

Weekly Current Affairs

April 2026 – Week 1

Exam Revision Notes

APPSC • AP DSC • AP TET • AP Police SI

ReadingRoomz

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LETTER TO ASPIRANTS

Dear Aspirants,

Greetings from ReadingRoomz!

Another week has passed, and with it, countless developments in the world of national, state, economy, science, and governance all of which matter for your APPSC journey. Preparing for Group-1, Group-2, DSC and SI exams is not just about reading facts; it is about developing a disciplined habit of daily learning, weekly revision, monthly revision, and smart practice.

Through this Weekly Current Affairs PDF, our goal is simple:

- To give you exam-oriented coverage of all important topics.
- To save your time with structured summaries & MCQs.
- To help you connect static GK with dynamic events.

How to use this PDF effectively:

1. Start with the Week-at-a-Glance section for a quick overview.
2. Read each topic carefully, highlight key facts.
3. Revise once again before attempting the consolidated MCQs & Answer Key.

Remember, consistency is your greatest weapon. Reading 5–10 pages daily is far better than cramming 100 pages before the exam.

We at ReadingRoomz believe that every aspirant has the potential to succeed if they combine hard work with the right material and smart strategy. Trust the process, keep revising, and never lose hope.

Wishing you success in your APPSC journey. Stay focused, stay motivated, and remember *every small step you take today brings you closer to your dream tomorrow.*

With warm regards,
contact@readingroomz.com

1. International Current Affairs

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez Takes Strong Anti-War Stand

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has emerged as a prominent global leader opposing recent conflicts, particularly the U.S.-Israel actions in Iran, citing violations of international law. Pedro Sánchez became the only European head of government to openly reject the war on Iran on principled grounds. He refused to allow U.S. military bases in Spain to be used for strikes, even at the cost of strained relations with the United States.

India–Australia ECTA Completes 4 Years

The India–Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) has completed four years since its signing on April 2, 2022, strengthening bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

- Total bilateral trade (2024–25) – USD 24.1 billion
- India's exports to Australia – Increased from USD 4 billion (2020–21) to USD 8.5 billion (2024–25)
- Export growth – 8% increase in 2024–25

From January 1, 2026, all Indian exports to Australia will enjoy zero-duty access.

Country	Tariff Lines Covered (Products Covered in Agreement)	Duty-Free Access ((0% Import Duty))
India	70.3% tariff lines	Covers 90.6% of trade value
Australia	100% tariff lines	98.3% immediately duty-free, 100% by 2026

Artemis II: NASA Launches First Crewed Mission to Moon Orbit

The Artemis II was launched on April 1, 2026, marking NASA's first crewed mission under the Artemis programme to send humans back towards the Moon.

Mission Objective:

The primary goal is to test the Orion spacecraft systems in deep space, including:

- Life-support systems
- Navigation
- Crew operations

This mission does not land on the Moon, but prepares for future lunar missions.

Mission Details:

- Duration – Around 10 days
- Free-return trajectory (loops around Moon and returns safely)
- Launch Vehicle – Space Launch System (SLS)

The spacecraft will travel farther than any human since 1972, orbiting the Moon's far side and returning with a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean.

2. National Current Affairs

Rajasthan Wins National Award for Irrigation Census

Rajasthan has received a national award for the timely completion of the first census of major and medium irrigation projects in the state. The award was presented at the World Water Day Conclave organized by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- World Water Day is observed on March 22
- Ministry of Jal Shakti is the nodal ministry for water-related policies in India

Noida International Airport (Jewar) Inaugurated

The Prime Minister inaugurated Phase I of the Noida International Airport at Jewar, Uttar Pradesh, developed with an investment of approximately ₹11,200 crore.

Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App

The Government of India has achieved 99.92% coverage of villages with banking outlets within a 5 km radius, ensuring near-universal financial access across the country.

Key Highlights:

- Banking access includes Bank branches, Business Correspondents (BCs), India Post payment Bank (IPPB) outlets.
- Notably, 100% villages in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli are covered.
- The progress is monitored through the Jan Dhan Darshak (JDD) App, a GIS-based application that tracks banking infrastructure across India.

Prime Minister Visit to Gujarat

The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for development projects worth over ₹20,000 crore in Vav-Tharad region of Banaskantha district, Gujarat.

