility in difficult terrain, including border regions and high-altitude areas where conventional vehicles face limitations.
- A key advantage is their low acoustic and thermal signature, making them harder to detect by enemy sensors, surveillance systems, and night-vision equipment.
- The bikes also reduce dependence on fuel-based logistics, which is important for operations in remote and forward-deployed locations.
- Their lightweight and agile design supports rapid deployment & quick manoeuvrability, enhancing tactical flexibility on the battlefield.

Conclusion: Silent Scout electric bikes mark a step towards modern, technology-driven mobility solutions in the Indian Army. By combining stealth, speed, and reduced logistical

burden, these platforms will strengthen reconnaissance capability and operational effectiveness in future combat scenarios.

INDIA–UZBEKISTAN JOINT MIL EX ‘DUSTLIK-2026’



Introduction: Indian Army participated in the 7th edition of the India–Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise ‘Dustlik-2026’, conducted at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Uzbekistan.

About

- The exercise involved contingents from the Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army, focusing on enhancing joint operational capability and interoperability.
- It aimed to improve coordination in counter-terrorism operations, particularly in semi-urban and complex terrain.
- Training activities included joint tactical drills, cordon and search operations, and combat simulations, reflecting real operational scenarios.
- The exercise emphasised exchange of best practices, operational experience, and professional expertise between the two forces.
- It also highlighted the use of modern military techniques and coordinated planning, strengthening combined mission readiness.

Conclusion: Exercise Dustlik-2026 strengthens India–Uzbekistan defence ties by improving interoperability and joint tactical capability, while enhancing preparedness for counter-terror operations in diverse operational environments.

INDIA’S ATTACK HEPTR FLEET BEING EXPANDED

Introduction: India is accelerating the induction of the Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand to expand the attack helicopter fleets of the Army & IAF, enhancing combat capability in high-altitude and frontline areas.



About

- LCH Prachand, developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, is India’s first indigenous attack helicopter designed specifically for high-altitude warfare.
- It is capable of operating at altitudes above 5,000 meters, making it suitable for deployment in regions like Ladakh and other mountainous areas.
- The heptr is equipped with a 20 mm turret gun, rockets, and air-to-air as well as anti-tank guided missiles, enabling both offensive and defensive roles.

- Its design includes stealth features, armour protection, and advanced avionics, improving survivability in combat environments.
- The increasing induction reflects the need to strengthen close air support and anti-armour capability, especially along sensitive borders.

Conclusion: Accelerated induction of Prachand strengthens India's attack heptr capability, particularly in high-altitude warfare. It marks a significant step in enhancing combat readiness, while advancing indigenous defence manufacturing.

JOINT SPECIAL FORCES EXERCISE 'CYCLONE-IV'

Introduction: The Indian Army has deployed a contingent to Egypt for the fourth edition of the India–Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise 'Cyclone-IV' at Anshas.



About

- The Indian contingent comprises around **25 Special Forces personnel**, who will train alongside Egyptian Special Forces in a realistic operational environment.
- The exercise focuses on enhancing **interoperability and joint mission planning**, which are critical for coordinated special operations.
- Training activities include **special operations tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs)** in desert and semi-desert terrain.
- The Exercise provides an opportunity for **exchange of best practices and professional expertise** between both forces.
- It also aims to strengthen **mutual understanding, camaraderie, and military cooperation** between India and Egypt.

Conclusion: Exercise Cyclone-IV reinforces India–Egypt defence ties by improving special forces coordination & operational understanding. It strengthens military cooperation and readiness for joint missions in challenging environments.

ARMY LAUNCHES WATER SAILING EXPEDITION

Introduction: As part of **Bicentenary Celebrations of Regiment of Artillery**, Army flagged off its first blue-water sailing expedition, '**Samudra Sahas**', from Mumbai, marking a significant step in expanding maritime adventure and endurance capabilities. Charting a bold new course along the rugged Konkan Coast, the **Veer Marathas of 69 Medium Regiment**, sailed from Mumbai Goa and landed back on 25th April.



About



- It showcases soldiers' capability to operate in challenging maritime environments, beyond traditional land roles.
- It aims to promote adventure, resilience, and leadership, while testing physical and psychological endurance over a long-duration sea voyage.
- The crew faced harsh weather conditions, isolation, and extended time at sea, thus testing seamanship & mental strength.

• It highlights the Army's focus on jointness and maritime awareness, complementing India's broader security interests in the maritime domain.

Conclusion: The Indian Army's effort to build endurance, adaptability, and maritime exposure among its personnel strengthens the spirit of adventure, while contributing to broader operational awareness in diverse environments. This also serves as a platform to inspire youth & Defence aspirants to join the IA.

SCIENCE, TECH, ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH NEWS

ANTARCTICA'S WILDLIFE FACES GROWING CLIMATE THREAT



Emperor Penguins and Seals Move Closer to Extinction: Climate change is seriously affecting Antarctica's unique wildlife. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List, the **Emperor Penguin & Antarctic Fur Seal** are now classified as **Endangered**. The Southern Elephant Seal is also now Vulnerable because of avian influenza outbreaks.

Why Is This Happening?

Emperor Penguins depend on stable sea ice for breeding and raising chicks. Rising temperatures are causing sea ice to melt earlier. Between 2009–2018, 10% of their population was lost & may reduce by half by the 2080s.

For Antarctic Fur Seals: Krill, their main food source, is becoming scarce due to warming oceans. Their population has dropped by over 50% since 2000.

To Sum Up: These findings highlight the urgent need to control climate change and protect polar ecosystems.

TRACKING SOLAR SYSTEM'S NEW DISCOVERIES



On 23 March 2026, the Minor Planet Center (MPC) confirmed 15 new moons-four orbiting Jupiter and 11 around Saturn-highlighting ongoing advances in space observation.

What is the MPC? – Operating from Cambridge, Massachusetts, it's a Global hub for recording small solar system bodies that works under the International Astronomical Union

Key Roles of MPC

- Tracks asteroids, comets, and planetary moons
- Monitors near-Earth objects (NEOs) for potential threats
- Maintains a database to predict close approaches to Earth
- Supporting Global Science
- Issues electronic circulars for new discoveries
- Helps observatories coordinate research efforts

How Discoveries Are Confirmed

- Astronomers submit observation data
- Experts verify findings and calculate orbits
- New objects receive official designations

To Conclude: By ensuring accurate tracking and communication, the MPC plays a crucial role in understanding and protecting our place in the solar system.

