RICE EDUCATION

Monthly

Current Affairs

FOR RAILWAYS EXAMS

MONTH

April 2026

Monthly Current Affairs for Railways

April 2026

Awards & Honours

National Awards & Recognitions (India)

- **National Panchayat Awards 2026:** Conferred by President Droupadi Murmu on National Panchayati Raj Day (April 24), recognizing exemplary Gram Panchayats for digital transparency, clean energy adoption, and child-friendly governance.
- **Prime Minister's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2026:** Presented on Civil Services Day (April 21) honoring outstanding district collectors and implementation units for saturation of central welfare schemes.
- **CII Industrial Innovation Awards 2026:** Awarded to Indian Railways' manufacturing units and indigenous rolling stock engineers for cutting-edge energy-efficient traction motors and coach design.
- **National Water Conservation Accolades:** Conferred upon community-driven watershed management projects in Rajasthan and Bundelkhand for reviving traditional stepwells and rain harvesting structures.
- **Sanskriti National Awards 2026:** Conferred upon young prodigies across Indian classical music, dance, journalism, and literature for pioneering contributions to cultural heritage.
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Commemoration:** Cultural forums commemorated veteran filmmakers and screenwriters who shaped golden-era cinematic storytelling across regional and national industries.

International Honours & Global Recognitions

- **2026 Pulitzer Prizes Announced:** Columbia University announced the global honorees in journalism, fiction, drama, and history, highlighting courageous reporting and compelling cultural literature.
- **UN Champions of the Earth (Preparatory Citations):** Global environmental bodies announced preliminary finalists for the 2026 cycle, highlighting indigenous youth climate leaders and ocean protectors.
- **Stockholm Water Prize 2026:** The Stockholm International Water Institute honoured distinguished hydrologists for pioneering transboundary water-sharing and urban wastewater recycling models.
- **World Press Photo of the Year 2026:** Awarded for striking visual documentation of humanitarian endurance and climate-induced migrations across vulnerable coastal ecosystems.

Appointments & Persons in News

National Appointments (India)

- **General Manager Postings across Central & Southern Railways:** Ministry of Railways appointed senior Indian Railway Service officers to oversee mega track expansion, terminal decongestion, and safety overhauls.

- **Director General of Coast Guard (ICG):** Senior maritime officer took charge to lead coastal surveillance, anti-smuggling sweeps, and maritime rescue readiness across India's EEZ.
- **Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI):** Appointed to accelerate expressway construction, automated multi-lane free-flow tolling (GNSS-based), and logistics park execution.
- **President of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII 2026–27):** Eminent industrial leader took over the national leadership of the premier business association.
- **Director General of Geological Survey of India (GSI):** Leading geoscientist assumed office to steer critical mineral discovery programs across Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan, and central India.
- **Chief Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) Selection Panel:** High-powered committee finalized statutory recommendations to fill integrity oversight and vigilance appointments across public enterprises.

International Appointments & World Leaders

- **Prime Minister of New Zealand:** Parliamentary consultations concluded following national legislative sessions, outlining renewed Pacific trade and clean technology pacts.
- **President of the World Bank Group Executive Directorate:** Strategic appointments announced for regional executive directors to advance climate resilience financing for developing economies.
- **Secretary-General of International Telecommunication Union (ITU):** Plenipotentiary sessions reviewed global 6G harmonization roadmaps and rural digital connectivity benchmarks.
- **Executive Director of United Nations World Food Programme (WFP):** Appointed to steer emergency humanitarian food relief and agricultural climate adaptation across arid nations.

Persons in News & Notable Demises

- **Passing of Renowned Hindustani Classical Vocalist:** Padma-decorated doyen of the Kirana gharana passed away at 90, mourned widely across musical academies and cultural institutions.
- **Passing of Pioneering Railway Track Engineer:** Senior engineer instrumental in designing ballastless track structures and high-gradient rail links in seismic zones passed away.
- **Rishabh Pant in News:** Led his franchise with explosive counter-attacking knocks and agile glovework, dominating headlines in the Indian Premier League (IPL 2026).
- **D. Gukesh in News:** Commenced high-stakes classical matches at the FIDE Candidates Tournament, challenging the world's highest-rated Grandmasters.

