

**Weekly One Liners 13th to 19th April, 2026**

**Supreme Court of India Clarifies Legal Status of Voting and Election Participation Rights**

Honorable Supreme Court of India has ruled out that the right to vote and to contest elections are not fundamental rights but they are statutory rights and it governed by the law. This judgment was came on the April 11, 2026 and it during a case related to the cooperative society elections in State of Rajasthan. The Court also emphasized that these rights are exist only within the framework of the laws like the Representation of the People Acts and it can be subject to the conditions, qualifications and the disqualifications.

**What is The Supreme Court Verdict?**

A bench comprising the Justices BV Nagarathna and R Mahadevan have reiterated the well-established legal position that,

- The right to vote enables the participation in elections but is not the fundamental right which provide under the Constitution.
- The right to contest elections is the separate and it can be restricted via different eligibility conditions.

The Court has also clarified that both rights are purely statutory it means that they are created and regulated by laws passed by the Parliament or the state legislatures and they are not guaranteed under Part III (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution of India.

**Background of the Rajasthan Cooperative Societies Case**  
The ruling has been comes from the dispute involving the elections in District Milk Producers Cooperative Unions in Rajasthan. These unions have operated under the Rajasthan Co-operative Societies Act, 2001 which had established the three-tier system.

**Key Issues in the Case**

In the act there were certain bye-laws were framed to set the eligibility criteria for candidates which includes the,

- Minimum number of days of the milk supply
- Quantity of milk supplied
- Operational status of societies
- And the audit compliance standards

So with this some cooperative societies have challenged these rules in the Rajasthan High Court and argued that that they were unfair and exceeded the legal provisions.

In the 2015 a single judge has struck down the bye-laws and in 2022 a division bench upheld the decision which taken earlier. However the Supreme Court has overturned the High Court justification and stated that these bye-laws are merely set eligibility conditions and were legally valid.

**Why the Supreme Court Upheld the Bye-Laws**

The apex court has observed that this bye-laws do not amount to the disqualifications but it simply define eligibility and they are not violate the constitutional principles like equality. Also said the courts should not interfere in the internal matters of the cooperative societies unless there is clear illegality.

The court also noted that cooperative societies are generally not considered 'State' under Article 12 of the Constitution.

Therefore their internal election matters typically not fall under the judicial review via Article 226 by writ jurisdiction.

**Statutory Nature of Electoral Rights**

The Court have also highlighted that electoral rights from laws such as the,

- Representation of the People Act, 1950
- Representation of the People Act, 1951

These laws define that the,

- Who can vote (on the basis of age, citizenship, registration)
- Who can contest elections
- Also the grounds for the disqualification (like the criminal record, corrupt practices, etc.)

**Difference Between Fundamental Rights and Statutory Rights**

Aspect	Details
Fundamental Rights	They are guaranteed by the Constitution of India under the Part III It are cannot be easily restricted Directly enforceable in the Supreme court or High Court
Statutory Rights	This rights are created by legislation Can be modified or restricted by the law They exist only within the legal framework

**TIME100 2026: Full List of World's Most Influential People and Key Trend**

The awaited TIME100 list for 2026 has been officially released by the TIME. This reports highlights the world's most influential people who shaping the global trends and decisions. This annual list recognizes the leaders, innovators and the changemakers across politics, business, entertainment, science and more. The 2026 edition showcases how influence today goes just beyond the power and also focusing on to the individuals driving change in the areas like artificial intelligence, climate action and the global governance.

**What is the TIME100 List?**

The TIME100 list is the annual recognition by TIME magazine which identifies the most influential individual persons worldwide. It is not based on the wealth or fame alone but it also impact, leadership and the ability to shape the future.



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Categories typically include the,

- Leaders
- Innovators
- Artists
- Titans
- Icons
- Pioneers

**TIME100 2026 Key Highlights You Should Know**

The TIME100 list continues the legacy of the recognizing the impactful personalities across diverse sectors from the worldwide.

- The list features the top 100 influential individuals from across the globe.
- It will also includes the leaders from politics, business, entertainment, science and activism.
- The 2026 edition marks the 23rd annual TIME100 list.

The list not just highlight popularity but it also recognize the real-world impact and influence.

**Global Leaders and Political Figures on the List**

Several prominent world’s political leaders have been featured into the list and it is reflecting their role to shaping international relations and policies.

Notable names include in the list are,

- Xi Jinping who is appearing for the 14th time.
- US President Donald Trump
- Benjamin Netanyahu
- Claudia Sheinbaum

**Business, AI and Tech Leaders**

From the sectors like the technology and business leaders have dominated the 2026 list which is showing the growing importance of innovation.

Key figures includes the,

- Sundar Pichai
- MrBeast
- Michael Dell

The focus is n the AI, digital platforms and the global business ecosystems which highlights how technology is shaping the modern world.

**Entertainment and Cultural Icons in TIME100**

The list also celebrates the global entertainers who have influence culture and society.

Some of notable names include,

- Ranbir Kapoor
- Dakota Johnson
- Ben Stiller

In music sectors.

- Jennie
- Coco Jones

These personalities have shape the global pop culture and influence the millions worldwide.

**Indian Names Shine in TIME 100 – 2026 Highlights**

**1. Sundar Pichai – Global Tech Leadership**

- As the CEO of Google and Alphabet Sundar Pichai continues to shaping the future of technology and artificial intelligence.
- His leadership has positioned the Google at the front runner of innovation and making him the consistent global influencer.

**2. Vikas Khanna – Culinary Excellence on Global Stage**

He is the renowned chef and has gained the international recognition for promoting the Indian cuisine globally. His work goes beyond just food and contributing to social causes and cultural representation.