A BIRD'S AMAZING 30,000KM JOURNEY AT RISK

The **Hudsonian Godwit**, a remarkable migratory bird, travels nearly 30,000 km annually from the Arctic to South America. However, its population has declined by 95% over the past 40 years, raising global concern.

- **Why This Bird Matters:** This symbol of long-distance migration resilience is capable of flying up to 11,000 km non-stop, flight depends on precise timing & food availability



Major Threats

- Climate change disrupting breeding and feeding cycles
- Habitat loss in the U.S. and South America
- Human activity in key feeding zones

Global Conservation Efforts

- Proposed for protection under the CMS meeting in Brazil
- Countries urged to protect habitats and migration routes
- Scientists studying changing migration patterns

The Godwit's struggle reflects a larger crisis-species can adapt to one change, but multiple threats may push them toward extinction.

NEW HEAVY PARTICLE DISCOVERED AT CERN

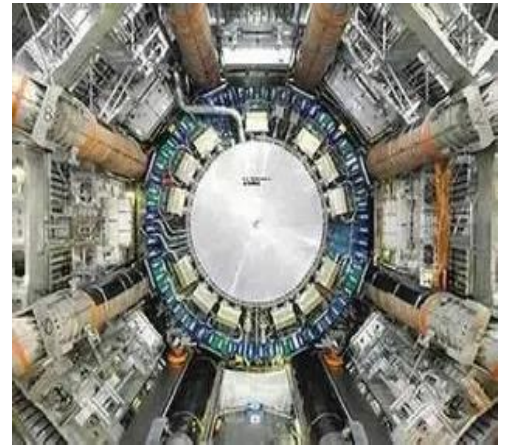
Scientists at CERN's Large Hadron Collider have discovered a new proton-like particle made of two charm quarks and one down quark, making it nearly four times heavier than a proton.

What Makes It Special?

- Rare "doubly charmed" baryon
- Only the second of its kind ever observed
- Much shorter lifespan than similar particles

How It Was Found

- Created in high-energy proton collisions
- Identified through decay products
- Confirmed with strong statistical evidence



Why It Matters: Helps explain how the strong nuclear force works & supports studies in quantum chromodynamics. This also opens doors to discovering exotic particles. This breakthrough highlights how advanced experiments continue to deepen our understanding of the fundamental building blocks of matter.

AMARAVATI LAUNCHES INDIA'S FIRST QUANTUM REFERENCE FACILITY

Andhra CM N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated India's first open-access quantum reference facility in Amaravati, which is a major step towards India's Quantum Future

What Is Special About It? The project includes two facilities:

- Amaravati 1S at SRM University
- Amaravati 1Q at Medha Towers



These centres allow researchers and companies to:

- Test quantum hardware
- Certify processors
- Support industrial applications
- Promote indigenous quantum technology

Why It Matters: The facility was developed with support from institutions like: Indian Institute of Science, DRDO, IIT Bombay

Conclusion: Naidu plans to transform Amaravati into a “Quantum Valley,” making it a global hub for next-generation technology like AI, semiconductors, and quantum computing.

PURI AIRPORT PLAN REJECTED OVER BIRD STRIKE RISK

Migratory Birds Make Airport Unsafe: The Wildlife Institute of India has opposed the construction of a greenfield international airport in Puri, as the proposed site is very close to Chilika Lake, a famous wetland and Ramsar site.

Why is this dangerous?

- Thousands of migratory birds visit Chilika every year
- High chances of bird strikes can threaten aircraft safety
- It may also harm local biodiversity



Other Environmental Concerns: The area is also important for: **Olive Ridley turtles & Irrawaddy dolphins**

To Conclude: Although Odisha Govt proposed the airport due to limited expansion space at Biju Patnaik International Airport, environmental risks are too high. This shows how development must balance with wildlife conservation.

NEW RAPID TEST THAT IMPROVES UTI TREATMENT

Faster Diagnosis for Urinary Tract Infections: Scientists have developed a new point-of-care test for diagnosing urinary tract infections (UTIs) using the iPRISM platform.

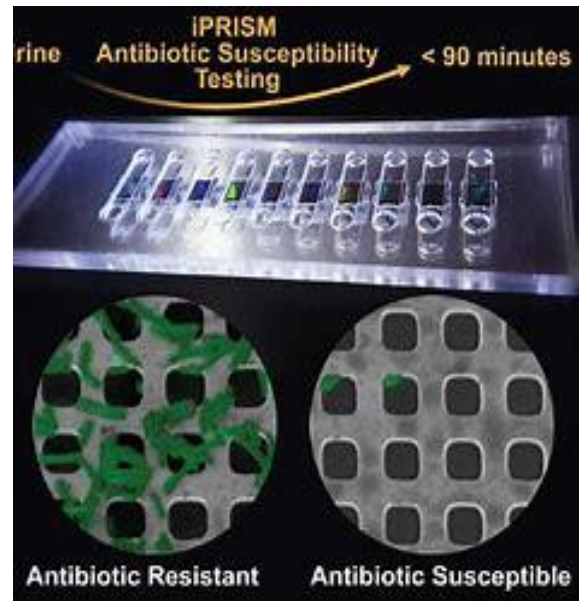
How Does It Work? The system uses:

- Photonic silicon chips
- Real-time bacterial trapping
- Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST)

It can test unprocessed urine samples directly.

Key Benefits

- Infection screening completed within 90 minutes
- Gentamicin resistance detected in just 30 minutes
- Helps identify effective antibiotics quickly
- May also distinguish between bacterial and fungal infections



Why It Matters: This rapid test supports:

- Single-visit treatment decisions
- Reduced misuse of antibiotics
- Better antibiotic stewardship
- Personalized patient care

In the End: Instead of waiting days for lab reports, doctors can now make faster and more accurate treatment decisions, improving both patient outcomes and hospital efficiency.

GM MOSQUITOES MAY TRANSFORM MALARIA CONTROL



A New Weapon Against Malaria: Scientists are using CRISPR-Cas9 technology to

genetically modify mosquitoes so they cannot spread malaria. This shifts the strategy from killing mosquitoes to changing them biologically.