Important Developments:

- Transmission projects linked to **Khavda Renewable Energy Park** (4.5 GW capacity)
- Expansion of **Deesa Airport**, a strategic asset near the international border
- Development of **Ahmedabad–Dholera Expressway corridor**
- Railway gauge conversion improving connectivity to tribal areas
- PM inaugurated the **Kaynes Technology** semiconductor plant in Sanand

Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot and 'Dishika' Mascot Launched

The Government of India has launched the Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot along with its mascot "Dishika" under the DISHA programme to improve access to justice through technology.

Key Highlights:

- Nyaya Setu is a voice-first, multilingual AI-powered legal assistant designed to help citizens understand Legal rights, Court procedures and steps to follow in legal matters.

Karnataka Passes Anti-Honour Killing Bill

The Karnataka Legislature has passed the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the Name of Honour and Tradition Bill, 2026, aimed at protecting individuals, especially inter-caste couples, from violence and coercion.

Key Highlights:

The Bill clearly states that consent of parents, family, caste, or community is not required once two adults decide to marry, reinforcing the principle of individual liberty.

It provides legal protection to couples facing threats, harassment, or violence in the name of "honour" and tradition.

Major Provisions:

- Minimum 5 years imprisonment for honour killings
- Criminalisation of social boycott of couples
- Police protection within 6 hours of complaint
- Establishment of safe houses in every district
- Creation of a special cell and 24-hour helpline (Eva Nammava Vedike)
- Access to legal aid and counselling services

Census 2027 Begins with First-Ever Digital Self-Enumeration

The Union Government has launched Census 2027, the world's largest census exercise, starting with the Houselisting and Housing Census (Phase I) from 01 April 2026 to 30 September 2026.

For the first time, the Census introduces:

- Digital data collection
- Self-Enumeration facility

Citizens can now fill their details online before the enumerator's visit using a secure portal.

The exercise was symbolically initiated by the President of India, followed by the Vice-President, Prime Minister, and Home Minister participating through self-enumeration.

Coverage:

Self-enumeration began in:

- Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- Goa
- Karnataka
- Lakshadweep
- Mizoram
- Odisha
- Sikkim
- Cantonment areas (Delhi)

Chhattisgarh Model of Women Empowerment

The Chhattisgarh model of women-led development through Self-Help Groups (SHGs) has emerged as a strong example of inclusive growth and women empowerment.

Major Initiatives:

- Mahtari Vandan Yojana – Financial support to women
- Lakhpati Didi Yojana – Income generation and livelihood promotion
- Promotion of ready-to-eat food products and e-commerce sales

Role of Tribal Crafts:

Traditional crafts like Dhokra (lost-wax metal art) from Bastar are:

- Preserving tribal culture and heritage
- Providing sustainable livelihoods

National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL)

The Government of India has established National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, with approval from the Union Cabinet.

Key Highlights:

NCOL functions as an umbrella organisation for:

- Aggregation and procurement of organic products
- Certification and testing
- Branding and marketing

Organic products under NCOL are marketed using the brand name “**Bharat Organics**”. So far, 27 organic products have been launched.

NCERT Granted ‘Deemed to be University’ Status

The Ministry of Education has granted “deemed to be university” status to the National Council of Educational Research and Training, enabling it to offer academic programmes and award degrees.

- The status was approved by the University Grants Commission in January 2026 and officially notified on March 30, 2026.
- This status applies to NCERT along with its six regional institutes.

NCERT can now:

- Offer degree and diploma programmes
- Launch research and PhD programmes
- Introduce innovative academic courses

3. Andhra Pradesh Current Affairs

APCO Wins SKOCH Award 2025 for Digitisation in Handloom Sector

The Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (APCO) has received the SKOCH Award 2025 for its successful digitisation initiatives in the handloom sector.

Key Highlights:

- APCO introduced computerised billing systems and e-commerce platforms, which have improved operational efficiency and boosted sales performance.
- The digitisation efforts have also helped expand market access for handloom products, benefiting weavers by connecting them to a wider customer base.

Andhra Pradesh Ranked 4th in Energy Statistics India 2026 Report

As per the latest Energy Statistics India 2026 report released by the National Statistics Office (NSO), Andhra Pradesh has secured the 4th position in renewable energy potential in India.