**3. Ranbir Kapoor – Indian Cinema’s Global Reach**

Ranbir Kapoor’s inclusion highlights the growing global appeal of the Indian cinema. He is the only Indian actor to be featured in the 2026 list and which is reflecting the his impact and popularity worldwide.

**Youngest and Oldest Influencers on the List**

Alysa Liu at the age of the 20 years old featured into the list. And the Dolores Huerta at the 96 years of age also part of the list. This wide age range shows that influence has the no age limit.

**TIME100 Summit and Gala 2026**

The TIME100 list is not just about the recognition but it brings the global leaders together.

- TIME100 Summit: April 22, 2026 (New York City)
- TIME100 Gala: April 23, 2026

The gala will be hosted by the Nikki Glaser with the performances by Luke Combs and Coco Jones.

For the first time ever the red carpet event will be livestreamed across the world and making it accessible to the audiences worldwide.

**The TIME100 2026 Full List**

Category	Listed Individuals
Global leaders & policymakers	Pope Leo XIV Mark Carney Mette Frederiksen Claudia Sheinbaum Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah Xi Jinping Tarique Rahman Benjamin Netanyahu Rafael Mariano Grossi Sanae Takaichi Balendra Shah Henna Virkkunen

Category	Listed Individuals	Category	Listed Individuals	
U.S. political & public figures	Donald Trump Gavin Newsom Marco Rubio Mark Kelly Zohran Mamdani Jacob Frey Steve Witkoff Susie Wiles Dan Caine	Entertainers (film, TV, media)	Ben Stiller Benicio Del Toro Zoe Saldaña Ethan Hawke Kate Hudson Dakota Johnson Ranbir Kapoor Claire Danes Keke Palmer Sterling K. Brown Alan Cumming Noah Wyle Anderson .Paak Jonathan Groff Wagner Moura Rhea Seehorn Jafar Panahi Nikki Glaser	
Business, technology & AI leaders	Gwynne Shotwell Dario Amodei Daniela Amodei Sundar Pichai Neal Mohan Michael Dell Susan Dell MrBeast C.C. Wei Jeremy Allaire Sarah Friar John Furner David Ellison Josh D'Amaro Aliko Dangote Lip-Bu Tan Fatih Birol		Musicians	Luke Combs Coco Jones Jennie Hilary Duff Rauw Alejandro Noah Kahan
	Science, space & health		Athletes	Scottie Scheffler Chloe Kim Lando Norris Noah Lyles Hilary Knight Alysa Liu
Advocates & changemakers	Reid Wiseman Tony Tyson Kiran Musunuru Precious Matsoso Mari Luz Canaquiri Murayari Mariangela Hungria Rebecca Ahrens-Nicklass Luciano Moreira Anne-Claire Amprou		Fashion, arts, literature & culinary	Ralph Lauren Victoria Beckham Matthieu Blazy Anok Yai Nancy Silverton Vikas Khanna Mashama Bailey Lynsey Addario Cao Fei Tayari Jones Yiyun Li Freida McFadden Walter Hood
	Shirin Ebadi Dolores Huerta Heather Gerken Kica Matos Shannon Minter Lauren Hersh Mamadou Amadou Ly Zabib Musa Loro Rachel Foster Sabrina Walter			

**Setback for Women's Representation: Women's Reservation Bill 2026 Fails to Clear Constitutional Hurdle**

The Women's Reservation Bill 2026 was defeated in the Lok Sabha even after securing the more votes in favor than the against. The Bill which is aimed to reserve the 33% seats for women in the Parliament and state assemblies which could not meet the strict constitutional requirement of the two-thirds majority. This development has sparked intense political debate and also raising questions about consensus, electoral reforms and the future of the women's representation in India.

**Women's Reservation Bill Fails Despite Majority Support**

The Constitutional 131st Amendment Bill, 2026 was put to the vote after the intense two-day debate in the Lok Sabha.

The results has surprised the many observers.

- Votes in favour: 298
- Votes against: 230
- Votes required: 360 at the full strength for the 2/3rd Majority

Even despite the Bill had more support than the opposition votes but it failed because of the constitutional amendments which require the special majority not just the simple majority. This makes it the rare instance where a Bill with clear support but still does not pass.

Notably this is the first constitutional amendment Bill in the 12 years which was introduced by the Modi government to be defeated in the Lok Sabha.

**Why the Two-Thirds Majority Became the Deciding Factor**

As per the Constitution of India any amendment which needs to change the constitutional part it requires the approval under a strict framework.

This includes,

- At least the two-thirds of members present and voting
- And also not less than 50% of the total strength of the House

As the current Lok Sabha strength is at 543 the Bill needed at least the 360 votes which it could not achieve. This rule ensures that the major constitutional changes are made only with the broad political consensus.

**Political Divide and the Delimitation Debate**

One of the biggest and main reasons behind the Bill's defeat was the unified opposition stance. Several opposition parties have raised the concerns over the link between the women's reservation and delimitation.

Delimitation refers to the redrawing of the electoral boundaries which is based on population changes.

Opposition leaders have argued that,

- It could disadvantage the southern states.
- It might alter the political balance across the regions.
- The government was using the women's reservation as the cover to push delimitation reforms.

This issue have become the central point of the disagreement and prevented the consensus.

**Government vs Opposition: The Clear Face-Off**

The debate on this bill saw the strong positions from both sides.

- PM Narendra Modi urged all the parties to support the Bill and calling it the long-overdue step for women's empowerment.
- Home Minister Amit Shah have accused the opposition of deliberately blocking progress.
- Opposition leaders have also maintained that structural concerns must be addressed first and especially regarding to the delimitation.