Why the Shift Happened: Traditional methods like:

- Insecticides
- Bed nets
- DDT spraying

are becoming less effective because:

- Mosquitoes develop resistance

- Parasites become drug-resistant
- Mosquitoes change biting behavior

How Gene Drives Work: Gene drives ensure modified genes are passed to nearly all offspring instead of only 50%. This helps:

- Stop malaria parasite survival
- Reduce mosquito reproduction
- Spread protective traits rapidly

Two Main Approaches

1. Population Suppression – reduces mosquito numbers

2. Population Modification – keeps mosquitoes alive but blocks disease transmission

Conclusion: Though initial trials are promising, scientists must carefully study ecological and ethical risks before large-scale release.

SPORTS NEWS

WORLD JUNIOR WUSHU: INDIA 2ND OVERALL



Introduction: India recorded its best-ever performance at the 10th World Junior Wushu Championships 2026 held in Tianjin, China, securing 9 medals, including 3 Gold, 2 Silver & 4 Bronze.

India's success was led by strong performances in the Sanda discipline, where Thongam Upendro (45kg), Nongmaithem Pamheiba (52kg) and Loitongbam Victor (youth 52kg) won Golds. Yuvraj (48kg) and Konthoujam Devikarani Devi secured silver, while Gautam Mankas, Anu, Rajkumari Lanchenbi Chanu and Devikarani added bronze medals, with Devikarani winning two medals in Taolu events.

Overall: The championships featured over 1,100 athletes from nearly 80 countries, with India finishing among the leading nations and securing second position in the Sanda medal standings. The performance also saw two Indian athletes qualify for the Youth Olympic Games 2026 at Dakar, marking an important step forward for Indian wushu at the world junior level.

ASIAN WRESTLING TOURNEY HELD IN JORDAN

Introduction: India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026 held in Amman, Jordan, finishing with 17 medals across freestyle, Greco-Roman and women's wrestling categories.

Among the standout performances, Sujeet Kalkal won gold in men's 65kg freestyle, ending India's 7-year wait for a gold in this weight class. Abhimanyu also secured a gold, while several Indian wrestlers added silver and bronze medals across different divisions to contribute to the overall tally.



Conclusion: The result reflects India's consistent strength across wrestling formats at the continental level, with contributions from both experienced and emerging athletes highlighting the depth of the country's wrestling programme.

ASIAN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS



Introduction: India's Ayush Shetty finished runner-up at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 held in Ningbo, China, after losing to Shi Yuqi of China in the men's singles final, marking his best performance till now at Asian level. Shetty delivered an impressive campaign throughout the tournament, registering wins over higher-ranked opponents to reach the final. In the title clash, Shi maintained control with his experience and consistency, while Shetty fought hard but was unable to convert crucial points and had to settle for Silver.

Conclusion: The result reflects Shetty's steady rise on the international circuit, with his run to the final highlighting his potential and strengthening India's presence in men's singles at the continental level.

INDIA TOP WORLD PARA ARCHERY IN BANGKOK

Introduction: India delivered a dominant performance at the Bangkok 2026 World Archery Para Series, finishing with 13 medals, including 7 Golds & topping the overall medal standings

India achieved a clean sweep in the compound team events, with Sheetal Devi and Toman Kumar winning gold in the mixed team event, Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag securing gold in the women's team event, and Toman Kumar and Shyam Sunder Swami winning the men's team title. In individual events, Toman Kumar won gold in men's compound category, while Payal Nag secured gold in women's compound event & Sheetal Devi added a silver medal.



Conclusion: The result reflects India's strong position in para-archery, with consistent performances across team and individual events highlighting the country's depth in the compound discipline at the international level.

BANGLADESH WIN SAFF U-20 CHAMPIONSHIP



Introduction: Bangladesh won the South Asian Football Federation U-20 Championship 2026, after defeating India 4–3 on penalties in the final held at the National Football Stadium in Malé, Maldives, following a goalless draw. The victory marked Bangladesh's second title in the tournament, while India finished as runners-up in the 8th edition of the competition.

The final remained evenly contested, with both teams unable to score during regulation time before Bangladesh held their nerve in the penalty shootout. India had shown strong form throughout the tournament, including a 5–0 win over Bhutan, and finished as one of the top-performing sides, with Ilan Imran and Omang Dodum emerging as joint top scorers for the team with 3 goals each.

Conclusion: The tournament featured 7 South Asian teams, with Nepal and Bhutan reaching the semi-finals. While Bangladesh's Md Ismail Hossain Mahin was named the best goalkeeper and the Maldives received the fair play award. The result reflects the competitive nature of youth football in the region, with India's consistent performances highlighting their strength, despite falling short in the final.

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Introduction: India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Boxing Elite Championships 2026 held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, securing 16 medals, including 5 Gold, 3 Silver & 8 Bronze.

The Indian women's team led the campaign with 10 medals, including 4 golds won by Minakshi Hooda (48kg), Preeti Pawar (54kg), Priya Ghanghas (60kg) and Arundhati Choudhary (70kg). Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Alfiya Pathan (80+kg) secured silver medals, while Nikhat Zareen, Ankushita Boro, Lovlina Borgohain and Pooja Rani added bronze medals. In the men's category, Vishvanath Suresh (50kg) won gold, Sachin Siwach (60kg) secured silver, and Akash, Lokesh, Harsh Choudhary and Narender Berwal claimed bronze medals.



Conclusion: The result reflects India's consistent strength in continental boxing, with strong performances across weight categories and the women's team playing a key role in the overall medal tally.

SINDAROV, VAISHALI WIN FIDE CANDIDATES '26

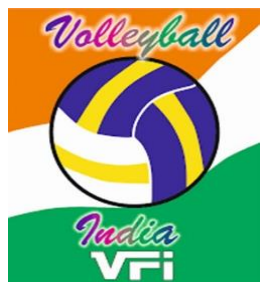


Introduction: Nodirbek Sindarov of Uzbekistan and India's Vaishali Rameshbabu emerged as winners at the FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026, securing the men's and women's titles, respectively and earning the right to challenge for the World Chess Championship.