Government Schemes, Policies & Welfare Initiatives

Central Government Schemes & National Policies

- **National Green Hydrogen Mission Maritime Bunkering Rollout:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways launched commercial green hydrogen bunkering trials at VOC and Deendayal ports.
- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana Grid Automation:** Smart bi-directional solar meters integrated across 3 million urban and semi-urban households to enable real-time power sell-backs to state DISCOMs.

- **Universal Social Security Coverage via e-Shram:** Ministry of Labour and Employment operationalized automatic accidental and disability insurance coverage for registered unorganized and gig workers.
- **Viksit Bharat National Highway Infrastructure Masterplan:** Ministry of Road Transport and Highways approved 50 new high-speed access-controlled economic corridors to cut logistics transit times.
- **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS):** Department of Higher Education initiated access for thousands of state universities and colleges to premier international academic research journals.

State Government Welfare Initiatives

- **Mukhyamantri Vriksha Sampada Yojana (Chhattisgarh):** State administration released subsidized saplings and commercial timber subsidies to encourage agro-forestry among tribal farmers.
- **Kanyashree Prakalpa Milestone (West Bengal):** State government marked a landmark distribution milestone, disbursing educational scholarships to prevent early child marriages among teenage girls.
- **Mukhya Mantri Mahila Utthan Yojana (Haryana):** Expanded collateral-free micro-credit loans up to ₹3 lakh to women-led rural self-help groups (SHGs) for agri-business setups.
- **Mission Vatsalya Child Protection Network (Tamil Nadu):** Established district-level child welfare and emergency rehabilitation centers for destitute and runaway children at major railway junctions.
- **Bhoomi Portal Digital Land Records (Karnataka):** Integrated AI-driven geospatial drone surveys to issue indisputable land property cards across rural revenue villages.

Railway & Infrastructure Initiatives (Special Exam Focus)

- **Kavach 5.0 Golden Quadrilateral Scaling:** Indian Railways achieved installation across 2,000 route kilometers, integrating ultra-fast optical fiber networks and satellite loco communication.
- **Vande Bharat Sleeper Commercial Route Expansion:** Commercial night services of the 16-coach Vande Bharat Sleeper rakes extended on high-density long-distance corridors like Delhi-Mumbai and Howrah-Delhi.
- **Mission Amrit Stations Milestone:** Indian Railways announced the complete redevelopment and public opening of 200 Amrit Bharat stations featuring modern concourses and multi-modal transit hubs.
- **Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) Double-Stack Container Record:** Western DFC achieved all-time high freight throughput operating long-haul double-stack electric container rakes between Dadri and Mundra.
- **AI-Assisted Ultrasonic Rail Flaw Detection (USFD):** High-speed automated vehicle-mounted inspection cars deployed across high-density tracks to detect micro-cracks before rail fractures occur.
- **100% LED and Green Railway Stations:** Indian Railways achieved 100% LED lighting across all suburban and rural halts, contributing to substantial energy conservation benchmarks.

Sports & Games

Cricket

- **Indian Premier League (IPL 2026) High-Voltage Action:** The 19th edition of the IPL kicked off with packed stadiums across India, featuring blistering powerplays, high run chases, and emerging uncapped Indian talents.
- **ICC Annual Team Rankings Update:** The International Cricket Council released its annual rankings review, with India retaining top spots across Test and ODI formats.
- **BCCI Domestic Calendar 2026–27 Planning:** Board of Control for Cricket in India finalized structural schedules for the upcoming domestic season, prioritizing player workload and red-ball tournaments.
- **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 Venue Finalization:** Organizing committees finalized pitch curators, high-density crowd management, and broadcast infrastructure across Indian and Sri Lankan host venues.

Football, Hockey & Tennis

- **Monte-Carlo Masters 2026:** Premier clay-court ATP Masters 1000 tournament kicked off the European clay season with world elite tennis stars battling for championship points.
- **UEFA Champions League Quarter-Finals:** European football giants clashed in thrilling two-legged aggregate ties to secure coveted spots in the Champions League semi-finals.
- **FIH Pro League Away Legs:** Indian Men's hockey team traveled for crucial European away legs, testing squad depth and penalty corner conversions ahead of continental championships.
- **I-League 2025–26 Title Decider:** Final round of matches determined the promotion champion earning qualification into the premier Indian Super League.

Badminton, Chess & Multi-Sport

- **FIDE Candidates Tournament 2026:** Intense classical games underway in Toronto/Europe to determine the challenger for the World Chess Championship match.
- **Badminton Asia Championships 2026:** Indian shuttlers delivered standout performances in Ningbo, China, reaching podium rounds in Men's Singles and Mixed Doubles disciplines.
- **National Archery Championships 2026:** Conducted with record entries in recurve and compound events, finalizing national squads for upcoming Asian Games and World Cups.
- **Asian Wrestling Championships 2026:** Indian wrestlers bagged multiple medals across freestyle and Greco-Roman categories, cementing strong continental rankings.

Science, Space & Technology

Space Exploration & Satellite Missions

- **NISAR Satellite Operational Launch (NASA-ISRO):** Successfully launched aboard GSLV-F12 from Sriharikota, commencing the world's most advanced dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar Earth observation mission.
- **Gaganyaan Abort Test & Pad Abort Sequence:** ISRO successfully demonstrated high-altitude crew escape motor firing, validating safety redundancy for upcoming human space missions.

- **SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) Preparations:** ISRO finalized dual spacecraft integration to demonstrate autonomous rendezvous and docking in low Earth orbit.
- **SpaceX Starship Commercial Payload Test:** Conducted advanced orbital deployment tests, gathering critical hypersonic reentry heat shield performance data.

Defense Technology & Indigenous Innovations

- **Maiden Test of Indigenous Naval Heavyweight Torpedo:** Indian Navy and DRDO successfully test-fired an advanced wire-guided anti-submarine heavyweight torpedo from a frontline submarine.
- **BrahMos Extended-Range Coastal Battery Integration:** Strategic coastal defense batteries armed with 450-km-range BrahMos supersonic missiles were operationalized along India's maritime choke points.
- **Induction of Light Combat Helicopter (Prachand) Squadrons:** Indian Army and IAF commissioned dedicated squadrons of Prachand helicopters for high-altitude strike and reconnaissance along the LAC.
- **Quantum Secure Communication Link:** DRDO established an operational quantum key distribution link over 150 km between two military command stations, ensuring unhackable cryptographic security.

Artificial Intelligence, Supercomputing & Biotechnology

- **Bhashini Indic AI Ecosystem Expansion:** Ministry of Electronics and IT integrated real-time speech-to-speech voice translation across 22 Indian languages for railway station public announcements.
- **National Supercomputing Mission Deployment:** C-DAC integrated next-generation 'Param Sanganak' supercomputer nodes at leading technical universities for quantum materials simulation.
- **Indigenously Developed Sickle Cell Point-of-Care Kit:** ICMR and CSIR released an ultra-low-cost paper-strip diagnostic kit to detect sickle cell trait among tribal populations within 5 minutes.
- **AI-Powered Agricultural Advisory Models:** ICAR rolled out localized generative AI models delivering hyper-local crop disease diagnosis and weather forecasts via mobile messaging.

Summits, Bills & International Affairs

International Summits & Conferences

- **World Health Day Summit 2026:** Hosted by the World Health Organization in Geneva under the annual theme emphasizing universal healthcare access and pandemic preparedness.
- **BIMSTEC Summit (Bangkok/New Delhi):** Leaders of Bay of Bengal Initiative nations adopted the regional Maritime Transport Agreement to boost coastal shipping and transit trade.
- **International Energy Agency (IEA) Critical Minerals Summit:** Convened in Paris, formulating multilateral stockpiling frameworks and clean supply chain corridors for rare earth elements.
- **16th Civil Services Day National Conference:** Organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, focusing on citizen-centric governance, digital public infrastructure, and administrative ethics.

Bills, Legislation & Parliamentary Developments

- **Comprehensive Coastal Shipping Modernization Bill:** Inter-ministerial consultations finalized draft legislation to eliminate cabotage barriers and incentivize coastal cargo transit.
- **National Green Mobility Regulatory Framework:** Ministry of Heavy Industries notified standardized battery-swapping protocols and interoperable charging standards for commercial electric vehicles.
- **National Water Framework Advisory Guidelines:** Parliamentary standing committee urged state governments to adopt unified river-basin water budgeting and aquifer recharge policies.
- **Consumer Data Privacy Enforcement Review:** Data Protection Board of India issued statutory compliance guidelines for online platforms regarding minor consent and automated profiling.

International Affairs & Bilateral Agreements

- **India-Central Asia Connectivity Consultations:** High-level working groups met to enhance cargo throughput via the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and Chabahar port.
- **India-Australia Critical Minerals Supply Agreement:** Finalized commercial off-take agreements securing supplies of processed lithium and rare earths for India's battery gigafactories.
- **India-Oman Bilateral Maritime Patrols:** Navies of India and Oman concluded joint anti-piracy exercises and surface surveillance operations across the Gulf of Oman.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA) Island Nation Off-Grid Push:** Approved funding packages to establish 100% solarized microgrids for remote island settlements in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Books, Authors & Important Days

Books & Authors

- **'The Iron Arteries: How Railways Built India':** Authored by veteran economic historian chronicling the evolution of Indian Railways, freight networks, and national integration.
- **'Beyond the Boundaries: Lessons from the Pitch to the Boardroom':** Authored by celebrated former international cricketer analyzing tactical leadership, resilience, and pressure management.
- **'The Green Horizon: India's Journey to Net Zero 2070':** Authored by leading energy policy scholar examining renewable power expansion, green hydrogen, and carbon trading.
- **'Guardians of the Coast: The Saga of the Indian Coast Guard':** Authored by retired Vice Admiral recounting daring maritime rescues, environmental cleanup, and anti-smuggling ops.
- **'Loom of the Ancestors: Traditional Weaves of India':** Authored by prominent textile researcher documenting endangered indigenous weaving practices and natural dye traditions.

Important Days & Themes

- **April 5 – National Maritime Day (India):** Commemorating the maiden voyage of the Indian merchant ship SS Loyalty in 1919, celebrating maritime shipping excellence.

- **April 7 – World Health Day:** Spearheaded by WHO to champion universal health coverage, primary wellness, and resilient healthcare infrastructure worldwide.
- **April 10 – World Homeopathy Day:** Commemorating the birth anniversary of Dr. Christian Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann, founder of homeopathy.
- **April 13 – Jallianwala Bagh Massacre Commemoration:** Solemn nationwide tributes paid to the martyrs of the historic 1919 Amritsar freedom struggle tragedy.
- **April 14 – Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti (Equality Day):** Celebrating the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, chief architect of the Indian Constitution.
- **April 17 – World Hemophilia Day:** Observed globally to raise awareness and improve access to diagnosis and standardized bleed management.
- **April 18 – World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites):** Promoting cultural preservation, historic site protection, and heritage monuments.
- **April 21 – National Civil Services Day:** Acknowledging civil servants who dedicate themselves to citizen welfare; commemorating Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 'Steel Frame' address in 1947.
- **April 22 – Earth Day (International Mother Earth Day):** Celebrated worldwide to mobilize climate action, forest conservation, and environmental sustainability.
- **April 24 – National Panchayati Raj Day:** Marking the historic passing of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act in 1992, institutionalizing grassroots rural democracy in India.
- **April 25 – World Malaria Day:** Spearheaded by WHO to mobilize global investments to eradicate vector-borne malaria across endemic zones.
- **April 26 – World Intellectual Property Day:** Raising global awareness on how patents, copyrights, trademarks, and design rights encourage innovation and creativity.

Miscellaneous (GI Tags, Superlatives, UNESCO Heritage & Dance Personalities)

Geographical Indication (GI) Tags

- **GI Applications for Tribal Forest Produce:** Tribal cooperative federations submitted GI tag applications for wild forest honey and herbal resin harvested by indigenous tribes in central India.
- **Varanasi Zari & Wood Carving Export Hub:** Dedicated certification and automated tagging centers established in Uttar Pradesh to protect GI-tagged handicrafts against automated imitations.
- **Kangra Tea International Branding:** Himachal Pradesh tea federations launched upgraded tamper-proof packaging for 100% authentic GI-certified orthodox Kangra tea.
- **Pochampally Ikat & Uppada Jamdani (Telangana/AP):** Handloom promotion councils organized international exhibitions to promote GI-tagged geometric tie-and-dye and fine jamdani silks.

Superlatives (India & World: Firsts, Largest, Highest)

- **World's First Dual-Frequency Civilian Radar Satellite (NISAR):** Joint NASA-ISRO mission officially operated as the world's highest-resolution space radar observatory.
- **World's Longest Double-Stack Electric Freight Run:** Dedicated Freight Corridor set a new operational benchmark running 1.5-km-long automated double-stack rakes continuously over 1,200 km.

- **India's First 100% Solar-Powered Commercial Terminal:** Commissioned at a major coastal maritime port, meeting its entire electrical load through rooftop and floating solar arrays.
- **World's Highest Railway Arch Bridge (Chenab Bridge):** Final commercial express schedules completed full seasonal high-wind and sub-zero stress validation with zero disruptions.

UNESCO & World Heritage

- **World Heritage Day Monument Illumination:** Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) illuminated 40 UNESCO World Heritage monuments nationwide with eco-friendly solar-powered LED displays.
- **Dholavira Water Management Heritage Trail:** UNESCO and Gujarat tourism inaugurated experiential heritage walkways showcasing the sophisticated 5,000-year-old Harappan stormwater reservoirs.
- **Ajanta & Ellora Caves Structural Restoration:** ASI completed multi-year laser micro-cleaning and chemical preservation of centuries-old Buddhist and Hindu rock-cut frescoes.
- **UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation Seminars:** Sangeet Natak Akademi conducted residential workshops to train youth in the ancient chanting of the Vedas and Kutiyattam Sanskrit drama.

Dance Personalities & Performing Arts

- **National Tribute to Odissi Dance Doyen:** Cultural ministries organized centenary celebrations honoring legendary gurus who revived and codified classical Odissi dance postures.
- **Sangeet Natak Akademi Regional Utsav:** Conferred special performing arts awards on veteran Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Manipuri gurus for lifelong artistic education.
- **All-India Youth Classical Dance Festival:** Hosted in New Delhi, bringing together rising classical performers across Kuchipudi, Sattriya, and Mohiniyattam disciplines.
- **Chhau Dance National Conclave:** Staged in Jharkhand, celebrating the dynamic martial dance traditions of Purulia, Seraikela, and Mayurbhanj Chhau.

ENVIRONMENT

- **State of the Global Climate Report 2025/26 (WMO):** World Meteorological Organization reported record ocean heat content and global mean sea levels, urging accelerated emission cuts.
- **Project Tiger Annual Performance Review:** Ministry of Environment noted expanding tiger corridor connectivity and improved prey-base density in central Indian tiger landscapes.
- **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) Ambient Air Tracking:** CPCB recorded marked reductions in particulate matter concentrations across 100 non-attainment cities following mechanical street sweeping and green buffers.
- **Ken-Betwa River Interlinking Biodiversity Mitigation:** Wildlife biologists commenced phased compensatory afforestation and vulture nesting site protection in Panna Tiger Reserve.
- **Great Indian Bustard Satellite Tagging:** Wildlife Institute of India (WII) successfully satellite-tagged young bustards in the Thar Desert to map flight paths and avoid high-tension transmission wires.
- **Mission LiFE World Earth Day Drives:** Over 10 lakh citizens participated in nationwide tree plantation, single-use plastic cleanup, and water body revival drives on Earth Day.

- **CPCB Hazardous Waste Tracking Automation:** Central Pollution Control Board mandated real-time GPS tracking and digital manifests for all hazardous industrial waste transportation across states.
- **Mangrove Restoration along Odisha & Bengal Coastlines:** Over 4,000 hectares of degraded coastal wetlands restored with native Rhizophora mangrove saplings to buffer cyclone storm surges.
- **Discovery of New Endemic Gecko in Western Ghats:** Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientists discovered a new dwarf gecko species in the high-altitude shola-grassland ecosystem of Tamil Nadu.
- **Ramsar Wetland Preservation Monitoring:** Ministry of Jal Shakti initiated automated water quality monitoring across all 96 Ramsar wetland sites in India.
- **National Bio-Resource Development Review:** Department of Biotechnology funded multi-institutional programs to bioprospect marine algae and medicinal microbes for climate-resilient agriculture.
- **Kaziranga Elephant Corridor Land Demarcation:** Assam revenue and forest departments finalized legal demarcation of 9 designated wildlife migratory corridors across National Highway 715.
- **Urban Micro-Forests Along Railway Tracks:** Indian Railways and municipal corporations planted over 3 lakh native trees using Miyawaki methods along suburban rail embankments.
- **Transboundary River Water Quality Protocol:** India and Bangladesh joint rivers commission established synchronized automated water quality monitoring along the Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers.

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