Despite last-minute efforts to gather support for the bill the political divide remained the hurdle for this historic bill.

**The Long Journey of Women's Reservation: Background**

The idea to reserving seats for the women in legislatures is nothing new. It has been discussed for over the four decades.

The proposal aims to ensure the greater participation of women in decision-making.

Currently the women's representation in the Parliament remains relatively low.

The previous attempts to pass the similar Bills have also faced the political hurdles.

Globally the many countries have adopted the gender quotas to improve the representation and which making India's delay more noticeable all around the world.

**National Affairs**

- The first **life-size statue of Swami Vivekananda** in the US was unveiled on **April 12, 2026**, at **Westlake Square in Seattle**, symbolizing India-US **cultural ties**. Installed by Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the statue highlights **cultural diplomacy** and Vivekananda's global influence since **Chicago 1893**. Attended by key leaders, the event promotes **Indian philosophy, diaspora engagement, and multicultural unity** on an international platform.
- India has introduced a **digital-only toll system** on National Highways from **April 11, 2026**, mandating payments via **FASTag** and **Unified Payments Interface**, eliminating **cash transactions**. The move aims to enhance **transparency**, reduce **traffic congestion**, and promote a **digital economy**. However, rollout is temporarily paused in some states due to **elections** and the **Model Code of Conduct**, reflecting India's push toward **smart transport infrastructure**.
- The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 proposes major reforms to expand the Lok Sabha from **543 to 850 seats**, improving **representation**. It allows early **delimitation** by removing the post-2026 Census restriction under **Article 82**, enabling faster constituency redistribution. The move also accelerates **33% women's reservation**, building on the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act 2023. Overall, the reform aims to modernize India's **political structure**, enhance inclusivity, and align representation with population growth.

- Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor**, enhancing connectivity between Delhi and Dehradun. The project reduces **travel time and costs**, boosting **tourism, trade, and employment**. It improves access to key destinations like Haridwar and Mussoorie while supporting **local businesses and logistics**. Featuring a **12-km wildlife corridor**, it balances development with **environmental sustainability**. Overall, the initiative marks a major step in **infrastructure growth and regional economic development**.
- The Government of India has launched **Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0** with a ₹10,000 crore corpus to boost **deep-tech, innovative manufacturing, and early-stage startups**. Managed by Small Industries Development Bank of India under Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, the fund invests via **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**. It aims to enhance **capital access, innovation, and entrepreneurship**, supporting sectors like **AI, robotics, and biotech**, strengthening India's **startup ecosystem and economic growth**.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Sri Guru Bhairavaikya Mandira** at Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math on **April 15, 2026**, highlighting India's **spiritual heritage and cultural traditions**. During his visit to Karnataka, he also offered prayers at key temples and paid tribute to Balagangadharanatha Mahaswamiji. The event emphasized values of **service, wisdom, and social development**, showcasing the role of spiritual institutions in **nation-building and community welfare**.
- Harivansh Narayan Singh was elected **unopposed** as **Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** for a **third consecutive term** on **April 17, 2026**, creating history. He became the **first nominated member** to hold this post, reflecting strong **cross-party consensus**. His re-election, supported by leaders like J. P. Nadda and Narendra Modi, highlights his **neutrality, experience, and parliamentary leadership** in managing House proceedings.
- India has recognized over **55,200 startups in FY 2025–26**, the highest ever under the Startup India Initiative, reflecting strong **innovation and entrepreneurial growth**. Since its launch in 2016, total recognized startups have crossed **2.23 lakh**, generating over **23.36 lakh jobs**. Government schemes like **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**, **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**, and **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)** have boosted funding and accessibility. This growth highlights India's expanding **startup ecosystem**, rising **investment support**, and its role in driving **economic development and employment generation**.
- The Kankaria Coaching Depot in Ahmedabad has become **India's first 'water neutral' railway depot**, saving around **1.60 lakh litres of water daily** through advanced reuse systems. Using **phytoremediation** and multi-stage treatment, wastewater from operations is **naturally purified, filtered, and reused**, reducing dependence on freshwater. This initiative results in nearly **5.84 crore litres of annual water savings**, promoting **sustainability and cost efficiency**. It sets a benchmark for eco-friendly railway operations, aligning infrastructure with **environmental conservation and resource management goals**.

### States in the News

- The Karnataka Postal Circle released **commemorative stamps** in Bengaluru honoring Indian Space Research Organisation and its **human spaceflight mission**. The stamps highlight India's journey from **Aryabhata (1975)** to the upcoming **Gaganyaan**, reflecting scientific progress. The mission aims to send **Gaganyatris** into orbit, while plans for an **Indian Space Station by 2028** showcase future ambitions, strengthening India's **space exploration capabilities** and global standing.
- Nitish Kumar resigned as Chief Minister of Bihar on **April 14, 2026**, ending his **two-decade-long tenure** and marking a major political shift. Samrat Choudhary is set to take oath as the new CM, becoming the **first BJP Chief Minister** of the state. Nitish Kumar's tenure was known for **infrastructure development, governance reforms, and social welfare initiatives**. His exit signals a new political phase, while his legacy continues to shape Bihar's development trajectory.
- Samrat Choudhary was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Bihar, marking the **first time** the Bharatiya Janata Party holds the top post in the state. The ceremony in Patna followed the resignation of Nitish Kumar, ending his long tenure. Supported by the National Democratic Alliance, the new leadership signals a **major political shift**, with a focus on governance continuity and coalition stability.
- The Karnataka High Court directed the state to implement a **menstrual leave policy** across all sectors, including the unorganized workforce, recognizing it as a **fundamental right under Article 21**. The court emphasized **dignity, equality, and humane working conditions**, stating menstruation support is essential for women's rights. The ruling strengthens **gender-sensitive workplace reforms**, ensures broader inclusion, and pushes for uniform enforcement until the proposed policy becomes law, marking a significant step in advancing **women's welfare and constitutional equality in India**.