Sindarov clinched the open section title after a consistent performance across rounds, finishing ahead of a strong field of top-ranked players. In the women's section, Vaishali delivered a steady campaign, maintaining composure in the final rounds to secure first place and become India's leading contender for the upcoming Women's World Championship.

Conclusion: The result reflects the emergence of new challengers in world chess, with Sindarov and Vaishali's performances highlighting the rising strength of younger players on the global stage.

INDIAN VOLLEYBALL IN CRISIS: FIVB REVOKES REGONITION OF NATIONAL FEDERATION



Introduction: Indian volleyball is facing a major crisis after the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB) revoked the provisional recognition of the Volleyball Federation of India (VFI) in April 2026 due to governance failures and non-compliance with administrative requirements.

The situation escalated with senior players, including Anand K and John Joseph, leaving the national camp in Ahmedabad, citing poor training facilities, lack of proper equipment and internal issues within the system. In response, a FIVB-appointed Steering Committee has taken control of the sport in India to ensure proper management & player welfare. Concerns have also emerged over financial disputes & pending dues related to previous international events.

Conclusion: The crisis has put upcoming events, including the Asian Volleyball Confederation Men's Cup scheduled in Ahmedabad, in uncertainty, even as the FIVB has continued financial support for development. The situation reflects serious administrative challenges in Indian volleyball, with the need for structural reforms to restore stability and ensure the smooth functioning of the sport.

NITIN SETS ASIAN RECORD IN U20 RACE WALK

Introduction: Indian race walker Nitin Gupta created history at the 24th National Junior (U20) Athletics Federation Competition held in Tumkur, Karnataka, 2026, becoming the first Asian athlete to break the 19-minute barrier in the U20 5km race walk. He clocked 18:54.37 to win gold & set a new Asian record, improving his own previous national junior record of 19:24.48 set in 2025. His performance is also among the fastest in U20 history and secured his qualification for both the Asian U20 Athletics Championships & World U20 Athletics event, later in 2026.



Conclusion: The achievement reflects India's growing strength in race walking at the junior level, with Gupta's performance marking a significant milestone and highlighting the emergence of promising talent on the international stage.

ECONOMIC NEWS

GLOBAL ODA FALLS BY 23% IN 2025



For decades rich nations made a quiet promise to the world's poorest. They called it Official Development Assistance (ODA) and they pledged to keep it flowing. In 2025 they broke that promise at a scale never seen before. Global ODA fell 23.1% in 2025. The OECD's Development Assistance Committee called it the steepest annual decline ever recorded. Total flows dropped to \$214.6 billion which works out to just 0.26% of donor countries' combined gross national income. That is less than a third of a penny for every dollar these wealthy nations earn. The target they set for themselves back in 2015 was 0.7%.

The Numbers Behind the Fall

Germany became the largest ODA provider in 2025 disbursing \$29.1 billion and overtaking the United States for the first time. That is not a triumph. It reflects how sharply American aid collapsed after Donald Trump returned to office in January 2025 with US flows falling nearly 57% in a single year.

The usual top five of the United States, Germany, Japan, France and the United Kingdom all cut aid. Together they accounted for 95.7% of the overall decline.

Bilateral aid to Ukraine fell 38.2% to \$10.3 billion. Aid routed through European Union institutions rose 18.7% reaching \$44.9 billion which was the highest volume of ODA ever directed toward a single country. The contradiction sits uncomfortably on the page. The world pulled back from the poorest while concentrating remaining flows on a middle-income war economy.

Humanitarian assistance fell 35.8%. In-donor refugee costs dropped 22%. Core development programme aid which funds vaccines, schools and basic governance saw the sharpest cuts of

all. Multilateral aid fell \$14.53 billion between 2024 and 2025 and debt relief contracted 26.3%.

Africa Pays the Price

Sub-Saharan Africa absorbed the harshest impact. It is where the need is most acute and where the alternatives are fewest. The OECD confirmed the trend will not reverse quickly. Projections suggest ODA could fall a further 5.8% in 2026 and remain below 2024 levels through 2028. Meanwhile 12 donor countries outside the DAC including Gulf states & emerging economies actually increased their combined development finance to \$13.3 billion in 2025 up 4.5% from 2024. The gap left by traditional donors is not being filled. It is simply growing.

The Soft Power Unravelling

ODA has never been purely altruistic. Every dollar of foreign aid carries a diplomatic signal, a trade relationship and an influence foothold. When the United States cut nearly 57% of its aid budget it did not just reduce hospital funding in Nairobi or school meals in Bangladesh. It vacated strategic space. China does not publish comparable ODA figures. But it builds ports, roads and data infrastructure across the same countries now watching Western aid evaporate. The OECD data documents a financial withdrawal. Geopolitically it documents something much larger.

Why This Matters for India

India sits at an unusual intersection here. As a historical ODA recipient and an increasingly active South-South development partner India has watched this contraction with two very different lenses at once.

On one hand India's own development finance through lines of credit, capacity building and technical assistance across Africa and South Asia is now comparatively more visible precisely because Western alternatives are shrinking. The Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit scheduled for May 2026 arrives at a moment when African nations are actively recalibrating partnerships. India's offer rooted in shared development history rather than conditionality carries unusual weight right now. On the other hand India remains exposed to the same headwinds. The 1% US remittance tax introduced in January 2026 directly threatens the \$120 billion-plus that flows annually from the Indian diaspora. That money quietly funds consumption, construction and education in states from Kerala to Uttar Pradesh. ODA contraction and remittance taxation are two sides of the same political turn in Western capitals and a drawing inward that developing economies must now price into their own planning.

The Promise Was Never Just Money

The OECD's headline number of a 23.1% fall understates the symbolic collapse. Since 1970 when donor nations first committed to the 0.7% of GNI target ODA has represented something beyond budget lines. It was an acknowledgement that prosperity in one part of the world carries obligations toward the rest. In 2025 the five wealthiest democracies collectively decided that acknowledgement was negotiable. The world's poorest did not get a vote on that decision.

RBI PRESSES A RATE PAUSE-WHY THAT MATTERS



On April 8 2026 the Reserve Bank of India did something that looked like nothing. It held the repo rate steady at 5.25% and walked away from the podium. But in central banking doing nothing is itself a decision. And this particular nothing carried a great deal of weight.

