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Port of Refuge

April 2026



NATIONAL

PORT OF REFUGE

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has operationalized **India's first Port of Refuge (PoR)** by designating two sites: **Dighi Port** on the **west coast** and **Gopalpur Port** on the **east coast**.

This initiative aims to **provide structured support for vessels in distress and strengthen maritime emergency infrastructure** along **India's 11,000 km coastline**. It is to be noted that the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** defines a **PoR as a designated location where ships seek shelter to stabilize conditions, protect life, and minimize environmental damage**.

ISO ACCREDITATION FOR CARI BENGALURU

The **Clinical Laboratory** at the **Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Bengaluru**, has been awarded the **ISO 15189:2022 accreditation** for its **Biochemistry and Haematology departments**. It is the **first institute** under the **Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS)** to achieve this distinction.

The laboratory has **transitioned from an entry-level National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL)-certified facility** to a **fully accredited centre of excellence**.

NEW NATIONAL REPOSITORIES

The **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** has designated **two more institutions** as **national repositories** under **Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 (BD Act)**. The initiative aims to enhance the conservation and systematic documentation of biological resources.

The new repositories include the **Referral Centre Bhavasagara** at the **Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE)** in **Kochi (Kerala)** and the **MACS Collection of Microorganisms and National Fungal Culture Collection** at the **Agharkar Research Institute (ARI)** in **Pune (Maharashtra)**. With the additions, the **total count** of the national network of repositories has increased to **20**.

ECONOMIC CORRIDOR INAUGURATED

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the **213-km-long Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor**, built at a cost of **over ₹12,000 crore**. The six-lane access-controlled highway connects **Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**, reducing travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from over 6 hours to **2.5 hours**.

The project features the **longest elevated wildlife corridor in Asia**, spanning **12 km** through the **Rajaji National Park**. The corridor ensures the unhindered movement of wildlife, including elephants and leopards.

PROPOSAL TO INCREASE LOK SABHA STRENGTH

The central government has introduced '**The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026**' to **increase the maximum strength of the Lok Sabha** from 543 to **850 seats**. The move aims to facilitate the immediate implementation of the '**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**' (**Women's Reservation Act**) by reserving **one-third of the house**, totaling **283 seats**, for women in the **2029 general elections**.

The expansion is designed to accommodate the reservation for women **without reducing the existing number of general category seats**. Under the proposed revision, the 850 seats will be distributed with **815 seats for States** and **35 seats for Union Territories (UTs)**.

FIRST WATER NEUTRAL DEPOT

The **Kankaria Coaching Depot** in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, has achieved the distinction of being the **first water-neutral coaching depot of India**. The facility conserves **1.60 lakh litres** of water daily through the **systematic treatment and reuse of wastewater**, effectively minimizing its dependence on freshwater supplies.

Water purification at the depot is facilitated by the **phytoremediation** technique integrated with an **advanced multi-stage purification system**. This initiative promotes environmental protection and the **"Greener Railways" objective** by implementing sustainable and eco-friendly water management practices.

CONSTITUTION IN SINDHI LANGUAGE

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan has released the updated edition of the **Constitution of India** in the **Sindhi language** on **April 10, 2026**, to mark the **Sindhi Language Day (Sindhi Bhasha Diwas)**. The publication was released at **Uparashtrapati Bhawan** in New Delhi in two versions: **Devanagari Script** and **Persian Script**.

The initiative was executed by the **Legislative Department** under the **Ministry of Law and Justice (MoL&J)** in accordance with **Articles 343, 345, and 350B** of the Constitution. It is to be noted that **Sindhi** was included in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution of India via the **21st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1967**.

CHIP FABRICATION PLANT

The **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I)** has notified the establishment of the **first semiconductor fabrication plant** in India as a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in **Dholera, Gujarat**.

The project is developed by **Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Pvt Ltd (TSMPL)**, a subsidiary of the Tata Group, with a total investment of **₹91,000 crore**. The SEZ, spanning **66.166 hectares (ha)**, aims to **strengthen the domestic semiconductor ecosystem** and the national import substitution strategy.

PROJECT FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** and the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** have launched a **5-year initiative** titled **“Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Securing Biodiversity Conservation Commitments”**.

The project is a joint collaboration between the Government of India (GoI), **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, and **UN Development Programme (UNDP)**. The initiative is supported by a **\$4.88 million grant** for the **2025–2030 period** and targets two landscapes: the **Sathyamangalam landscape** in **Tamil Nadu** and the **Garo Hills** in **Meghalaya**.

