

### 1. Prime Minister Modi's Visit to Karnataka and Development Initiatives

He inaugurated the **Shriguru Bharavakia Mandara** at **Shri Shishtra Adi Chunangiri**.

**Book Release:** He jointly released the book *Saundarya Lahari and Shiva Mahimna Stotram* with former Prime Minister **H.D. Deve Gowda**.

### 2. Passage of Transgender Persons Protection of Rights Amendment Bill 2026

- Individuals must now undergo a medical examination and obtain certification from a **Medical Board** headed by a **Chief Medical Officer (CMO)**.

- The final transgender certificate is officially issued by the **District Magistrate (DM)**.

- Prominent constitutional articles discussed during the bill's passage include **Article 14** (Equality before law), **Article 15** (No discrimination based on sex), **Article 21** (Right to life and dignity), and **Article 19(1)(a)** (Freedom of speech and expression).

### 3. Launch of Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) and Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme

- The **Urban Challenge Fund (UCF)** runs from **Financial Year (FY) 2025-26 to 2030-31** (extendable to **2033-34**).

- It features central assistance of **Rs 1 lakh crore**, with project costs divided into three parts: **25%** from the **Centre**, **50%** from market or bank loans, and **25%** from **States/Union Territories (UTs)**.

- A parallel **Credit Repayment Guarantee Scheme** was launched featuring a **Rs 5,000 crore** guarantee fund.

- The ultimate goal of the fund is to proactively drive a total urban infrastructure investment of **Rs 4 lakh crore**.

- The guarantee scheme helps smaller, hilly, and **North Eastern** cities (with populations under **1 lakh**) gain creditworthiness.

### 4. Union Cabinet Approves 2% Dearness Allowance (DA) Hike

- A **2% hike** was approved for **Dearness Allowance (DA)** for employees and **Dearness Relief** for pensioners.

- This specific adjustment is legally effective retrospectively from **January 1, 2026**.

- This strategic adjustment brings the total **Dearness Allowance (DA)** to **60%** of the employees' basic pay.

### 5. Rajya Sabha Reconstitution and Deputy Chairman Election

- The newly formed panel features six **Members of Parliament (MPs)** from various political parties.

- These members were nominated by the **Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan**.

- **Harivansh Narayan Singh** was re-elected unopposed as the **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha**.

### 6. MEITY Constitutes AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGEG)

- Via the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**, the government constituted the **AI Governance and Economic Group (AIGC/AIGEG)**.

- The operational group will be headed by **Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw**, with **Jitin Prasada** securely serving as the vice-chairperson.

### 7. Major Defence Leadership Conferences and Naval Expeditions

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** is set to actively chair the first-ever high-level **Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) Leadership Conference** in **New Delhi** in **May 2026**.

- The first edition of the **2026 Naval Commanders Conference** securely took place at **Nausena Bhawan** in **New Delhi**.

- The **Indian Army** proudly flagged off its inaugural **Blue Water Sailing Expedition**, officially named "**Samudra Sahas**", initiating from **Mumbai**.

### 8. IMF World Economic Outlook: India's GDP Ranking Shift

- The **United States of America (USA)** firmly secured the top **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** position globally.

- India noticeably slipped from the **4th** to the **6th** spot globally, distinctly falling behind the **United Kingdom (UK)** and **Japan**.

- The top four global economies are explicitly currently listed as the **USA, China, Germany, and Japan**.

### 9. WEF Economic Projections and RBI Infrastructure Survey

- The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** Report clearly projects that the global economy will drastically expand by **\$56 trillion** over the next five years.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** officially launched the **49th round** of the **Services and Infrastructure Outlook Survey** specifically for the **April-June 2026** quarter.

### **10. SEBI SSE Relaxations and FIU Data-Sharing Agreements**

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** structurally extended the registration validity period for **Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs)** situated on the **Social Stock Exchange (SSE)** from **2 years** to **3 years**.

- **SEBI** concurrently lowered the strict minimum subscription requirement for **Zero Coupon Zero Principal** instruments from **75%** to **50%**.

- **Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) India** successfully signed two **Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs)** with **SEBI** and the pension regulator **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**.

### **11. Government Approves Rs 129.8 Billion Maritime Insurance Pool**

- India officially approved a **10-year, Rs 129.8 billion (1.4 billion USD)** dedicated **Maritime Insurance Pool**.

### **12. Bilateral Developments: India-Austria Pacts and India-Germany Anniversary**

- Austrian Chancellor **Christian Stocker** prominently visited India, distinctly marking the first visit by an Austrian Chancellor in exactly **40 years**.

- Separately, India and **Germany** celebrated **75 years of diplomatic relations (1951-2026)**.

### **13. India Hosts First BRICS Health Working Group Meeting**

- The heavily anticipated first **BRICS** health working group meeting for **2026** was successfully conducted in **New Delhi**.

- The meeting was effectively chaired by **Punya Salila Srivastava**, the Union Health Secretary

- Theme for India's 2026 BRICS Chairship: "**Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**"

### **14. India's First Chip Fabrication Plant Approved in Gujarat**

- The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MEITY)** officially notified a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** completely covering **66.16 hectares** at **Dholera, Gujarat**.

- The government formally approved this specific SEZ for **Tata Advanced Systems Limited (Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited)**.

### **15. Maharashtra Signs Mega Pacts for Clean Energy and Tech Infrastructure**

- A **2 Gigawatt (GW) floating solar plant**, massive floating solar plant will be securely located on the **Ujani Dam** (which is built on the **Bhima River**, also historically known as the **Yashwant Sagar Dam**).

- As a supplementary industry note, India's total data center market is heavily projected to reach a massive **\$22 billion** by **2030**.

### **16. Authorization of Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline**

- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board** officially authorized the **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for a massive regional project.

- **IOCL** is fully tasked to independently build and securely operate the expansive **425 km Kochi-Kanyakumari-Thoothukudi Natural Gas Pipeline**.

### **17. Global and National Environmental Management Initiatives**

- **World Bank** President **Ajay Banga** prominently announced "**Water Forward**," a sprawling global platform created in close collaboration with multilateral banks.

- The **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Space Applications Centre (SAC)** proudly partnered with the **Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)**.

- A wholly new species of burrowing reed snake, uniquely named **Calamaria garonensis**, was scientifically found in **Meghalaya**.

- The **Water Forward** initiative is carefully designed to severely improve water security for a massive **1 billion people** explicitly by **2030**.

- The **ISRO-ATREE** partnership is formulated to establish deeply standardized protocols for critical ecosystem monitoring and long-term sustainable land management.

### 18. State-Specific Governance and Environmental Developments

- Under the **Indo-Norway** initiative, **Odisha** signed a crucial MOU with the **National Centre for Coastal Research (NCCR)** to directly implement a **Marine Spatial Plan (MSP)**.
- The **Punjab Government** formally formed a strict partnership with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar** to fully build an **AI-based system**.
- **Manipur** is actively developing the massive **227-hectare Kharungpat Bird Sanctuary** distinctly located in the **Kakching district**.
- **Odisha** becomes the very first state to officially adopt the **MSP** specifically in the initiative's second phase.
- Historically, **Puducherry** and **Lakshadweep** successfully adopted the **MSP** during the first phase in **2019**.

### 19. Major Awards and Global Wealth Rankings

- Indian botanist **Alim Yusef** proudly received the prestigious **World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Nature Award**.
- Industrialist **Gautam Adani** officially surpassed **Mukesh Ambani** to prominently become Asia's richest person.
- **Alim Yusef** was formally awarded for inventing "**neight ID**", which is a powerful AI-powered mobile application used to meticulously detect invasive plant species natively in **Kerala**.
- **Gautam Adani** now ranks **19th globally** with a staggering total net worth of **\$92.6 billion**.
- Consequently, **Ambani** dropped to the strict second spot in Asia (ranking **20th globally**) with a calculated net worth of **\$90.8 billion**.

### 20. Sports Updates, Obituaries, and Class Announcements

- The total prize pool for the prestigious **French Open (Roland Garros)** tennis tournament is firmly being increased by **9.5%** to firmly reach **61.7 million Euros**.
- Highly respected official **N. Ramachandran** mournfully passed away at the age of **77** securely in **Chennai**.

### 21. Important Days and Observances in April

- **World Heritage Day** (officially known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites) was observed globally on **April 18** to structurally protect cultural and natural heritage.
- **World Chagas Disease Day** was officially dedicated on **April 14** to raise global awareness regarding a severe tropical disease uniquely caused by the **T. cruzi parasite**.
- **National Fire Service Day** was solemnly marked on **April 14** to distinctly honor the brave firefighters who tragically lost their lives in the massive **1944 Bombay dock explosion**.
- The **2026 theme** for World Heritage Day is "**Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Context of Conflicts and Disasters**,"
- The profound theme for Chagas Disease Day is "**Women at the heart protecting the next generation from the Chagas disease**".
- The designated **Fire Service Week** structurally runs from **April 14-20**, distinctly carrying the prominent theme "**Safe school, safe hospital, and fire safety aware society together for fire prevention**".
- Initiated initially in **1982** by the **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**, there are currently an amazing **1,248 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** sites strictly recorded worldwide, prominently led by **Italy (59)** and **China (57)**.
- **India** currently ranks **6th globally** with exactly **44 sites** (distinctly categorized as 36 Cultural, 7 Natural, and 1 Mixed).
- India's very first heritage sites, officially designated originally in **1983**, strictly included the **Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Agra Fort**, and the globally renowned **Taj Mahal**.