The report highlights that Andhra Pradesh contributes a significant share to India's renewable energy capacity, particularly in solar and wind energy, making it one of the leading states in clean energy development.

More than 70% of India's renewable energy potential is concentrated in six states, including Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh's strong performance reflects its growing role in India's transition towards sustainable and green energy.

Andhra Pradesh Introduces QR Code System on Rice Bags

The Andhra Pradesh government has launched an innovative initiative to print QR codes on rice bags, enabling consumers to trace the farmer and origin of the crop.

Key Highlights:

Under this initiative, rice supplied to schools and welfare hostels will carry QR codes, allowing students to know who cultivated the food and where it was grown.

The model is being implemented in SPSR Nellore district, where rice will be distributed to:

- Around 41,000 schools
- Over 400 welfare hostels

The government aims to procure 2 lakh tonnes of paddy in the current season, with over 60,000 tonnes already procured.

Significance:

- First-of-its-kind initiative in India
- Promotes transparency in food supply chain
- Recognises and respects farmers' contribution
- Strengthens farmer-consumer connection

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026

The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2026 has been passed in the Lok Sabha, granting legal status to Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh.

Key Highlights:

- The amendment ends years of uncertainty regarding the State's capital, providing a clear administrative framework and boosting governance efficiency.
- Amaravati is envisioned as a global-standard capital city and a major growth engine for the State.

Development Impact:

- Over ₹56,000 crore worth of infrastructure projects underway
- Expected to restore investor confidence, generate large-scale employment and accelerate economic growth.

Unique Model:

The Amaravati capital project follows a land pooling model, where around 29,000 farmers contributed over 34,000 acres of land and became stakeholders in urban development

Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Department Wins National Awards

The Andhra Pradesh Panchayat Raj Department has been selected for the prestigious Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Satat Vikas National Awards for the second consecutive year, recognising its efforts in rural development and grassroots governance.

Key Highlights:

Several villages from Andhra Pradesh achieved top national rankings in different categories:

Village	District	Achievement Category	Rank
Bokkasam Palem	Tirupati	Women-Friendly Panchayat	1st Place
Sringavaram	Visakhapatnam	Governance	1st Place
Chemmullapalli	Kadapa	Poverty Alleviation & Livelihoods	2nd Place
Gundamala	Prakasam	Self-Sufficient Infrastructure	3rd Place
Kuppam Mandal	Chittoor (Kuppam area)	Best Performing Mandal	3rd Rank

AP Ranks First in Micro-Irrigation

Andhra Pradesh has secured first place in the country in micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler irrigation). The state achieved this distinction at the national level.

Progress in 2025–26:

During the year 2025–26, 3.15 lakh acres were brought under micro-irrigation across the state.

- 1,08,143 farmers benefited, receiving subsidies.
- Gujarat (2.69 lakh acres), Maharashtra (2.62 lakh acres), and Rajasthan (2.42 lakh acres) ranked below Andhra Pradesh.

Crops Covered Under Micro-Irrigation:

Tomato, Chilli, Banana, Bitter Gourd, Onion, Papaya, Cotton, Tobacco, Sugarcane, Turmeric, Oil Palm, Maize, and other crops.

Subsidy Structure:

- SC & ST Farmers: Central government provides 55% subsidy, state government provides 45% to make it 100%.
- Small farmers: Central provides 55%, state contributes 35% and make it 90%.
- Other farmers: Central gives 45%, state adds more to reach 90%.

Swachha Sanstha Gets Scotch Award

The Swachha Sanstha (Clean Institution) has been honoured with the prestigious Scotch Award for 2025. The Chief of the organization received the award in Delhi.

4. Polity and Governance

CAPF (General Administration) Bill, 2026

The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Bill, 2026 has generated significant controversy after being introduced in the Rajya Sabha.

What the Bill Proposes:

The Bill mandates reservation of senior posts in CAPFs for IPS officers on deputation:

- 50% of Inspector General (IG) posts
- At least 67% of Additional Director General (ADG) posts
- 100% of Special DG and DG posts

Background:

- The Bill comes after a Supreme Court of India judgment (May 2025), which directed reduction of IPS deputation in CAPFs and recognised CAPF officers as Organised Group A Services (OGAS).
- Despite this, the government continued IPS appointments and later introduced this Bill as a statutory measure.

What are CAPFs?