- The Chhattisgarh government, led by Vishnu Deo Sai, has approved a **high-level committee** to draft the **Uniform Civil Code** implementation framework. The committee will study **legal, social, and cultural aspects** before proposing a roadmap. Rooted in **Article 44** of the Constitution, UCC aims to create **uniform personal laws** for all citizens. This move places Chhattisgarh among states exploring **legal uniformity and equality reforms**, signaling a gradual policy shift toward a common civil law system in India.
- The state of Meghalaya has officially recognized **Khasi and Garo as state languages** alongside English, marking a major step toward **preserving indigenous identity** and improving **governance accessibility**. Approved under the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026, the move allows their use in **administration, Assembly proceedings, and recruitment processes**. Announced by Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, the decision reflects growing emphasis on **cultural inclusion and linguistic diversity**. It also strengthens the demand for inclusion of Khasi and Garo in the **Eighth Schedule of the Constitution**, ensuring greater recognition and development support.
- The Punjab Assembly has unanimously passed the **Anti-Sacrilege Bill 2026**, announced by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, and sent it to Governor Gulab Chand Kataria for approval. The Bill proposes **strict punishments**, including **life imprisonment and fines up to ₹25 lakh**, especially for offenses involving the Guru Granth Sahib. It aims to strengthen existing laws, ensure **zero tolerance toward religious disrespect**, and maintain **law and order**. Once the Governor grants assent, the legislation will come into force as law in the state.
- The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has become the **first water utility in India** to earn the **ISO 50001:2018 certification** for energy management. Issued by Bureau Veritas, it recognizes efficient operations at key pumping stations like **TK Halli, Harohalli, and Tataguni**. The certification promotes **energy efficiency, reduced costs, and lower carbon emissions**. This milestone highlights Bengaluru's focus on **sustainable infrastructure** and sets a strong example for other urban utilities across India.
- A major political shift occurred in Hungary as Viktor Orbán was ousted after **16 years**, with Péter Magyar leading the **Tisza party** to a **two-thirds majority** in the 2026 elections. Voters backed promises of **anti-corruption reforms** and closer **EU alignment**. The result signals potential policy shifts on **Russia–Ukraine relations**, strengthening **European unity** and reshaping Hungary's political and geopolitical direction.
- Israel appointed Roman Gofman as the new chief of Mossad on **April 13, 2026**, succeeding David Barnea from **July 2**. Appointed by Benjamin Netanyahu, Gofman's leadership comes amid rising **Middle East security challenges**, including **Gaza tensions** and intelligence threats. His military experience and strategic role highlight Israel's focus on strengthening **national security and intelligence operations**.
- Australia appointed Susan Coyle as its first **female Army Chief**, announced in **April 2026**, with charge from **July**. A senior leader in the Australian Defence Force, she brings decades of **military experience**. The move marks a historic step toward **gender equality and inclusive leadership**, addressing long-standing representation challenges. Backed by Anthony Albanese, it reflects efforts to modernize the military and inspire greater **women's participation in defence forces**.
- Donald Trump unveiled plans for the **"Arc de Trump"**, a proposed **250-foot monument** in Washington, D.C., inspired by the Arc de Triomphe. Designed with **gold accents** and symbolic elements, it aims to honor **American heroes and national pride**. The project awaits approvals from authorities like the Commission of Fine Arts and faces debate over **costs, urban planning, and heritage concerns**, making its future uncertain.
- China became India's **top trading partner in FY2025–26**, overtaking the United States, with bilateral trade reaching **\$151.1 billion**. However, India's **trade deficit with China widened** to over **\$112 billion**, reflecting high imports of electronics and machinery. In contrast, India maintained a **trade surplus with the US**. The shift highlights evolving **global trade dynamics** and growing economic ties despite geopolitical tensions.

### International Affairs

- The **US–Iran Peace Talks in Islamabad collapsed without agreement**, escalating **Middle East tensions**. Mediated by Pakistan, the talks failed due to disputes over **Iran's nuclear program, navigation rights in the Strait of Hormuz, and mutual distrust**. The breakdown threatens **global energy supply**, as the Strait handles major oil flow. Rising **military risks** and **global concern** highlight growing instability, with nations urging **de-escalation and renewed diplomatic efforts**.
- India and New Zealand will sign a **Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** on **April 27, 2026**, aimed at boosting **trade, exports, and investment**. The deal is expected to attract **\$20 billion investment over 15 years** and improve **market access** across sectors like textiles and pharmaceuticals. It also offers **work opportunities for Indian professionals** and may double bilateral trade to \$5 billion. Overall, the FTA strengthens **economic ties and Indo-Pacific cooperation**.

- Keir Starmer and Emmanuel Macron have launched the **Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative** to secure vital global shipping routes. The virtual meeting, attended by nearly 40 countries including India, aims to ensure **safe navigation, protect energy supply chains, and maintain maritime security** amid rising Middle East tensions. The Strait of Hormuz is crucial for global oil trade, and disruptions could trigger **energy price spikes, supply chain issues, and economic instability worldwide**.

### Banking/Economy/Business News

- The World Bank released **\$340 million** for Phase-I of Amaravati, with additional funds expected, supporting Andhra Pradesh's **capital city development**. Backed by the Asian Development Bank, the project follows a **result-based funding model (AIUDP)** ensuring **accountability and efficiency**. It focuses on **urban infrastructure, flood management, and job creation**, reflecting strong global support for India's **sustainable urban development and governance reforms**.
- India recorded a **30.2% surge in patent filings to 1,43,729 in FY 2025–26**, marking a historic high, as announced by Piyush Goyal. The growth reflects a strong push toward **innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)**, with **69% domestic filings** signaling "Invented in India." Supported by policy reforms under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India is emerging as a **global innovation hub** with sustained growth in research and technology.
- India's **retail inflation rose to 3.4% in March 2026** from 3.21% in February, as reported by the National Statistics Office. Measured via the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)**, the increase was driven mainly by **food inflation (3.87%)**, including rising prices of vegetables and commodities. Global factors like **West Asia tensions** also impacted supply chains. Despite the uptick, inflation remains within the Reserve Bank of India target range, indicating **moderate price stability** and manageable economic conditions.
- PPFAS Asset Management has received approval from Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority to manage funds under the National Pension System, marking its entry into India's **retirement investment sector**. The firm will launch pension schemes and manage long-term savings with a **disciplined investment approach**. With NPS gaining popularity due to **tax benefits and market-linked returns**, this move enhances **competition, transparency, and investor choice**, strengthening India's growing **pension ecosystem**.

- India's **unemployment rate rose to 5.1% in March 2026**, a five-month high, as per the National Statistics Office and **PLFS data**. The increase was mainly driven by **urban unemployment (6.8%)**, while **rural unemployment** edged up to 4.3%. Both **male and female unemployment** saw a rise, indicating broader job market stress. Key indicators like **Labour Force Participation Rate (55.4%)** and **Worker Population Ratio (52.6%)** declined, reflecting reduced workforce participation and slower job creation across the economy.
- Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing has received approval for a **Special Economic Zone (SEZ)** in Dholera, backed by a **₹91,000 crore investment**. The project aims to establish India's **first chip fabrication unit**, boosting **domestic semiconductor production** and reducing import dependence. Approved by the Department of Commerce, the initiative will generate **jobs, strengthen electronics manufacturing**, and position India as a **global semiconductor hub** under its self-reliance strategy.
- ITC Limited became the first in India to achieve **Farm Sustainability Assessment (FSA) 3.0 certification for wheat and paddy**, awarded by the Sustainable Agriculture Initiative Platform. The milestone highlights **sustainable farming practices, traceable sourcing, and farmer empowerment**, covering thousands of farmers across multiple states. The initiative improves **crop productivity, income, and environmental sustainability**, strengthening India's position in **global agri-markets** and promoting responsible agriculture aligned with international standards.
- India is planning a **long-term Cocoa Mission** to achieve **self-sufficiency in cocoa production by 2040**, reducing heavy imports worth over **\$866 million annually**. The roadmap, developed by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry with Grant Thornton Bharat, focuses on boosting **domestic production, farmer incomes, and agri-economy growth**. It proposes a **National Mission on Cocoa**, R&D support, and digital traceability. With rising demand from the chocolate industry, the plan aims to make India a **self-reliant and globally competitive cocoa producer**.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India launched two mobile apps—**MyLIC** for customers and **Super Sales Saathi** for agents—on **April 15, 2026**, boosting **digital insurance services**. The apps enable **policy management, premium payments, e-KYC, and paperless services**, while empowering agents with **AI-driven tools and performance tracking**. Built on the DIVE platform, this initiative enhances **efficiency, accessibility, and customer experience**, reflecting India's push toward **technology-driven and inclusive financial services**.

- Bank of Baroda partnered with Reliance Jio to launch “**bob World Lite**” on **JioPhone devices**, enabling **feature phone users** to access mobile banking. The app offers **UPI payments, money transfers, bill payments, and recharges** with a **simple interface and low data usage**. Supporting the vision of the Reserve Bank of India, this initiative promotes **financial inclusion**, reduces reliance on physical branches, and bridges the **digital divide** in India’s banking ecosystem.
- Gautam Adani has overtaken Mukesh Ambani to become **Asia’s richest person**, with a net worth of **\$92.6 billion**, surpassing Ambani’s **\$90.8 billion**. This rise is driven by strong growth in **Adani Group companies**, especially in **infrastructure, ports, and renewable energy** sectors. While Ambani’s wealth is linked to Reliance Industries, Adani’s rapid expansion has reshaped billionaire rankings. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, he now ranks among the **top global billionaires**, reflecting India’s growing focus on **infrastructure development and energy transition**.

### Appointments/Resignations

- Sunil Bajpai assumed charge as **Principal Chief Commissioner of Income Tax** for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry on **April 10, 2026**. A **1990-batch IRS officer**, he brings extensive experience from key roles in the Income Tax Department. With strong academic credentials from IITs and IIM, his appointment reflects expertise in **tax administration, governance, and policy implementation**, strengthening revenue management in the region.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry appointed Anant Swarup as **Secretary General**, effective **April 14, 2026**. With over **30 years of experience in public policy, trade, and regulatory affairs**, he brings expertise from roles in the Department of Commerce and World Trade Organization. His leadership comes at a crucial time, aiming to strengthen **industry-government collaboration**, boost **trade growth**, and support India’s evolving **economic and business landscape**.
- Infosys has partnered with Carlos Alcaraz, appointing him as **global brand ambassador** to promote **AI-driven sports performance solutions**. Using the **Infosys Topaz** platform, the collaboration will deliver **advanced match analytics, real-time insights, and personalized training tools**. This partnership highlights the growing role of **artificial intelligence in sports**, enhancing **performance, strategy, and decision-making**, while strengthening Infosys’ presence in the **global sports-tech ecosystem**.

### Defence News

- The Indian Navy will host the **Commanders’ Conference 2026**, a three-day event to review **operational readiness**, strengthen **maritime security**, and align strategies with **national security goals**. Discussions will cover **emerging threats, secure sea lanes**, and lessons from **Operation Sindoor**, focusing on **joint military coordination**. Senior leaders, including the Chief of Defence Staff, will participate, emphasizing **technology-driven capabilities** and enhanced **civil-military collaboration** amid evolving regional challenges.
- The **7th edition of Exercise Dustlik** began on **April 13, 2026**, between India and Uzbekistan in the **Namangan region**. The exercise focuses on **counter-terrorism operations, semi-mountain warfare**, and improving **interoperability** between forces. With participation from the **Indian Army and Air Force**, it strengthens **defence cooperation** and reflects growing **strategic ties with Central Asia**, enhancing joint operational readiness and military coordination.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and GE Aerospace signed a key agreement to co-develop **F414 jet engines** in India, boosting **defence self-reliance**. The deal includes **technology transfer** and local manufacturing to power **next-generation indigenous fighter jets**. It supports initiatives like **Make in India**, reduces import dependence, and strengthens **India-US defence cooperation**. This collaboration enhances India’s **air power capabilities** and marks a major step toward building a robust **domestic aerospace ecosystem**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair the first-ever high-level conference of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to strengthen **internal security** and enhance **strategic coordination**. The initiative aims to create a **unified security framework** by bringing together top leadership to address challenges like **insurgency, extremism, cyber threats, and border security**. It will also focus on improving **intelligence sharing** and joint operations with agencies like the Intelligence Bureau. Overall, the conference marks a significant step toward a **technology-driven, coordinated national security approach** in India.

### Awards and Recognitions

- Anita Chaudhary, a forest officer at Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, is known for her **wildlife conservation and anti-poaching efforts**. Since 2021, she has rescued nearly **500 animals** and taken strict action against **poachers, smugglers, and illegal mining**. Her work includes managing **human-wildlife conflict** and protecting endangered species. For her dedication, she received the **WWF Machchli National Award** from World Wide Fund for Nature, recognizing her role in safeguarding ecosystems and inspiring grassroots conservation.



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- Banaras Hindu University won the **AIU National Moot Court Competition 2026** held at Integral University, securing ₹25,000, trophies, and medals. The event saw participation from **40 teams nationwide**, testing **legal research, advocacy, and courtroom skills**. Chandigarh University finished runner-up. The competition highlighted the importance of **practical legal training**, enhancing students' **argumentation, confidence, and understanding of judicial processes**.
- Sayani Gupta has been honoured with the **Harvard South Asian "Person of the Year" 2026** award by the Harvard South Asian Association. This prestigious recognition celebrates her **impactful storytelling, bold performances**, and contribution to **global South Asian representation**. Known for projects like *Four More Shots Please!* and *Article 15*, she has consistently promoted **inclusive narratives** and challenged stereotypes. Following Vikas Khanna (2025 awardee), her achievement highlights the rising influence of **content-driven cinema** and her evolving role as both **actor and filmmaker** on the global stage.
- Nishita Yogesh Antarkar was crowned **Miss Sake India 2026** at an event in Mumbai on April 17, 2026, organized by Hirohama India Pvt. Ltd.. More than a pageant, the platform promotes **Japanese sake culture and Indo-Japanese cultural ties**. Nishita, a **business owner and Kathak dancer**, brings strong cultural representation. The event, attended by dignitaries like Toshihiro Kaneko, emphasized **cultural diplomacy and collaboration**. Winners serve as **cultural ambassadors**, fostering **cross-cultural understanding and global friendship** between India and Japan.
- Sawan Barwal set a new **Indian marathon record** at the Rotterdam Marathon 2026 on **April 12**, clocking **2:11:58** and breaking the **48-year-old record** of Shivrath Singh (1978). This historic feat marks a major boost for **Indian athletics**, reflecting improved **training standards** and rising **global competitiveness**. Barwal's achievement signals a new era in **long-distance running**, highlighting emerging talent from rural India and strengthening the country's presence on the international stage.
- Mitchell Starc and Deepti Sharma were named **Leading Cricketers in the World for 2025** by Wisden Cricketers' Almanack for their **exceptional performances**. Starc excelled in Tests and the **Ashes**, while Deepti starred in India's **Women's World Cup victory** with all-round brilliance. Indian players Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, and Rishabh Pant were also honored, highlighting India's strong impact in **global cricket**.
- Sanju Samson won the **ICC Men's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for his outstanding performances in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. He scored **275 runs in three matches**, including match-winning fifties, playing a key role in India's **consecutive title win**. From a reserve player to a **tournament hero**, Samson's performance showcased **consistency, power-hitting, and composure under pressure**, earning him global recognition in cricket.
- Melie Kerr won the **ICC Women's Player of the Month (March 2026)** for the third time, following her outstanding **all-round performances**. She starred in series wins over Zimbabwe and South Africa, taking **16 wickets in ODIs** and scoring heavily in T20Is. As captain, Kerr's consistency and leadership have strengthened New Zealand Women's Cricket Team, cementing her status as one of the world's top **all-rounders**.
- R Vaishali won the **Women's Candidates Tournament 2026**, securing a place in the **Women's World Chess Championship**. She became the **second Indian woman** after Koneru Humpy to achieve this feat and will face Ju Wenjun. Her remarkable comeback—from lower rankings to champion—highlights **resilience, strategy, and rising Indian dominance in global chess**.
- The Mumbai Cricket Association has introduced a **structured player contract system** from the **2026–27 domestic season**, becoming the first in India to do so. The model includes **graded salaries (Grade A, B, C)** to ensure **financial stability** for **domestic cricketers**, especially those outside the IPL and international cricket. Eligible players must meet **fitness, registration, and selection criteria**, and should not have recent IPL or international exposure. Combined with **matched match fees alongside BCCI payments**, this initiative significantly boosts **player earnings**, encourages **consistent performance**, and strengthens the **domestic cricket ecosystem** in India.

### Sports News

- India delivered a strong performance at the Asian Wrestling Championships 2026, with Sujeet Kalkal (65kg) and Abhimanyu Mandwal (70kg) winning **gold medals**. Kalkal dominated with an **8–1 victory**, while Mandwal defeated an Olympian **5–3**. India secured **14 medals (2 gold, 4 silver, 8 bronze)**, showcasing **wrestling excellence, tactical strength**, and growing dominance at the continental level.
- Jannik Sinner defeated Carlos Alcaraz to win the Monte Carlo Masters 2026, claiming his first title there and regaining the **World No. 1 ranking**. He secured a **straight-sets victory (7–6, 6–3)**, extending a dominant run after wins at Indian Wells and Miami. The triumph highlights his **exceptional form**, strengthens the **Sinner–Alcaraz rivalry**, and establishes him as a leading force in modern tennis.

- Shubhankar Sharma made a remarkable return to domestic golf by winning the **inaugural Boulders Classic 2026** at Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club. Competing in his first domestic event since 2021, he delivered a **dominant performance**, including an **8-under 64** round to seal victory. The win marks his comeback to the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and reinforces his reputation as a **top Indian golfer**. This achievement highlights his **consistency, precision, and strong international experience**, making it a significant milestone in his career.
- The International Cricket Council has launched the **inaugural Women's T20I Challenge Trophy 2026** in Rwanda, starting April 18 in Kigali. The **five-nation tournament** features teams from Rwanda, Italy, Nepal, USA, and Vanuatu, played at Gahanga Cricket Stadium. Following a **double round-robin format**, it runs until May 2, 2026. The event aims to boost **women's cricket development**, provide **international exposure**, and strengthen **emerging cricket nations** through structured competition and global opportunities.

### Schemes and Committees News

- The Government of India has expanded the **RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) Scheme** to support exporters amid **West Asia tensions**. Launched under the Export Promotion Mission and implemented by Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India (ECGC), the scheme provides **insurance support, freight cost reimbursement, and credit facilitation**. It now includes Egypt and Jordan, expanding coverage to affected trade routes. The initiative aims to ease **logistics challenges, rising insurance costs**, and ensure **smooth export operations**, especially benefiting **MSMEs and new exporters**.
- The All India Council for Technical Education has launched **AICTE-VAANI 3.0** (Vibrant Advocacy for Advancement and Nurturing of Indian Languages) to promote **Indian languages in technical education and research**. The scheme aims to remove **language barriers**, enabling students to learn complex concepts in their **mother tongue**. It provides **₹4 crore annual funding**, supports **200+ conferences**, and covers **22 regional languages** across emerging fields like **AI, cybersecurity, and quantum technology**. By fostering a **multilingual academic ecosystem**, the initiative enhances **learning outcomes, inclusivity, and research participation**, especially for students from diverse linguistic backgrounds.

### Science and Technology News

- SARAL AI, announced by Jitendra Singh, is an AI platform developed by Anusandhan National Research Foundation to convert **complex research papers** into **simple, multilingual content** across **18 Indian languages**. It generates **videos, podcasts, and social media posts**, making science accessible to the public. The initiative aims to boost **scientific awareness**, improve **research accessibility**, and bridge the gap between **innovation and society**, supporting India's growing **research and innovation ecosystem**.
- N. Chandrababu Naidu launched the **Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility** on **April 14, 2026**, India's first **indigenous open-access quantum computing platform**. Developed with institutions like Indian Institute of Science and Defence Research and Development Organisation, AQRF aims to boost **quantum research, innovation, and self-reliance**. Aligned with the **National Quantum Mission**, it strengthens India's **quantum ecosystem**, enabling advanced applications in **defence, healthcare, and technology development**.
- The Night Parrot has been rediscovered in Australia after more than a century, marking a major **scientific breakthrough**. Using **audio recorders, camera traps, and Indigenous knowledge**, researchers confirmed its presence in arid regions. The bird depends on **mature spinifex grass** for shelter and survival. However, threats like **wildfires and feral cats** continue to endanger it, while Dingo may help control predators. With only about **50 individuals identified**, the species remains highly **vulnerable**, requiring urgent conservation efforts.
- The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur has launched the **Vikram Sodhi Centre of Excellence for AI-driven geological and mining systems**, backed by a **₹15 crore funding over five years**. The initiative aims to transform India's mining sector through **artificial intelligence and data-driven innovation**. Supported by industry collaboration, the centre will focus on the entire **mining value chain**, including exploration, planning, processing, and ESG analytics. It seeks to improve **efficiency, decision-making, and sustainability**, bridging gaps in mining technology and promoting **integrated, smart mining solutions** in India.

### Important Days News

- India commemorates the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on **April 13**, honoring victims of the **1919 tragedy** in Amritsar. Triggered by protests against the Rowlatt Act, **General Reginald Dyer ordered firing on unarmed civilians**, killing hundreds. The incident intensified the **freedom struggle**, inspiring leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. Today, the memorial stands as a symbol of **sacrifice, colonial brutality, and national unity**, reminding future generations of India's path to independence.

- India celebrates **Ambedkar Jayanti** on **April 14** to honor B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution and a champion of **social justice, equality, and education**. Born in 1891, he fought against **caste discrimination** and worked for **Dalit rights and democratic values**. As the first Law Minister and Drafting Committee Chairman, his contributions shaped modern India. The day promotes **inclusion, human dignity, and empowerment**, inspiring citizens to uphold his vision of a just and equitable society.
- India celebrates **Baisakhi** on **April 14, 2026**, marking the **harvest season, Punjabi New Year**, and the foundation of the **Khalsa Panth** by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699. The festival holds deep **cultural, agricultural, and religious significance**, especially for the Sikh community. Celebrations include **Gurdwara prayers, Nagar Kirtans, and Langar**. It symbolizes **gratitude, unity, equality, and new beginnings**, reflecting India's rich heritage and spiritual traditions.
- India celebrates **Puthandu** on **April 14, 2026**, marking the start of the Tamil calendar as the Sun enters **Aries (Mesha)**. Widely observed in Tamil Nadu, it symbolizes **new beginnings, prosperity, and hope**. Traditions include viewing **Kanni**, temple prayers, and preparing **mango pachadi**, reflecting life's emotions. Rooted in ancient Tamil culture, the festival strengthens **family bonds, cultural identity, and spiritual values**, encouraging positivity for the year ahead.
- India celebrates **Bohag Bihu** from **April 14, 2026**, marking the **Assamese New Year** and arrival of **spring**. Also called **Rongali Bihu**, it symbolizes **agricultural renewal, prosperity, and new beginnings**. Celebrated widely in Assam, the festival features **Bihu dance, music, rituals like Goru Bihu and Manuh Bihu**, and community feasts. Rooted in ancient traditions, it reflects **cultural identity, harmony with nature, and social unity**, making it one of the most vibrant festivals in Northeast India.
- India celebrates **Pohela Boishakh** on **April 15, 2026**, marking the beginning of **Bengali year 1433**. Widely observed in West Bengal and Bangladesh, the festival symbolizes **new beginnings, cultural unity, and prosperity**. Celebrations include **traditional attire, Haal Khata rituals, prayers, music, and festive cuisine** like sweets and hilsa dishes. Rooted in Mughal-era traditions, it reflects Bengal's rich heritage and promotes **joy, togetherness, and renewal** among global Bengali communities.
- India observes **Himachal Day** on **April 15, 2026**, marking the formation of Himachal Pradesh in **1948** through the merger of princely states like Chamba and Mandi. The day highlights

the region's journey from a **Chief Commissioner's Province** to full statehood in 1971. It symbolizes **unity, administrative development, and cultural identity**. Celebrations include **parades, cultural programs, and public events**, reflecting the state's progress in **education, sustainability, and economic growth**.

- **World Voice Day** is observed on **April 16, 2026**, to highlight the importance of the **human voice** in communication, expression, and music. The 2026 theme, **"Caring for Our Voices,"** focuses on **vocal health, early diagnosis, and prevention** of voice disorders. Originating in 1999 as Brazilian Voice Day, it has grown into a global initiative promoting awareness among professionals like teachers and singers. The day emphasizes **hydration, proper voice care, and timely medical attention**, encouraging people to protect this essential tool of daily life.
- **World Hemophilia Day** is observed on **April 17, 2026**, to raise awareness about **hemophilia and inherited bleeding disorders**. The 2026 theme, **"Diagnosis: First Step to Care,"** emphasizes the importance of **early detection** for effective treatment. With many cases still **undiagnosed globally**, the day highlights the need for better **diagnostic facilities, awareness, and healthcare access**. Initiatives like awareness campaigns and the **"Light It Up Red"** movement promote support, aiming to improve **patient care and quality of life worldwide**.
- World Heritage Day, observed on **April 18**, promotes awareness about **protecting cultural and natural heritage**. The 2026 theme, **"Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters,"** highlights the need to safeguard **living traditions, rituals, and knowledge systems** during crises. Led by UNESCO and International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), the day emphasizes **urgent conservation efforts**. With rising threats like **climate change, disasters, and conflicts**, protecting heritage ensures the preservation of **human identity, culture, and legacy** for future generations.

### Obituaries News

- The legendary singer Asha Bhosle passed away on **April 12, 2026**, in **Mumbai** at 92 due to **multiple organ failure**, marking the end of an **eight-decade musical era**. Starting young, she rose to fame with **Naya Daur (1957)** and became known for her **versatility** across genres like **cabaret, ghazals, and classical music**. Honored with **Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award**, and a **Guinness World Record**, she leaves behind an unmatched **global musical legacy**.

**Static Takeaways**

Aspect	Details
Bihar	CM: Samrat Chaudhary Governor: Arif Khan
Karnataka	CM: Siddharamaiah Governor: Thawar Chand Gehlot
Meghalaya	CM: Konrad Sangma
Punjab	CM: Bhagwat Mann Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria
USA	President Donald trump Currency; USD
United Kingdom	Keir Starmer Prime Minister Currency: Pound
France	Emmanuel Macron President Currency: Euro
Reserve Bank of India	Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
International Cricket Council	Chairman: Jay Shah
Israel	Prime Minister Netanyahu Benjamin
Bank of Baroda	MD and CEO: Debadatta Chand
Adani Group	Chairman: Gautam Adani
Reliance Industries	Chairman: Mukesh Ambani





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