What Just Happened

The Monetary Policy Committee met from April 6 to 8 for the 60th time under Governor Sanjay Malhotra. All six members voted unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%. The Standing Deposit Facility stays at 5%. The Marginal Standing Facility and Bank Rate remain at 5.5%. The stance is neutral-means *watch and wait*.

This was a 2nd consecutive hold after an aggressive easing cycle through 2025, where the RBI cut rates by a cumulative 125 basis points. To put it-in-perspective repo rate was at 6.5% in Jan'25. By Dec'25 it was at 5.25%-a lot of ground covered in 12

months. RBI has now chosen to stop-look around before going further.

Why Stop Now

Because the world got complicated very quickly. The April 2026 policy review was the first since the Iran war broke out in West Asia. That conflict changed the calculus for the RBI almost immediately. Crude oil prices spiked. The rupee weakened sharply. India imports over 85% of its crude and every dollar increase in oil prices widens the current account deficit and feeds directly into inflation at the pump and beyond. The MPC noted that the ongoing conflict in West Asia poses unprecedented uncertainty for the global economy and is likely to be a drag on domestic production in FY27 as supply chains get disrupted. Here is the problem with cutting rates into that kind of environment. A rate cut is designed to stimulate demand by making borrowing cheaper. But the inflation India faces right now is not a demand problem. It is a supply problem. Oil is expensive because a war has disrupted shipping lanes not because Indians are suddenly consuming more. Cutting rates to fix supply-side inflation is roughly like taking a painkiller for a broken bone. It makes you feel something is being done without actually fixing anything. So, the RBI paused.

The Growth Question

Growth is expected to be supported by strong domestic demand, a resilient services sector, improving manufacturing capacity utilisation and government measures to boost domestic manufacturing. In other words, the domestic story remains intact. The concern is external. Global growth could slow as supply chains break down and commodity prices stay elevated. That weighs on Indian exports and on foreign investment appetite. India's macro fundamentals are on much stronger footing than in previous crisis episodes. India's foreign exchange reserves stood at \$696.1 billion as of April 3 which gives the RBI meaningful ammunition to defend the rupee, if needed, without panicking markets.

What the Neutral Stance Actually Means

Neutral does not mean indifferent. It means the RBI is keeping both options open. If oil prices fall because of a ceasefire or a supply response the inflation risk recedes and a rate cut becomes possible again. If the conflict deepens and inflation rises the RBI has not promised anything that would force it to cut. The neutral stance provides flexibility to respond as per the need of the situation based on incoming data. Bond markets read this correctly.

The Bigger Picture

The 2025 rate cutting cycle was one of the most decisive in recent RBI history. Cutting 125 basis points in less than a year required confidence that inflation was beaten and that global conditions were benign enough to stimulate without consequence. That confidence has not entirely disappeared but the Iran war introduced a variable nobody had planned for.

RBI's pause is not a retreat from its easing bias. It recognises that monetary policy works best when it responds to the world. Next MPC meeting is in June. By then there should be more clarity on where oil prices are headed, whether the monsoon is cooperating and whether the rupee has found a floor. Until then, India's most important interest rate will stay exactly where it is. And that itself is the message.

A QUIZ TO RATTLE YOUR BRAINS

Section A: International Affairs

1. The IAFS platform operates between India and which body? (A) African Development Bank (B) African Union (C) East African Community (D) Non-Aligned Movement Secretariat
2. Japan's constitutional pacifist framework lies in which article? (A) Article 7, imperial authority (B) Article 9, renouncing war (C) Article 15, civilian control (D) Article 41, collective security
3. Which countries form the G4 grouping seeking permanent UNSC membership? (A) India, Brazil, Germany, Japan (B) India, South Africa, Brazil, Mexico (C) India, Germany, Australia, Japan (D) India, Brazil, Indonesia, Germany
4. The SAARC Currency Swap Framework is managed by which institution on India's side? (A) Ministry of Finance (B) Reserve Bank of India (C) EXIM Bank (D) Asian Development Bank
5. RELIEF stands for which full form? (A) Resilience and Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation (B) Regional Export Logistics Infrastructure Enhancement Fund (C) Restructured Export Incentive and Logistics Facilitation (D) Rationalized Export Logistics and Insurance Facilitation Fund

Section B: National

6. DA revision is linked to AICPI-IW primarily to serve which objective? (A) Align public sector wages with private sector benchmarks (B) Neutralise inflation impact on real wages (C) Cap total government salary expenditure (D) Implement Pay Commission recommendations on a rolling basis
7. The constitutional provision mandating a decennial census falls under which entry or article? (A) Entry 69, Union List (B) Article 246,

Concurrent List Entry 45 (C) Article 82, delimitation (D) Entry 10, State List

8. Petroglyphs are best described as which of the following? (A) Ancient subterranean burial structures (B) Rock carvings made by removing surface material (C) Stone tablets inscribed with trade records (D) Mineral pigment paintings on cave surfaces
9. DRDO's CAIR operates under which apex body? (A) MeitY (B) Department of Defence R&D under DRDO (C) NTRO under PMO (D) Ministry of Home Affairs
10. The 20% ethanol blending target was set under which policy? (A) National Clean Energy Fund, 2010 (B) National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, amended 2022 (C) PM JI-VAN Yojana, 2019 (D) Atmanirbhar Urja Mission, 2021

Section C: Defence

11. Exercise Balikatan is a bilateral exercise between which two countries? (A) India and Philippines (B) USA and Philippines (C) USA and Japan (D) India and USA
12. CAIR specialises in which domain? (A) Hypersonic missile propulsion (B) AI, robotics and defence technologies (C) Electronic warfare and radar jamming (D) Directed energy and laser-based defence
13. BEL operates under which ministry? (A) MeitY (B) Ministry of Finance (C) Ministry of Defence (D) DPIIT
14. NVS in the context of NavIC's second generation refers to which full form? (A) Navigation with Verification Satellites (B) NavIC Verification System (C) Navigation with Indian Constellation (D) NavIC Vehicle Satellites
15. Exercise Dustlik is conducted under which broader framework? (A) SCO joint exercise calendar (B) Connect Central Asia policy and bilateral defence engagement (C) CSTO observer status obligations (D) India-Central Asia Defence Ministers' dialogue

Section D: Science, Environment & Technology

16. Advanced chip packaging addresses which key limitation of conventional semiconductor manufacturing? (A) High energy consumption in cleanrooms (B) Physical limits of transistor miniaturisation (C) Shortage of silicon wafer raw material (D) Over-reliance on lithography equipment from a single vendor
17. A national water compact under Water Forward primarily involves which commitment? (A) Transfer of water infrastructure to multilateral

institutions (B) Reform priorities, institutional strengthening and investment plans (C) Legally binding caps on freshwater extraction (D) Mandatory transboundary river dispute resolution

18. The CAFE framework in India is administered by which body? (A) CPCB under MoEFCC (B) Bureau of Energy Efficiency under Ministry of Power (C) ARAI under DHI (D) SIAM under DPIIT
19. India became a contracting party to the Ramsar Convention in which year? (A) 1971 (B) 1975 (C) 1982 (D) 1992
20. India's three-stage nuclear programme is designed to use which fuel in Stage 3? (A) Enriched uranium-235 (B) Plutonium-239 from fast breeder reactors (C) Thorium-232 converted to uranium-233 (D) Deuterium and tritium in a fusion cycle

Section E: Economics & Management

21. Railway multitracking projects primarily aim to achieve which objective? (A) Electrification of freight corridors (B) Increasing line capacity and reducing congestion (C) High-speed rail above 300 kmph on existing tracks (D) Replacing rolling stock with Vande Bharat trainsets
22. UN ESCAP's geographic mandate covers which region? (A) East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific (B) All of Asia and the Pacific including Central Asia (C) Developing economies of the Indo-Pacific only (D) ASEAN and SAARC members exclusively
23. The US remittance tax most directly challenges which WTO principle? (A) MFN treatment under GATT Article I (B) National Treatment under GATS Article XVII (C) Non-discrimination under the Financial Services Annex (D) Prohibition on export subsidies under SCM Agreement
24. The Fiscal Health Index evaluates states on which dimensions? (A) Per capita income, HDI and debt-to-GSDP (B) Quality of expenditure, revenue mobilisation, fiscal prudence and debt sustainability (C) GST compliance, ease of doing business and digital infrastructure (D) Centrally Sponsored Schemes implementation and capex ratios
25. The mandatory 2% CSR spending under the Companies Act 2013 is governed by which section? (A) Section 125 (B) Section 135 (C) Section 185 (D) Section 205

Section F: Sports

26. The W100 designation in the ITF Women's World Tennis Tour refers to which of the following? (A) Prize money of USD 100,000, highest ITF tier below WTA 250 (B) 100 ranked players in the main

draw (C) 100th edition of the women's circuit (D) Wildcard system for 100 unranked players

27. At which two Olympic Games did Viktor Axelsen win gold? (A) Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 (B) Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 (C) London 2012 and Rio 2016 (D) Tokyo 2020 and Los Angeles 2028
28. In canoe sprint, C1 denotes which specific discipline? (A) One-person canoe, single-blade paddle (B) One-person kayak, double-blade paddle (C) Category-1 elite speed bracket (D) First heat in round-robin format
29. India's T20 World Cup 2026 win was preceded by which key group stage milestone? (A) First team to score 300 in a T20 World Cup (B) Won all group stage matches unbeaten (C) Defeated defending champions Australia in semis (D) Captain became highest run-scorer in T20 World Cup history
30. The FIDE Freestyle format differs from classical chess because it allows which of the following? (A) Computer assistance during live games (B) Players to choose any starting position (C) Unlimited time controls (D) Team-based play with two players per board

ANSWERS

1. B	2. B	3. A	4. B	5. A
6. B	7. A	8. B	9. B	10. B
11. B	12. B	13. C	14. C	15. B
16. B	17. B	18. B	19. C	20. C
21. B	22. B	23. B	24. B	25. B
26. A	27. B	28. A	29. B	30. B

FOREIGN COUNTRY FOCUS

INDIA–SOUTH AFRICA RELATIONS: STRATEGIC DEPTH



As South Africa celebrates its National Day on 27 April 2026, its partnership with India stands at a decisive juncture. Rooted in shared struggles against colonialism and apartheid, the relationship has matured into a multifaceted alliance spanning trade, defence, technology, education, and global governance.

Today, both nations are not only celebrating historical solidarity, but also shaping the future of Global South, through coordinated diplomacy & strategic cooperation.

Foundations

India's ties with South Africa are anchored in moral and political solidarity. As early as 1946, India severed trade links with South Africa in protest against apartheid, later championing sanctions through the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement. Mahatma Gandhi's formative years in South Africa gave rise to Satyagraha, a philosophy that inspired Nelson Mandela's struggle against racial injustice.

With the end of apartheid in 1994, India and South Africa established formal diplomatic relations. Since then, the partnership has emphasized democracy, equality, and South–South cooperation, evolving into a strategic alliance that reflects both nations' aspirations for a multipolar world.

Economic and Trade Relations

Trade remains the backbone of bilateral engagement. By 2025, bilateral trade surpassed USD 20 billion, driven by South Africa's exports of gold, coal, and iron ore, and India's exports of pharmaceuticals, automobiles, and IT services.

- **Diversification Efforts:** Both nations are working to move beyond commodity-driven trade. Renewable energy, agricultural technology, and digital infrastructure are emerging as new areas of collaboration.
- **Investment Flows:** Indian companies such as Tata, Mahindra, and Cipla have expanded operations in South Africa, while South African firms like Sasol and Sanlam have invested in India's energy and financial sectors.
- **Future Prospects:** The Joint Working Group on Trade and Investment is exploring opportunities in fintech, green hydrogen, and defense manufacturing, aiming to balance trade and reduce dependency on raw materials.

Defence & Security Cooperation

Defence ties have grown steadily, with a focus on maritime security in Indian Ocean. Joint naval Exs highlight shared concerns over piracy, illegal fishing, and freedom of navigation.





- **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):** India's leadership in IORA complements South Africa's regional role, fostering coordinated responses to maritime threats.
- **Technology Transfer:** Defence dialogues now include cooperation in cybersecurity, drone surveillance, and joint research in emerging technologies.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Both nations view maritime security as central to safeguarding trade routes and ensuring regional stability.

Multi-lateral Engagement: India-S Africa are voices heard in global governance reform.

- **BRICS:** India's presidency of BRICS in 2026 has provided momentum for strengthening the bloc as a platform for inclusive global governance. South Africa, fresh from its G20 presidency in 2025, is leveraging this experience to champion African priorities such as debt relief and climate finance.
- **IBSA (India–Brazil–South Africa):** This trilateral grouping continues to emphasize democratic governance and people-centric development.
- **UN Reform:** Both nations advocate for permanent representation of Africa and the Global South in the UN Security Council, underscoring their commitment to equity in global decision-making.

Tech & Education: Education & innovation have emerged as new pillars of cooperation.

- **Digital Infrastructure:** India's digital public platforms, such as Aadhaar and UPI, are being studied by South African policymakers for adaptation.
- **Academic Exchanges:** Universities in Delhi, Durban, and Cape Town are collaborating in climate science, public health, and governance research.
- **Centre for Excellence:** The India–South Africa Centre for Excellence in Digital Learning, launched in 2026, aims to train thousands of students in AI, fintech, and renewable energy technologies.

Climate and Energy Partnership: Sustainability is a shared priority.

- **Energy Transition:** South Africa's gradual move away from coal aligns with India's renewable energy ambitions.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA):** Both nations are key partners in ISA, collaborating on solar panel manufacturing and green hydrogen research.



- **Climate Finance:** Joint advocacy for equitable climate finance ensures that developing nations can pursue growth without compromising environmental responsibility.

Cultural and People-to-People Ties

Beyond economics and defense, cultural exchanges continue to strengthen mutual understanding.

Indian diaspora communities in South Africa contribute to cultural integration, while South African artists and scholars engage with Indian institutions. Student exchanges, tourism, and sports diplomacy—particularly cricket—remain vibrant channels of engagement.

Challenges: Despite progress, several challenges persist:

- **Trade Imbalance:** South Africa's exports remain resource-heavy, while India's exports are diversified, creating asymmetry.
- **Competition from China:** China's deep economic footprint in Africa complicates India's outreach.
- **Regulatory Hurdles:** Bureaucratic delays & differing standards hinder investment flows.
- **Geopolitical Pressures:** The return of a transactional U.S. foreign policy under President Trump has narrowed diplomatic space for non-aligned middle powers, compelling India and South Africa to reinforce strategic autonomy.

To Conclude: As South Africa celebrates its National Day in April 2026, the India–South Africa partnership is poised for deeper engagement. The next phase will likely focus on:

- Expanding economic cooperation through technology-driven trade and investment.
- Strengthening defense collaboration in maritime and cyber domains.
- Advocating for reforms in global governance to reflect multipolar realities.
- Deepening cultural and educational exchanges to foster mutual understanding.

Both nations embody the aspirations of the Global South—seeking equity, sustainability, and autonomy in world affairs. Their partnership, grounded in shared democratic values and historical solidarity, is evolving into a comprehensive strategic alliance that bridges continents and strengthens the voice of emerging economies in global decision-making.





PRACTICE QUESTIONS: CIVIL SERVICES MAINS

Q1. India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve capacity stands at 5.33 MMT, providing roughly 9-10 days of import cover against the IEA benchmark of 90 days. Examine the adequacy of India's SPR & suggest a roadmap for expansion.

Q2. India's decision to significantly increase Russian crude imports following Western sanctions post-2022 has been described as both an act of strategic autonomy and a geopolitical risk. Evaluate this assessment.

Q3. The Chabahar port project represents India's most significant connectivity investment in Iran. Examine its strategic rationale, progress and the challenges posed by the 2026 Iran-US conflict to its long-term viability.

Q4. Critically examine the role of the International Energy Agency in global energy security governance. Should India seek full IEA membership and what are the implications of doing so for India's relationships with OPEC producers?

Q.5 The Strait of Hormuz crisis of 2026 stemming from the Iran-US conflict has exposed India's structural energy vulnerabilities. Critically examine the geopolitical and economic implications of a prolonged Hormuz disruption for India and evaluate the adequacy of India's energy security architecture.

Model Answer

Introduction: The Strait of Hormuz, a narrow waterway between Iran and Oman, is the world's single most critical oil chokepoint. Nearly 21 million barrels of crude oil pass through it daily accounting for roughly 20% of global oil trade. The 2026 Iran-US conflict brought the spectre of a sustained Hormuz closure closer to reality than at any point since the 1980s Tanker War. For India which imports over 85% of its crude oil requirements the implications are immediate, structural and deeply consequential.

India's Hormuz Exposure

India sources approximately 60% of its crude imports from West Asian nations whose export routes pass through the Strait. Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Kuwait together account for the bulk of this exposure. A sustained closure or even a significant disruption to Hormuz traffic would simultaneously constrict supply, spike global crude prices and depreciate the rupee as India's import bill balloons in dollar terms.

India's Energy Security Architecture: An Assessment

India's energy security rests on four broad pillars: strategic petroleum reserves, supplier diversification, domestic production and the push toward renewables.

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves currently hold approximately 5.33 million metric tonnes across underground rock caverns at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru and Padur. At current consumption rates this provides roughly 9 to 10 days of import cover. The IEA

benchmark for member states is 90 days. India is not an IEA member and is under no binding obligation but the comparison illustrates a genuine vulnerability.

Domestic crude production has stagnated. India produces roughly 29 million metric tonnes annually against consumption of over 230 million metric tonnes. The gap has only widened. ONGC's ageing fields in Mumbai High have seen declining output and new exploration blocks under OALP have not yet yielded transformative discoveries. The renewable energy transition offers long-term structural relief but not short-term crisis mitigation. India's 500 GW renewable target by 2030 is ambitious, but progress is slow. EV penetration, though growing, hasn't reached a scale to reduce oil import dependence.

Geopolitical Implications

The Hormuz crisis has accelerated several geopolitical recalibrations relevant to India. India's relationships in Gulf Cooperation Council have deepened through the IMEC, announced at the G20 Delhi Summit in 2023. A prolonged Iran-US conflict complicates IMEC's western anchor, given that the corridor passes through the West Asian theatre.

India has carefully maintained its traditional policy of strategic autonomy in the Iran-US context. India imports Iranian crude under sanctions waivers and maintains diplomatic ties with Tehran. The 2026 escalation has made this balancing act considerably more difficult. A formal US demand for Indian solidarity against Iran would force a choice between energy economics and alliance politics that India would strongly prefer to avoid. The crisis has also elevated the strategic significance of the Chabahar port project. Chabahar in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province offers India an alternative trade and energy corridor bypassing Pakistan and reducing dependence on Hormuz for some supply routes. The US has granted Chabahar a sanctions waiver recognising its connectivity value, but the port's future is now shadowed by the broader conflict.

Policy Recommendations

- A credible Indian energy security response requires action across several dimensions simultaneously. SPR capacity must be expanded urgently toward at least 30 days of import cover as an interim target with a longer-term aspiration of 45 to 60 days.
- Participation in IEA as an associate country should be leveraged to access emergency oil sharing mechanisms. Supplier diversification must continue, with attention to African producers including Nigeria, Angola-Libya who offer Hormuz-independent supply routes.
- Accelerating the domestic ethanol blending, which has already reached 20% for petrol reduces crude demand at the margin.
- The long-term answer of electric mobility and green hydrogen must receive sustained policy and capital commitment beyond electoral cycles.

Conclusion: This crisis has done India a service of a painful kind. It has made visible the structural fragility that comfortable oil markets tend to obscure. India's energy security architecture has improved but it remains inadequate relative to the scale of dependence and

the severity of plausible disruption scenarios. Closing that gap is not merely an economic imperative. In a world of weaponised interdependence it is a fundamental requirement of national security.

THE READER'S PAGE

This month, the contributions are from Pacific World School, Noida Extn, UP. We thank **Mrs Ruchika Gupta, the co-ordinator** for the effort, and of course the students & the **Principal, Mrs Pooja Bose**, for making this effort possible! Due to lack of space, all couldn't be printed, so balance contributions will be published in next month's edition.

FASHION IS A MIRROR By Prisha Garg XI C



I'm Prisha Garg & I enjoy working with patterns & designs-organizing ideas into something that actually works. I'm always thinking, about new plans, better ways to do things, or just understanding myself more deeply through reflection.

Introduction: Fashion, as simple as it may seem, often associated with, "CLOTHES THAT WE WEAR", isn't really so black and white.

Interpreted as a very simple word with a very normal meaning, who knows that it is far more than what we really see. So here's to the true psychology behind your oversized t-shirts and baggy pants. Let's uncover the ***dark-covered, hidden truths of fashion.***

A person wearing a pink long ball gown in the middle of a bustling market would be interpreted as someone straight out of a circus or a time-traveler. Another person, wearing a tuxedo with an all-black shirt and pants and a black mask, would be thought of as a spy or secret agent. However, this interpretation by our society might not be the actual truth. What if that girl is going to a costume party and grabbing a bunch of drinks for the same and that boy is going to a funeral, we don't really know the story behind the outfit and we humans often judge a person through its attire.

Going beyond the dictionary terms

Let us redefine the term '***fashion***' in a ***psychological way***. Our fashion isn't just confined to our dresses, shoes and accessories, it is way beyond that. It is a form of self-expression, a way we express ourselves and see ourselves. It is our sense of self. It goes way beyond a mere fashion statement, examines the connection between clothing, human behavior-most importantly reflects your social image.

Wearing that one over-worn outfit

We all want to create that best first impression, we try to speak the best way, look the best way, behave in our best ways and dress in the best way we feel. In fact, "***Enclothed Cognition***" -a 2012 research by Hajo Adam & Adam Galinsky proves that our fashion and dressing influence our confidence level. This fashion of confidence isn't definite, but differs from person to person.

That one gossiping aunty in the colony

Dressing appropriately for different occasions and environments showcases respect for the situation and influences how others perceive us. By consciously selecting clothing that aligns with the desired perception, we can create positive impressions and establish a strong personal brand. In a formal setting we are expected to wear formal shirts, shirts and pants while if we go to our friend's birthday party, it would be really weird to wear this outfit, unless your friend is a part of the royal family.

Monday moody day's outfit

Not only this, but according to psychology the colours also have a different connotation to our mood. The colours we wear may directly or indirectly affect our mood, says **Kaya & Epps (2004)** – “*Relationships Between Color and Emotion*” research. Colors have a direct impact on our mood and emotions. Different colors evoke specific feelings and emotions. Understanding the emotional impact of colors allows us to curate outfits that align with our desired mood and intentions. For example, wearing vibrant colors like yellow or red can exude energy and positivity, while opting for soothing pastels/neutrals can create a calming effect.

Conclusion: This study represents that our fashion and our dressing sense is a sort of mirror--a social mirror that not only defines us, but also the very impression of ours in this ever-changing society. And thus, it is very important to dress properly matching with the occasion's vibe.



*Poetry is a language distant from the world but closest to our souls. I, Anannya Yadav, Head Girl of PWS, Class XII-C present a poetic piece- **The Mountains**. It describes my love for the regenerative, soulful mountains as opposed to the dreadful endless oceans that reek of salt, while also signifying how experiences lead us to attach feelings with places, which stay forever.*

THE MOUNTAINS

I find the oceans agonising

Salt, oh so sweet,

But that originating from the flow

And in the mountains a voice
For they bring back the dead days.

I find the oceans agonising,

Awakening my conscience

Calling out to me.

I confide in the mountains, tranquilising,

For they tell my tale,

I rest in their laps, in their solemn, healing spree.

Blessed by their Paramount

Is as bitter as the water's sound
I find my peace in my hills

For they brought me to life.

A new life, breathed into every

sinew of life.

ABOUT US

This monthly magazine provides you all with a worldwide view of Military, Sports, National & International, Science & technology and Environmental happenings. So, let's take a dip into the realm of current affairs and events, guided by the brilliance of insights by Team CMDA. In midst of the prevailing culture of fake news and false publicity, we have attempted to convey factual and 'to the point' information for you all, under the directions and guidance of Col (Dr) Bhasker Gupta (retired). It is also being published under his sponsorship.

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- Published under the Supervision of a PhD, ex Journalist & retd Army Officer
- 30 Questions Quiz to Rack your Brains
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