Central Armed Police Forces include:

- Border Security Force (BSF)
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)

These forces play a key role in border security, internal security, and law & order.

Why is there Opposition?

Retired CAPF officials and opposition leaders argue that:

- The Bill overrides Supreme Court directions

- It limits career growth of CAPF officers
- CAPF officers face promotion delays (up to 16 years)
- IPS officers get faster promotions and dominate top posts

Concerns also include rising stress, resignations, and morale issues within CAPFs.

Government's Justification:

The government argues that:

- CAPFs operate in coordination with State police systems
- IPS officers ensure better Centre–State coordination
- Necessary for national security and administrative efficiency

Delimitation of Constituencies in India

As per Article 81 of the Constitution, seats in the Lok Sabha are allocated based on population to ensure equal representation. However, the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002 froze the number of seats until after the first Census post-2026.

After Census results (expected by 2028), a Delimitation Commission will be formed, and changes may reflect in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Core Issue:

States that successfully controlled population growth (like southern and some northern states) may lose relative representation, while high-population states may gain more seats.

Proposed Solution:

Experts suggest introducing a Demographic Performance (DemPer) principle, which considers:

- Population size
- Success in reducing fertility rates

This approach aims to balance population-based representation with fair federalism, ensuring that states with better governance are not penalised.

Definition: Delimitation is the process of redrawing the boundaries of electoral constituencies to ensure that each constituency has roughly equal population representation.

- Delimitation is carried out by an independent body called the Delimitation Commission, whose decisions cannot be challenged in any court.
- It is based on Census data, ensuring that representation reflects population changes.
- The number of Lok Sabha seats has been frozen since 1971, due to the 84th Constitutional Amendment (2002), and will be revised after Census 2026.
- The principle behind delimitation comes from Article 81 of the Constitution, which ensures equal representation.
- It not only redraws boundaries but also allocates seats to states and reserves seats for SC/ST communities.

Supreme Court Reaffirms Right to Die with Dignity

The Supreme Court, in the Harish Rana v. Union of India (2026) case, has reaffirmed the right to die with dignity under Article 21, allowing withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment.

Key Highlights:

The Court permitted withdrawal of Clinically Assisted Nutrition and Hydration (CANH) for the first time, marking a significant step in the evolution of euthanasia jurisprudence in India.

Mooshahary Committee (2005)

The Mooshahary Committee (2005), chaired by R.S. Mooshahary and set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs, reviewed earlier police reform reports. It identified and shortlisted 49 key recommendations to improve police functioning, including establishing State Security Commissions, separating investigation from law & order, fixing tenures, and modernizing police forces. The committee shortlisted 49 important recommendations.

Context

The Government of India has reiterated that “Police” is a State subject under the Seventh Schedule (State List) of the Constitution, making State Governments primarily responsible for police reforms.

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026

The Government of India has introduced the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026 to update the existing law (FCRA 2010), which controls how foreign money is received and used in India.

In simple terms, this law is about: **“Who can take money from foreign sources and how they should use it.”**

What Problem is the Government Trying to Solve?

Many organisations receive foreign funds. But sometimes:

- They stop working
- They don't renew their license
- Or their registration gets cancelled

So the question is What happens to the foreign money and assets they already have?

What is the Main Change in the Bill?

The new bill says If an organisation fails to renew its registration, gets cancelled or voluntarily surrenders, then its foreign money and assets will be taken care of by a government-appointed “Designated Authority”.

How does this bill Work?

Temporary Control

Initially, the Designated Authority will take control of funds, assets and manage them properly. If the organisation later gets approval again, the money and assets will be returned.

Permanent Control

If the organisation does not renew registration or completely shuts down, then the assets will permanently go to the government. The assets will be used for public purposes. Remaining money goes to Consolidated Fund of India.

Stricter Rules on Media

- Now, any person involved in news or current affairs cannot receive foreign funds

Reduced Punishment

- Earlier, up to 5 years jail now it is up to 1 year jail.

Investigation Control

- Police or agencies cannot directly investigate; they need Central Government approval first.

Types of Parliamentary Session Closure

The government is planning to reconvene Parliament on April 16 to discuss amendments related to the Women's Reservation Act, 2023. A crucial step for implementing this Act is delimitation, which the government proposes to base on the 2011 Census. Instead of ending the session permanently, Parliament will go into a recess, and then resume later.