NEW RAMSAR SITE

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav has announced that the **Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary** in **Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh (UP)**, is designated as a **Ramsar site**. This takes the **total number of Ramsar sites in India to 99**.

With this addition, **UP** now has **12 Ramsar sites**, the **second-highest** in the country. It is to be noted that **Tamil Nadu** holds the **highest number** of Ramsar sites in India with **20 designated wetlands** (as of **February 2026**).

ESZ PROPOSED

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has proposed to notify an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** of **408.7 sq km** around the **Barasingha Wildlife Sanctuary** (formerly **Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary**) in **Uttar Pradesh**.

The ESZ will act as a **“shock absorber”** to reduce the impact of external activities on the ecosystem. A **Monitoring Committee** will be set up to oversee the management of the area, and a **Zonal Master Plan** is mandated to be formulated within **2 years**.

ECONOMY

OECD LOWERS GDP FORECAST

According to the **‘Interim Economic Outlook’ report titled “Testing Resilience”** released by the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, **India’s GDP growth forecast for FY27** is **lowered to 6.1% from its previous estimate of 6.2%**.

The OECD projects **India’s GDP growth** at **7.6% for FY26** and expects it to stabilise at **6.4% in FY28**. The report also projects **India’s retail inflation to increase from 2% in FY26 to 5.1% in FY27**.

RETAIL INFLATION TARGET MAINTAINED

The **Government of India (GoI)** has decided to **maintain the retail inflation target at 4%**, with a **+/- 2% tolerance band (2%–6%)**, for the **five-year period from April 2026, to March 2031**.

This decision confirms the **continuation of the Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework**, which uses the **headline Consumer Price Index (CPI)** with a **2024 base year**. The **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** is mandated to report to the government if average inflation remains outside the 2%–6% range for **three consecutive quarters**.

GDP FORECAST BY MOODY’S

According to the latest **“Credit Opinion Report on India”** released by **Moody’s Ratings**, an American rating agency, the **GDP growth forecast for India for FY27** is **lowered by 80 basis points to 6%**, from its **earlier estimate of 6.8%**.

ADB UPGRADES INDIA GDP OUTLOOK

According to the “**Asian Development Outlook**” report released by the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** in **April 2026**, **India’s economic growth** is projected at **6.9%** for **FY27**, with an expected increase to **7.3%** in **FY28**.

FORECAST BY MORGAN STANLEY

According to a report by **Morgan Stanley**, **India’s real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast** for **FY27** has been revised to **6.2%** from the earlier **6.5%**.

The firm has also increased its **Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation forecast** to **5.1%**, from the previous estimate of **4%**.

GDP FORECAST BY IMF

According to a report by the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**, the **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of India** for **FY27** is revised to **6.5%** from the **6.4% growth rate** estimated in the **January outlook**.

GDP FORECAST

According to the report “**South Asia Economic (SAE) Economic Update April, 2026: Working with Industrial Policy**” released by the **World Bank (WB)**, the **GDP growth of India** for **FY27** is revised upwards to **6.6%** from the earlier projection of **6.3%**.

BHARAT MARITIME INSURANCE POOL

The **Union Cabinet** has approved the establishment of the **Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool (BMI pool)** to provide **continuous maritime insurance coverage** for **Indian vessels**. The initiative is backed by a **sovereign guarantee of ₹12,980 crore** to provide financial security and ensure insurance availability for the pool.

The BMI pool is intended to **reduce dependency on external insurance** and **mitigate risks from global volatility and geopolitical instability** in the maritime sector of India.

GDP FORECAST BY SBI RESEARCH

According to a report by the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the **GDP growth of India** for **FY26** is estimated at **7.6%** and for **FY27** it is projected to range between **6.8–7.1%**.

The report also estimated India’s **average inflation** at **4.5%** and the **fiscal deficit** between **4.5–4.6%**.

REPORTS

PLFS REPORT BY NSO

According to the **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2025** released by the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the **Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) in urban areas remained largely consistent** in 2025 compared to 2024 levels.

The LFPR was estimated at **59.3%** and the WPR at **57.4%** in 2025. The **youth unemployment rate for individuals aged 15 to 29 years decreased** from **10.3% in 2024** to **9.9% in 2025**.