Types of Parliamentary Session Closure

Term	Definition	Authority	Article	Key Point
Adjournment	Temporary suspension of a sitting of the House for a specific time	Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman)	Not mentioned in the constitution	Session continues after break

Adjournment Sine Die (Latin for Without a Day)	Adjournment without fixing a date for the next sitting	Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman)	Not mentioned in the constitution	Session not formally ended
Prorogation	Formal termination of a session of Parliament	President of India	Article 85	Ends the session officially
Recess	Break within the same session; House reconvenes later	Presiding Officer (Speaker/Chairman)	Implied under Article 85	Same session continues after break
Dissolution	Complete termination of Lok Sabha	President of India	Article 83 & Article 85	Only Lok Sabha; Rajya Sabha is Permanent

5. Economy

FATF Report Highlights India's Action Against Offshore Crypto Fraud

A recent report by the Financial Action Task Force has recognised our country's efforts in tackling money laundering and terror financing through offshore virtual asset platforms.

Key Highlights:

- The report focuses on risks associated with Offshore Virtual Asset Service Providers (oVASPs), which operate outside India's regulatory framework and are often used for illegal financial activities.

- India's Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has been actively using Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) from domestic crypto platforms to track suspicious activities.
- Investigations revealed that illicit funds were being converted into virtual assets (cryptocurrencies) through offshore platforms and then routed back into India as legitimate money.

Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU)

What is FIU?

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU-IND) is the national agency responsible for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating financial information related to suspicious transactions in order to combat money laundering and terror financing. It is the key agency for financial intelligence in India.

Key Facts:

- The FIU-India was established in 2004.
- It works under the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue)
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- It is a central national agency (not a regulatory body)
- Present Director (equivalent to joint secretary) – Shri Amit Mohan Govil.

Income-tax Act, 2025 Comes into Force

India has implemented the Income-tax Act, 2025, replacing the Income-tax Act, 1961, marking a major reform in the country's direct tax system.

The new Act focuses on:

- Simplification of tax laws
- Use of clear and reader-friendly language
- Streamlined structure for better understanding

Importantly, the reform does not change the core tax policy, but improves compliance and accessibility.

Timeline:

- Introduced in Lok Sabha on 11 August 2025 and passed by Lok Sabha on the same day.
- Bill was passed in Rajya Sabha on 12 August 2025.
- Presidential assent on 21 August 2025
- Act came into force on 1 April 2026

The Income-tax Rules, 2026 were notified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to operationalise the Act.

Disaster Funding Formula used in 16th Finance Commission

Concerns have been raised regarding the disaster funding allocation formula of the 16th Finance Commission, which may disadvantage disaster-prone states despite higher risks.

Key Highlights:

The 16th Finance Commission has allocated ₹2,04,401 crore to State Disaster Response Funds (SDRF), marking a significant increase compared to the previous commission.

It introduced a Disaster Risk Index (DRI) based on:

- Hazard
- Exposure
- Vulnerability

Core Issue:

The formula uses total population as a measure of exposure, which has been criticised as inaccurate. Experts argue that exposure should reflect population living in hazard-prone areas, not total population.

As a result:

- Highly disaster-prone states like Odisha have received reduced funding share
- Larger states with higher population get relatively higher allocation

Additional Concerns:

- Vulnerability is measured using per capita income, which may not reflect actual disaster vulnerability
- Ignores factors like:
 - Housing quality
 - Health infrastructure
 - Disaster preparedness

India's Defence Exports Reach Record ₹38,424 Crore in FY 2025–26

India has achieved a historic milestone in defence exports, reaching an all-time high of ₹38,424 crore in FY 2025–26, registering a 62.66% growth compared to the previous year.

- Previous year exports – ₹23,622 crore
- Increase – ₹14,802 crore

Sector-wise Contribution:

- DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings) – ₹21,071 crore (54.84%)
- Private Sector – ₹17,353 crore (45.16%)

DPSUs recorded a remarkable 151% growth, while private sector exports increased by 14%.

Global Reach:

- India exports defence equipment to 80+ countries
- Number of exporters increased from 128 to 145

India's Seafood Exports Cross ₹62,000 Crore

India's fisheries sector has emerged as a major driver of exports, employment, and food security, with seafood exports reaching ₹62,408 crore in 2024–25, showing strong growth over the years.

- India is the 2nd largest aquaculture producer globally (China largest aqua producer).
- Contributes around 8% of global fish production.
- Fish production increased from 141.64 lakh tonnes (2019–20) to 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024–25)

Export Performance:

- Seafood exports grew at ~7% annually
- Major aqua export – Frozen shrimp (₹43,334 crore)
- Export destinations – 130 countries
- Largest market – USA (36.42%)

Government Initiatives:

Under PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY):

- Expansion of aquaculture
- Promotion of high-value species (tuna, seabass, shrimp, etc.)
- Strengthening cold chain and infrastructure

Reforms & Improvements:

- Digitisation of Sanitary Import Permit (SIP) – Approval time reduced to 72 hours
- Compliance with global standards like Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)
- Use of Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) for sustainable fishing

6. Science & Technology

First Dengue Vaccine in India – ‘Qdenga’

The Union Government has taken a major step in public health as the dengue vaccine ‘Qdenga’ (TAK-003) has been approved by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) under the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) for use in individuals aged 4 to 60 years.

This is India’s first dengue vaccine, marking a shift from traditional vector control methods (like mosquito control) to a preventive healthcare approach.

The vaccine has been tested globally on over 28,000 participants and is already approved in more than 40 countries.

How the Vaccine Works:

Unlike typical vaccines, Qdenga:

- Does not completely prevent infection

- Instead, it reduces severity of the disease

This means dengue outbreaks may still occur, but serious cases can reduce significantly.

Challenges & Limitations:

- Dengue has 4 different virus types (serotypes)
- Vaccine works best against DENV-2, less effective against others
- Requires 2 doses (3 months gap)
- Cost may range from ₹6,000–₹12,000 for full course

Future Developments:

India is also developing an indigenous dengue vaccine 'DengiAll', which may be available around 2027.

Study Finds Higher Health Risk for Children from River Metal Pollution

A recent study conducted by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences has revealed that children face significantly higher health risks than adults due to trace metal contamination in river water, particularly at the Betwa–Yamuna confluence in Uttar Pradesh.

The study focused on contamination from toxic metals such as Arsenic, Lead and Cadmium.

Using advanced Monte Carlo simulation (10,000 scenarios), researchers assessed exposure risks under different conditions.

Major Findings:

- Children are more vulnerable due to:
 - Higher intake relative to body weight
 - Greater sensitivity to toxins
- Hazard Index (HI) exceeded safe levels in ~67% of cases for children
- Arsenic exposure showed significant carcinogenic risk

7. Environment

New Butterfly Species Discovered in Arunachal Pradesh

A new species of butterfly has been discovered in the forests of Arunachal Pradesh's Leparada district and named *Euthalia zubeengargi* in honour of Assamese cultural icon Zubeen Garg.

'Bhavasagara' Designated as National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna

The "Bhavasagara" Referral Centre at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology, Kochi, has been designated as India's National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna.

Key Highlights:

- The recognition has been granted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change under the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- The centre serves as a scientific hub housing over 3,500 identified deep-sea specimens, including both invertebrates (like molluscs and arthropods) and vertebrates (such as fishes).

8. Schemes

Revised PM E-DRIVE Scheme

The Government of India has revised the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme, introducing new deadlines and price caps for electric vehicles eligible for incentives.

Key Highlights:

The scheme has a total outlay of ₹10,900 crore and aims to promote the adoption of electric vehicles in India.

Under the revised guidelines:

- Electric two-wheelers registered till July 31, 2026 will be eligible for incentives
- Electric three-wheelers (e-rickshaws and e-carts) registered till March 31, 2028 will qualify

To ensure targeted benefits, the government has introduced price caps:

- Maximum ex-factory price for e-two-wheelers: ₹1.5 lakh
- Maximum ex-factory price for e-three-wheelers: ₹2.5 lakh

The scheme is fund-limited, meaning total incentives will not exceed the allocated ₹10,900 crore.

9. Awards and Honours

APCO Wins SKOCH Award 2025 for Digitisation in Handloom Sector

The Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. (APCO) has received the SKOCH Award 2025 for its successful digitisation initiatives in the handloom sector.