DEFENCE

VAYU BAAN DRONE PROJECT

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has launched ‘**Vayu Baan**’ (‘Air Arrow’), the **country’s first indigenous, helicopter-launched drone project**. Developed under the **Air-Launched Effects (ALE) programme**, this system allows **manned rotary-wing platforms like the Apache** to deploy **compact, autonomous drones**.

These drones are launched from a helicopter in flight, then unfold and activate. They can function as either **surveillance (ISR) tools** or as **precision-guided kamikaze drones with a small warhead**.

MALWAN DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY

The **Indian Navy** has received ‘**Malwan**’, the **second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, from **Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL)**, Kochi.

The vessel is **indigenously designed and constructed**, adhering to the Indian Navy’s specifications and Classification Rules of DNV, with **over 80% indigenous content**. It measures **80 meters in length** and displaces **1,100 tons**. **Named after the historic coastal town of Malwan in Maharashtra**, it also carries the **legacy of the erstwhile INS Malwan, an Indian Naval Minesweeper that served until 2003**.

SANSHODHAK DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY

Sanshodhak (Yard 3028), the **final Survey Vessel (Large) ship**, has been **delivered to the Indian Navy**. It was designed by the **Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau** and constructed by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE)** in **Kolkata**.

The ship has a **displacement of 3,400 tonnes** and an **overall length of 110 metres**. It is equipped with **state-of-the-art hydrographic equipment** and has an **indigenous content exceeding 80% by cost**. The other commissioned ships of the same class are **INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, and INS Ikshak**.

INS TARAGIRI COMMISSIONED

Union Minister Rajnath Singh has commissioned **INS Taragiri**, the **fourth stealth frigate** of the **Project 17A class**, into the **Indian Navy** at **Visakhapatnam**.

The frigate, designed by the **Warship Design Bureau** and built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd**, has a **displacement of 6,670 tonnes** and incorporates **over 75% indigenous content**.

OPERATION URJA SURAKSHA

The **Indian Navy** has launched '**Operation Urja Suraksha**' (**Energy Security**) to **safeguard Indian-flagged energy tankers** passing through the **volatile Strait of Hormuz**.

This strategic mission ensures the **uninterrupted flow of critical energy supplies**, with **22 India-bound vessels** shortlisted for protected transit under this operation.

NEW VESSEL FOR INDIAN COAST GUARD

Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) has delivered the **Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Achal (Yard 1274)** to the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. This is the **5th vessel** in the **Adamyra-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs)** series, **out of eight** being constructed by GSL for the ICG.

The ICGS is **52 metres long**, has a **displacement of 320 tonnes**, and is equipped with a **CPP-based propulsion system**, allowing a **maximum speed of 27 knots** and an **operational range of 1,500 nautical miles**. Its **primary armament includes a CRN 91 30mm naval gun**, and it was built with **over 65% indigenous content**.

INDIAN ARMY PROCURES VIA GEM

The **Indian Army** has executed its **inaugural capital procurement contract**, valued at **₹25.90 crore**, through the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**.

The contract was signed with **JCB India Ltd** for the supply of **93 Telescopic Handlers** under the '**Buy (Indian)**' category.

NUCLEAR SUBMARINE

The **Indian Navy** has **commissioned** its **third indigenously built Ship, Submersible, Ballistic, Nuclear (SSBN)**, named '**INS Aridhaman (S4)**', in **Visakhapatnam**. **Union Minister Rajnath Singh** presided over the commissioning ceremony and also laid the foundation stone for a **state-of-the-art Large Cavitation Tunnel (LCT)**.

The ship is equipped with **eight vertical launch tubes**, capable of carrying either **8 K-4 Intermediate-Range Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs)** with a **3,500 km range** or **24 K-15 Sagarika short-range SLBMs** with a **750 km range**. The vessel features **70% indigenous content**.

EXERCISE DUSTLIK

The **7th edition** of the India-Uzbekistan **joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK'** is scheduled to be conducted at the **Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Uzbekistan**.

The **Indian contingent comprises 60 personnel**, including **45 from the Indian Army** (majorly from a battalion of the **MAHAR Regiment**) and **15 from the Indian Air Force (IAF)**. The **Uzbekistan contingent** also consists of 60 personnel drawn from the Uzbekistan Army and Air Force.

EXERCISE CYCLONE-IV

The **4th edition** of the **India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise** named '**Cyclone-IV**' has commenced at the **Rangers Forces Headquarters in Egypt**.

The **Indian Army (IA)** has deployed a contingent of **25 personnel** from its **Special Forces units** for the exercise, while the host nation is represented by personnel from the **Egyptian Special Forces Group** and the **Rangers Forces**.

RADIO SIKKIM SUNDARI

The **Trishakti Corps** of the **Indian Army** has inaugurated '**Radio Sikkim Sundari**' (**88.4 Frequency Modulation, FM**) in **East Sikkim** near the **India-China border**. It is the **first community radio station for a border village** in the state.

The station is equipped with **Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems** and **solar energy backups** to ensure continuous operation. It also uses a **dedicated encoder** to facilitate **digital streaming** through a mobile application available on the Google Play Store.

FOURTH DIVING SUPPORT CRAFT LAUNCHED

The **fourth of five vessels** under the **Diving Support Craft (DSC) project**, named '**DSC A 23**', has been launched at **Titagarh in Kolkata**. Built by **Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd (TRSL)**, the vessel features a 30 m long **catamaran-hull** with a displacement of approximately **380 tons**.

The ship was designed in compliance with the Naval Rules and Regulations of the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** and underwent model testing at the **Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL)** in **Visakhapatnam**. Around **70%** of the equipment for the DSC project is sourced from indigenous manufacturers.

SCIENCE

NATIONAL DEEP-SEA FAUNA REPOSITORY

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has designated the **Bhavasagara Referral Centre** at the Center for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE) in **Kochi** as India's first National Repository for **Deep-Sea Fauna**.

The centre will preserve biological samples and Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) sequences for scientific use. It will also act as the official custodian for type specimens of newly discovered deep-sea species found in Indian waters. The initiative aims to promote deep-sea taxonomy expertise, aligning with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030).

MISSION MITRA

The **ISRO** has launched **Mission MITRA (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment)** in the **high-altitude terrain** of **Leh, Ladakh**. The mission was conducted at an **elevation of 3,500 metres**.

It is a **collaborative effort** involving the ISRO, the **Indian Air Force Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM)**, and **Bengaluru-based startup Protoplanet**, with the latter managing the facility and protocols.

PFBR ATTAINS CRITICALITY

The indigenously built **500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)** at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu has attained its **first criticality**. This marks the entry of India into the **second stage** of the **three-stage nuclear strategy** envisioned by Homi J Bhabha to ensure **long-term energy independence**.

The PFBR is a **breeder reactor** which produces more fuel than it consumes by using a **Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel core (plutonium-uranium)** surrounded by a blanket of **uranium-238**, which converts into **new fissile plutonium**.

ARTEMIS II CREW RETURNS TO EARTH

The **NASA** has successfully concluded the **Artemis II mission**, where a **4-member crew** returned to Earth after a **10-day journey around the Moon**. The **Orion spacecraft**, named '**Integrity**', performed a splashdown in the **Pacific Ocean**.

It is to be noted that this marks the **first human travel to the lunar vicinity in over 50 years**, since the **Apollo 17 mission** in 1972. The crew also set a record for the **farthest distance traveled from Earth by a crewed spacecraft** at **4.07 lakh km** (2.53 lakh miles), surpassing the previous milestone of the **Apollo 13 mission**.

APPOINTMENTS

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN INDIAN ARMY

Lt Gen Pushendra Pal Singh, former **Vice Chief of the Army Staff (VCOAS)**, has been appointed as the **General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Western Command**. He **succeeds Lt Gen Manoj Kumar Katiyar**.

Lt Gen VMB Krishnan has assumed the role of **GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, succeeding Lt Gen RC Tiwari. Lt Gen Sandeep Jain** has been appointed as the **GOC-in-C, Southern Command, succeeding Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth.** Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth has assumed the appointment of the **VCOAS.**

NEW DG FOR DGCA

The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has appointed **Vir Vikram Yadav** as the **Director General (DG)** of the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)**, which is under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).** He succeeds **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.**

NEW CHAIRPERSON

UB Pravin Rao has been appointed as the **Chairperson** of the **Nasscom Foundation.** He succeeds **Rostow Ramanan.**

NEW CM FOR BIHAR

Samrat Choudhary, belonging to the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) party**, has sworn in as the **24th Chief Minister (CM) of Bihar.** He is the **first leader from the BJP to hold the post.** He succeeds **Nitish Kumar** as the CM.

Vijay Kumar Choudhary and **Bijendra Prasad Yadav** sworn in as **Deputy Chief Ministers (Dy CMs).**

NEW ACTING DG FOR CCI

Rakesh Bhanot has been appointed as the **Acting Director General (DG)** of the **investigative arm** of the **Competition Commission of India (CCI).** He succeeds **Ansuman Pattanaik.**

Prior to the appointment, he served as an advisor to the commission. It is to be noted that the CCI operates under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA).**

NEW CEO FOR APPLE

John Ternus, the **Senior Vice President (SVP) of Hardware Engineering**, has been appointed as the next **CEO** of **Apple Inc.** He will **succeed Tim Cook** in **September 2026.**

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN NITI AAYOG

The Government of India (GoI) has appointed **Dr Ashok Lahiri**, a veteran economist and **former Chief Economic Advisor (CEA)**, as the **Vice-Chairman of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog).** He succeeds **Suman Bery.**

Dr Gobardhan Das, an eminent scientist and the **Director of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER)** in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, has also been appointed as a **full-time member of the NITI Aayog.**

NEW APPOINTMENTS IN NASSCOM

Srikanth Velamakanni, the **Co-Founder and Group Chief Executive of Fractal**, has been appointed as the **Chairman** of the **National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)** for the **2026-2027 term.** He succeeds **Sindhu Gangadharan.**

Kishor Patil, the **MD & CEO of KPIT Technologies**, has been elected as the **Vice Chairperson** of **NASSCOM.**

AWARDS

PARA ARCHER OF THE YEAR

Sheetal Devi, **India first female armless para-archer**, has been designated the **"Para Archer of the Year 2025"** by the **World Archery Federation (WA).**

The **19-year-old** from **J&K** also holds the distinction of being the **first and sole female armless archer to win a gold medal** at the **World Para Archery Championships 2025** in **Gwangju, South Korea.** Other top individual accolades include **Emircan Haney** of **Türkiye** as **"Archer of the Year"** and **Baptiste Addis** of **France** as **"Young Archer of the Year"**.

HOCKEY INDIA ANNUAL AWARDS

Hardik Singh, a **midfielder for the Indian Men's Hockey Team**, and **Navneet Kaur**, a **forward for the Indian Women's Hockey Team**, have been honoured with the **Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the Year.** Each received **₹20 lakh.**

Zafar Iqbal, a former captain, was conferred the **Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award**, which carried a prize of ₹25 lakh. **Prince Deep Singh** received the **HI Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player (Men (U21))**, while **Sakshi Rana** was awarded the **HI Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player (Women (U21))**, with both receiving ₹10 lakh each.

RAMNATH GOENKA JOURNALISM AWARDS

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan was the Chief Guest at the **20th edition of the Ramnath Goenka (RNG) Excellence in Journalism Awards** in **New Delhi**. He presented awards to **25 journalists across 18 categories**.

Notably, **Sandeep Dighe** (**The Times of India**) and **Sreya Chatterjee & Arvind Ojha** (**India Today**) were honoured with the '**Prakash Kardaley Memorial Awards for Civic Journalism**'. The awards were **instituted in 2005** by the **Ramnath Goenka Foundation** to commemorate the birth centenary of **Ramnath Goenka**, the founder of the **Indian Express (IE) Group**. Each recipient receives a citation, a trophy, and a **cash prize of ₹1 lakh**.

PRESIDENT'S POLICE COLOUR

President Droupadi Murmu has approved the conferment of the prestigious **President's Police Colour (Nishaan)** on the **Uttarakhand Police** and **Odisha Police**.

The honour is recognised as the **highest national honour for a state police force**, acknowledging their **exceptional service, professionalism, and commitment to internal security and public safety**.

TRIPURA PANCHAYATS WIN TOP AWARDS

Three Panchayats from Tripura have secured **top honours** at the **Deen Dayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (DDUPSVP) 2025** and the **Nanaji Deshmukh Sarvottam Panchayat Satat Vikas Puraskar (NDPSVP) 2025**, presented by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR)**.

Sepahijala District Panchayat has secured the **first rank** in the **Best DP category** under the **NDPSVP**. **Kanchanbari Gram Panchayat** from **Unakoti district** achieved the **first rank** under the **Healthy Panchayat category** of the **DDUPSVP**. **Baikunthapur Gram Panchayat** from **West Tripura district** secured the **third rank** under the **Women-Friendly Panchayat category** of the **DDUPSVP**.

CHETAK SCREEN AWARDS 2026

The **Indian Express Group** has organized the **Chetak Screen Awards 2026** in **Mumbai**, marking the resumption of the event after a **gap of 7 years**. The ceremony honoured excellence in **Indian cinema** and **Over-the-Top (OTT) content** released during the 2025 calendar year.

The spy thriller "**Dhurandhar**" was the most successful production, winning **14 awards** from **24 nominations**. **Aditya Dhar** was named the **Best Director** for the film, while **Ranveer Singh** won the **Best Actor (Male)** award and **Akshaye Khanna** won the **Best Supporting Actor (Male)** award.

SOUTH ASIAN PERSON OF THE YEAR

Sayani Gupta, a **Bollywood actress**, has been designated as the **South Asian 'Person of the Year'** by the **Harvard University South Asian Association (SAA)**. The honour recognises her contributions to the **fields of film, storytelling, and representation**.

WWF NATIONAL AWARD

N Alim Yusuf, a **botanist from Kerala**, has been honoured with the **World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) National Award**. The award was presented during the **National ECHO Youth Innovation Summit 2026**, held as part of the International Youth Biodiversity Conference in **Hyderabad**.

He was recognised for developing '**NeophyteID**', an **AI powered mobile application** that identifies **100 invasive plant species** in Kerala. The application uses the **YOLOv11 Machine Learning model** for detection. WWF has also provided a **seed grant of ₹1.5 lakh** for the further development and scaling of the project.

MS SWAMINATHAN AWARD

Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, the Director and Vice-Chancellor of the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI)**, has been conferred the **9th "Prof. MS Swaminathan Award"** for the **2024-25 period** in **Hyderabad**. The award carries a **Gold Medal** and a cash prize of **₹2 lakh**.

GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

The **Goldman Environmental Foundation** has conferred the **2026 Goldman Environmental Prize**, frequently referred to as the “**Green Nobel**”, to an **all-women cohort** at a ceremony in **San Francisco, US**. This marks the first such occurrence since the **inception of the award in 1989**.

The six recipients include **Iroko Tanshi (Nigeria - Africa)**, **Borim Kim (South Korea - Asia)**, **Sarah Finch (United Kingdom (UK) - Europe)**, **Theonila Roka Matbob (Papua New Guinea - Islands and Island Nations)**, **Alannah Acaq Hurley** from the **US (North America)**, and **Yuvelis Morales Blanco (Colombia - South and Central America)**. It is to be noted that each recipient was granted a **cash prize of \$200,000**.

GLOBAL GREEN ICON

J Santosh Kumar, a **former Member of Parliament (MP)** and environmentalist, has been conferred the “**Global Green Icon**” award at the **World Climate Leaders Conclave 2026** held at the **House of Lords** in **London**.

It is to be noted that he was elected to the **Rajya Sabha** in **2018** from the **Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS)** to represent the state of **Telangana**.

US ARMY HALL OF FAME

General Upendra Dwivedi, the **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** of the Indian Army (IA), has been inducted into the **International Hall of Fame (HoF)** of the **United States Army War College (USAWC)** in **Pennsylvania, USA**.

He is the **third IA Chief to receive this distinction**, following the inductions of **General VK Singh** and **General Bikram Singh**.

LAUREUS WORLD SPORTS AWARDS

The **2026 Laureus World Sports Awards**, known as the “**Oscars of Sport**”, was held in **Madrid, Spain**. The event was co-hosted by **Novak Djokovic** (five-time winner) and **Eileen Gu** (Olympic skiing champion).

Carlos Alcaraz (22 years old) was named the **World Sportsman of the Year**, becoming the **youngest-ever recipient**. **Aryna Sabalenka** won the **World Sportswoman of the Year**, and **Paris Saint-Germain** was named the **World Team of the Year**.

GEM AWARD

The **Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC)** in **Andhra Pradesh** has been conferred the **4th edition** of the “**Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award**”.

The award is presented by the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** recognising the initiatives and mobilisation efforts of the GMC towards **gender equality**.

SPORTS

FIRST INDIAN WOMAN

Divya Singh, a **28-year-old schoolteacher** from **Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh**, becomes the **first Indian woman to reach Mount Everest Base Camp (EBC) by bicycle**. She achieved this feat by reaching an **altitude of 17,560 feet**.

KHELO INDIA TRIBAL GAMES 2026

Karnataka emerged as the overall champion, securing a total of **38 medals**, including 23 gold, 8 silver, and 7 bronze at the inaugural **Khelo India Tribal Games 2026 (KITG 2026)** held in Chhattisgarh. **Odisha** secured the second position, while **Jharkhand** finished third in the games.

ASIAN BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

India finished **second** in the overall standings at the **Asian Boxing Championships 2026 (ABC)** held in **Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia**. India won a total of **16 medals**, including **5 gold, 3 silver, and 8 bronze**. **Kazakhstan topped the rankings** with 15 medals (6 gold), while Uzbekistan stood third.

The **gold medalists** from India at the ABC include **Minakshi Hooda (48kg)**, **Preeti Pawar (54kg)**, **Priya Ghanghas (60kg)**, and **Arundhati Choudhary (70kg)** in the women categories. **Vishvanath Suresh** won gold in the **men 50kg category**.

LAURA CARDOSO SETS CRICKET RECORD

Laura Cardoso, a **Brazilian all-rounder**, becomes the **first cricketer in history** (across both men’s and women’s formats) to **claim 9 wickets in a single T20I innings**. She achieved this record against **Lesotho** during the **BCA Kalahari Women’s T20I Tournament** held in **Botswana**.

FIDE CANDIDATES TOURNAMENT

R Vaishali, an **Indian Grandmaster (GM)**, becomes the **first Indian woman to win** the **International Chess Federation (FIDE) Women's Candidates Tournament 2026**.

She defeated **Kateryna Lagno** (Russia) in the final round of the tournament held in **Pegeia, Cyprus**. It is to be noted that **Javokhir Sindarov** of **Uzbekistan** has won the **Open Section** of the Candidates Tournament.

95TH GRANDMASTER FOR INDIA

Aronyak Ghosh from **Kolkata** becomes the **95th Grandmaster (GM) of India**. He secured his **third and final GM norm** at the **23rd Bangkok Chess Club (BCC) Open 2026**, which was held in **Bangkok, Thailand**.

ISSF WORLD CUP

India has won a **gold medal** at the **International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup (Rifle/Pistol) 2026** held in **Granada, Spain**. **Mukesh Nelavalli** and **Palak Gulia** secured the gold in the **mixed team 10m air pistol event**.

China topped the medal standings with **13 medals (8 gold, 3 silver, and 2 bronze)**, followed by **Germany** with 2 medals (1 gold and 1 silver). India concluded the tournament with a total of **1 gold medal**.

OBITUARY

ASHA BHOSLE PASSED AWAY

Asha Bhosle, legendary **playback singer**, passed away at the age of 92. She was a recipient of the **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** in 2000 and the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2008.

Her accolades include two **National Film Awards** and seven **Filmfare Awards** for Best Female Playback Singer, along with the **Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award** in 2001.

SONAM WANGCHUK PASSED AWAY

Sonam Wangchuk, a **1999 Kargil War hero** fondly known as the "**Lion of Ladakh**", passed away at the age of 61. He was a recipient of the **Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)**, the **second-highest wartime gallantry award** of India, in 1999.

Terminology Guide

1. Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR)

News: 21

Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) is an important economic indicator that measures the proportion of the population of working age—usually 15 years and above—who are actively participating in the labour market. This rate includes two groups: people who are currently employed (working) and those who are unemployed but are actively seeking work. It excludes individuals who are neither working nor looking for a job.

2. Worker Population Ratio (WPR)

News: 21

The 'Worker Population Ratio (WPR)' is a measure used in labour statistics to indicate the proportion of the population that is employed. It is calculated by taking the total number of employed persons in a specific age group and dividing it by the total population in that same age group. Essentially, it tells us what percentage of the population is actively working.

Publication Guide

Volume
#1.8

Issue
#D1

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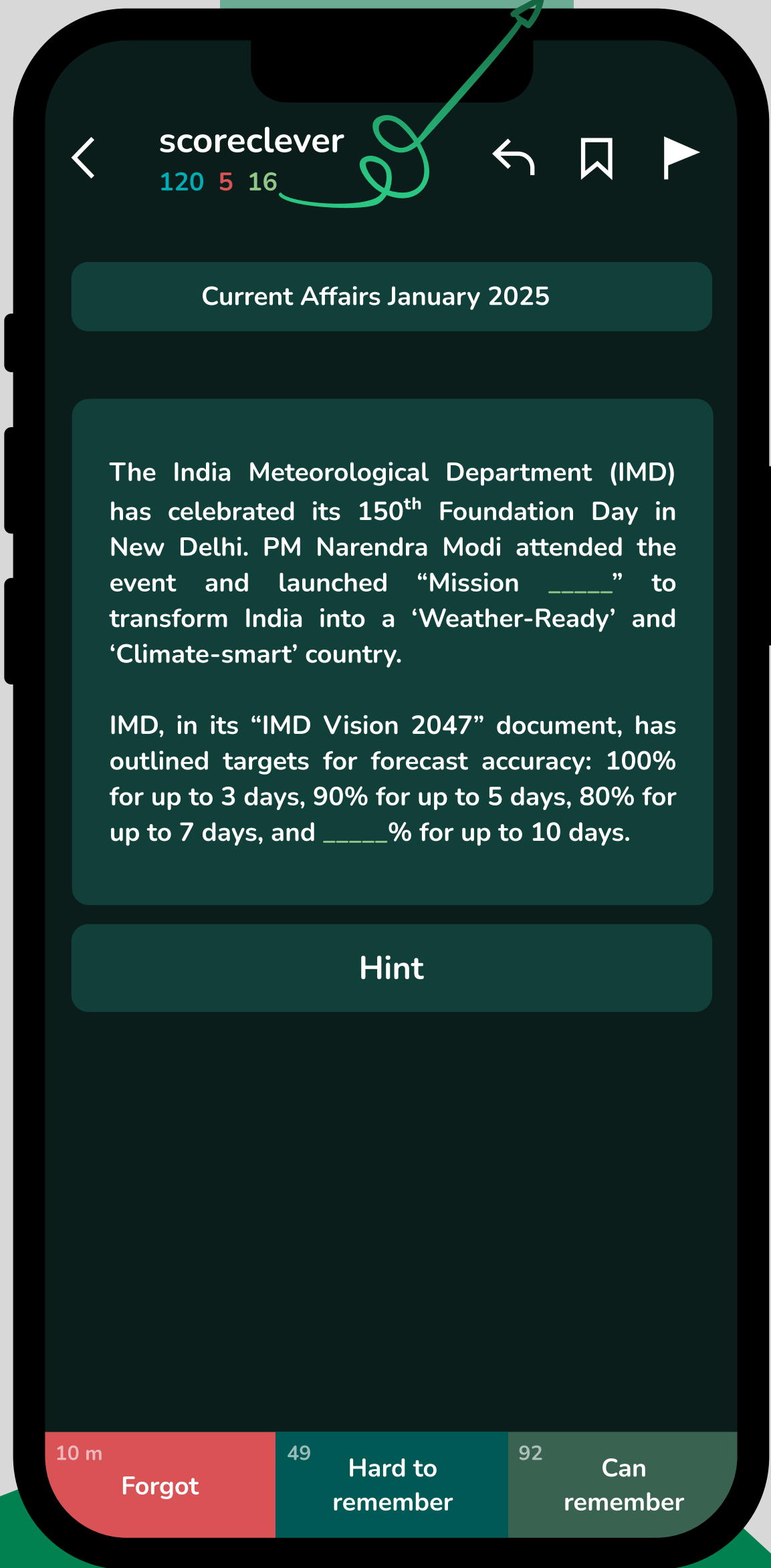
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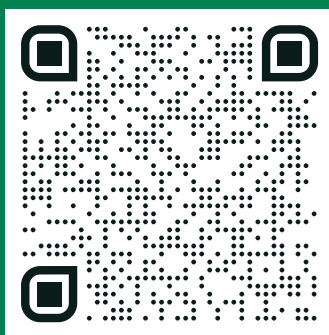
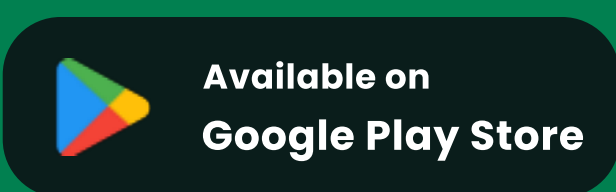
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