Key Highlights:

- APCO introduced computerised billing systems and e-commerce platforms, which have improved operational efficiency and boosted sales performance.
- The digitisation efforts have also helped expand market access for handloom products, benefiting weavers by connecting them to a wider customer base.

10. Defence

IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026 Held in Kochi

The Indian Navy hosted the IONS Maritime Exercise (IMEX) TTX 2026 at the Maritime Warfare Centre, Southern Naval Command, Kochi.

- The exercise is conducted under the framework of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), which is a regional naval cooperation forum consisting of navies from countries bordering the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- IMEX TTX 2026 witnessed participation from several member countries, including Bangladesh, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Timor-Leste, along with officers from the Indian Navy.

- India has assumed the chairmanship of IONS for the 2026–2028 period.
- IONS = Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (regional naval forum)
- TTX = Tabletop Exercise (simulation-based exercise).
- IOR = Indian Ocean Region is strategically important for global trade routes

INS Agray Delivered to Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy has received 'Agray', the fourth vessel in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) series, built indigenously by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.
- Agray is part of a fleet of eight ASW SWCs designed for anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, and coastal surveillance.
- The Indian Navy has already received three vessels of the ASW Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) series before Agray. These are:
 - **INS Arnala** – First vessel of the series
 - **INS Androth** – Second vessel
 - **INS Anjadip** – Third vessel

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) series

- **Capacity:** 77-meter ships with a displacement of ~900 tons, featuring a maximum speed of 25 knots and 1800 NM endurance.
- **Capabilities:** Armed with lightweight torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, mines, and advanced sensors to combat underwater threats in shallow water.
- **Key Vessels (GRSE):** INS Arnala, Anjadip, Amini, Agray, Androth, Akshay, Azhikkal, and Ajay.
- **Key Vessels (CSL):** INS Mahe, Malvan, Mangrol, Malpe, Mulki.
- **Indigenous Content:** Over 80% indigenously sourced.

INS Dunagiri and INS Sanshodhak Delivered to Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has received two important indigenous vessels INS Dunagiri and INS Sanshodhak, marking a significant step in strengthening maritime capabilities and promoting indigenous defence manufacturing.

INS Dunagiri

- INS Dunagiri is a Nilgiri-class stealth guided-missile frigate, built under Project 17A by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata.
- It is the fifth ship out of seven planned under Project 17A, designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau. These frigates are equipped with advanced stealth features and are capable of handling multi-dimensional threats in naval warfare.

INS Sanshodhak

INS Sanshodhak is the fourth and final ship of the Sandhayak-class survey vessels, also built by GRSE. It is a hydrographic survey ship, used for:

- Assisting in maritime operations
- Mapping ocean floors
- Supporting navigation

First Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Shachi' Launched

India has launched its first Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV) named 'Shachi' (Yard 1280) at Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa.

Key Highlights:

'Shachi' is the first of eleven NGOPVs being developed for the Indian Navy as part of indigenous shipbuilding initiatives.

The vessels are being constructed at:

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Goa
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, Kolkata

Functions of NGOPVs:

These ships are designed for multi-domain operations including:

- Maritime surveillance and defence
- Search and rescue (SAR)
- Protection of offshore assets
- Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)
- Anti-piracy operations

Special Features:

- Named after figures from Indian mythology
- 'Shachi' means "one who renders assistance"
- Ship crest includes Ursa Major constellation and lighthouse symbol

INS Malwan Delivered to Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has received 'Malwan', the second Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi. Malwan is part of a series of eight ASW SWCs designed for strengthening India's coastal defence and underwater surveillance capabilities. The ship is named after Malwan, a historic coastal town in Maharashtra associated with the maritime legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

Technical Features:

- Length: Approximately 80 metres
- Displacement: Around 1,100 tonnes
- Propulsion: Waterjet propulsion system
- Equipped with Torpedoes, Anti-submarine rocket launchers

Functions:

- Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW)
- Coastal surveillance
- Mine warfare
- Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO)

11. Books

Vice President Releases Book 'Tides of Time' by Sudha Murty

The Vice President of India Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan released the book "Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament", authored by Rajya Sabha MP Sudha Murty.

The book highlights India's civilizational journey through 124 mural panels displayed in Parliament, covering:

- Indus Valley Civilization
- Ancient thinkers like Valmiki and Chanakya
- Teachings of Mahavira and Buddha
- Freedom struggle (Dandi March, Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose)