

30/04/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Tathāgata:*

Context: Amid deep spiritual fervour and an atmosphere imbued with devotion, the Sacred Holy Piprahwa Relics of Tathagatha Buddha arrived in Leh today, marking the commencement of a historic spiritual celebration in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

About Tathāgata:

- ❖ Tathāgata is a Pali and Sanskrit term used for a person who has attained the highest spiritual goal.
- ❖ The term was commonly used by Gautama Buddha to refer to himself and past Buddhas.
- ❖ In Chinese, Tathāgata is translated as “Rulai,” meaning “Thus Come One.”
- ❖ In Mahayana Buddhism, Tathāgata is an epithet for Shakyamuni Buddha and celestial Buddhas.
- ❖ The term may mean “one who has thus gone” or “one who has thus come.”
- ❖ Another interpretation suggests it means “one beyond coming and going.”
- ❖ Tathāgata symbolizes transcendence beyond birth, death, and worldly change.
- ❖ The exact original meaning of the term remains uncertain.
- ❖ In the Pali Canon, the Buddha often used “Tathāgata” instead of “I” or “me.”
- ❖ The usage emphasizes a being who has transcended the cycle of rebirth and suffering (dukkha).

2. *Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR):*

Context: DRDO & Indian Navy successfully conduct maiden salvo launch of Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range.

More details:

- ❖ Defence Research & Development Organisation and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden salvo launch of NASM-SR.
- ❖ The Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR) was launched from a naval helicopter platform.
- ❖ The trial was conducted off the coast of the Bay of Bengal near Odisha.
- ❖ Two missiles were fired in quick succession from the same helicopter during the test.
- ❖ It marked the first salvo launch of an advanced air-launched anti-ship missile system in India.
- ❖ NASM-SR uses a solid propulsion booster and a long-burn sustainer.
- ❖ The missile features an indigenous seeker and integrated avionics module.
- ❖ It uses fibre-optic gyroscope-based Inertial Navigation System and radio-altimeter for guidance.
- ❖ The missile is equipped with advanced control and guidance algorithms and a high-bandwidth two-way data link.
- ❖ Jet-vane control technology for the missile was developed indigenously by DRDO laboratories and Indian industries.
- ❖ The missile system was developed by Research Centre Imarat in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories.
- ❖ Key collaborating DRDO labs include DRDL Hyderabad, HEMRL Pune, TBRL Chandigarh, and ITR Chandipur.
- ❖ NASM-SR missiles are being produced by DcPP with support from Indian industries and start-ups.

3. *IN-SLN DIVEX 2026:*

Context: India and Sri Lanka reaffirmed their growing maritime partnership through the fourth edition of the bilateral diving exercise, IN–SLN DIVEX 2026, conducted at Colombo from 21–28 Apr 2026.

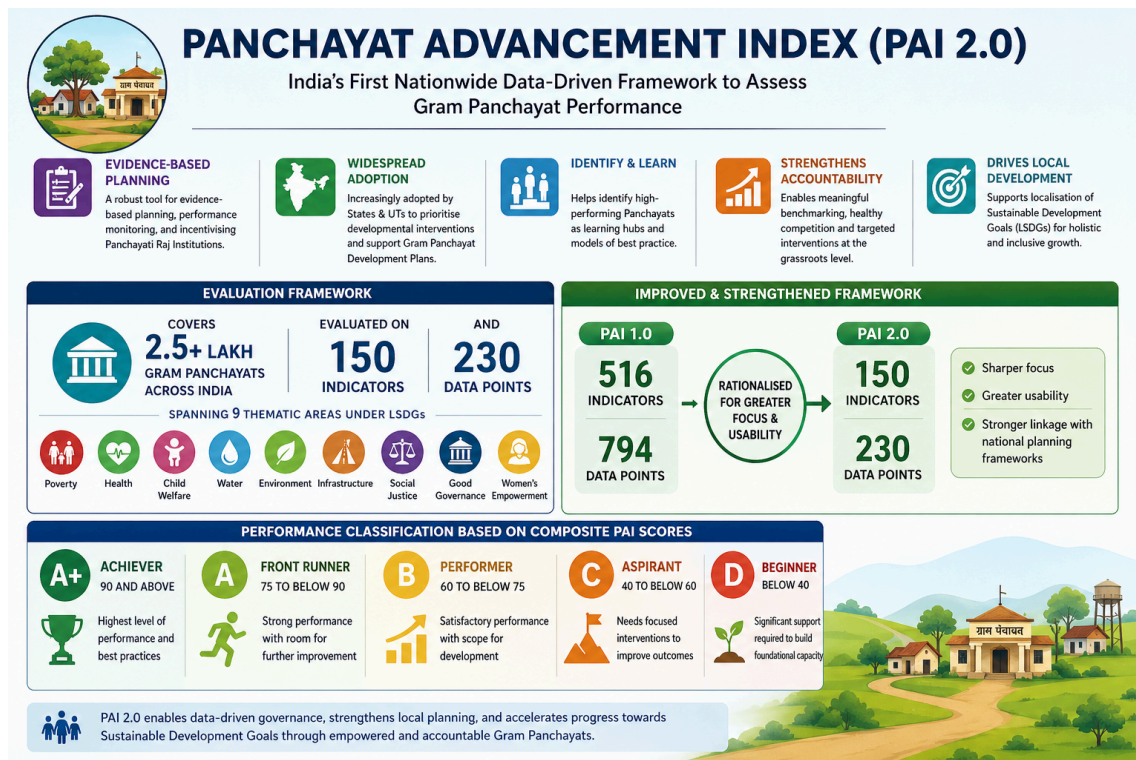
About IN–SLN DIVEX 2026:

- ❖ IN–SLN DIVEX is a joint diving exercise between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy.
- ❖ The exercise focused on complex underwater and deep-sea diving operations.
- ❖ INS Nireekshak participated in the exercise.
- ❖ Diving teams from both navies took part, enhancing operational coordination and professional synergy.
- ❖ The exercise aimed to strengthen interoperability between the Indian and Sri Lankan navies.
- ❖ Advanced mixed gas diving drills were conducted during the exercise.
- ❖ Divers carried out extensive harbour and open-sea diving operations.
- ❖ The exercise demonstrated high technical proficiency and operational expertise of both navies.
- ❖ A major highlight was mixed gas dives conducted off Colombo.
- ❖ Divers explored World War-era wrecks SS Worcester and SS Perseus during the exercise.

4. Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report:

Context: In a major step towards strengthening grassroots governance and promoting inclusive rural development, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day celebrated on 24th April 2026 released the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report for the FY Year 2023–24.

About Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 Report:



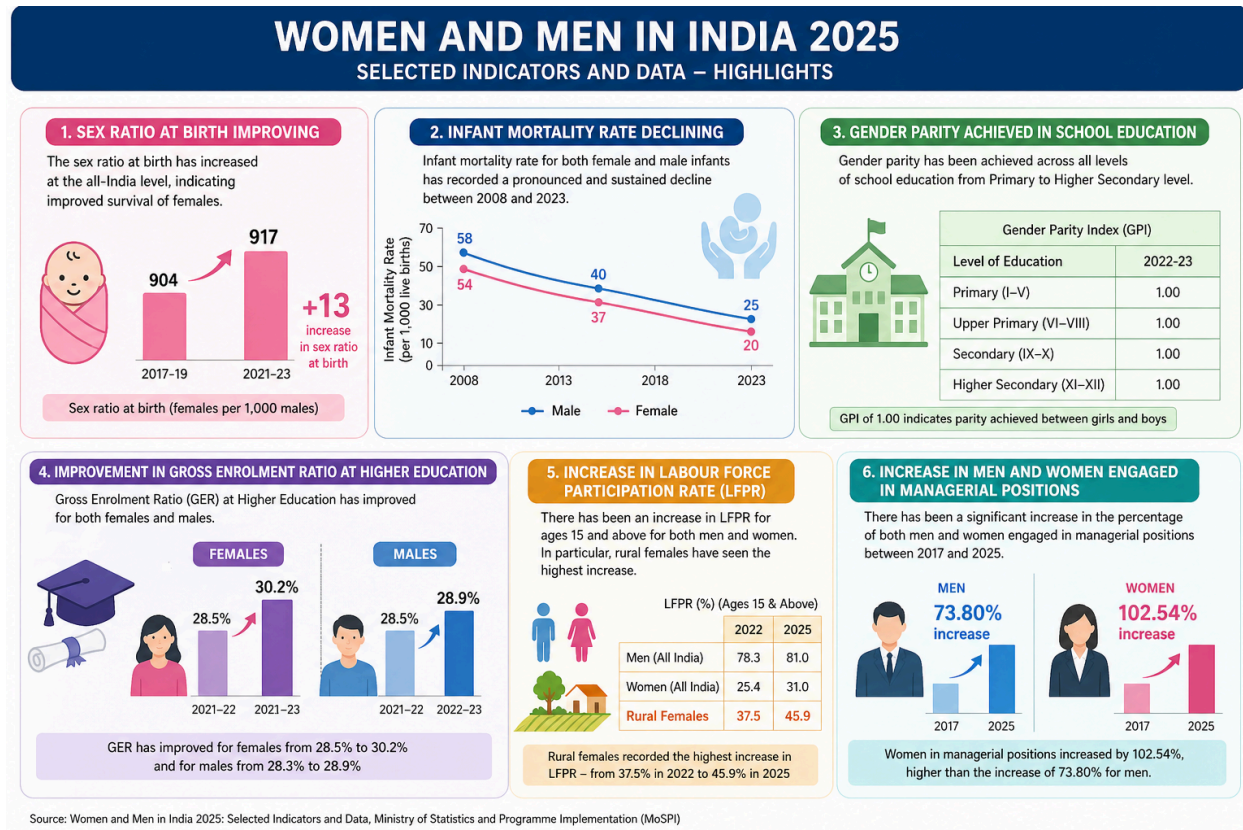
- ❖ Tripura – Best performing state, with nearly 80% of Gram Panchayats ranked as “Front Runner.”

- ❖ Kerala – Second-best performer, with around 10% of Gram Panchayats in the “Front Runner” category.
- ❖ Odisha – Third-best performer, with about 8% of Gram Panchayats ranked as “Front Runner.”

5. “Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data”:

Context: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Government of India, released the 27th edition of its publication titled “Women and Men in India 2025: Selected Indicators and Data” at the National Deliberative Summit on “Data for Development”, on 29th April 2026 at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Highlights of the report:



6. Indus Water Treaty (IWT):

Context: Pakistan has widened its objections to include Kiru and Kavar Hydel projects on the Chenab, even though they are not under formal Indus Water Treaty (IWT) arbitration.

About Indus Water Treaty (IWT):

- ❖ It was signed in 1960 as a water-distribution arrangement between India and Pakistan.

- ❖ It develops plans to utilise the Indus and its tributaries as a source of water.
 - ❖ The World Bank mediated the agreement.
 - ❖ Under the treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960, all the waters of three rivers, namely Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas (Eastern Rivers) were allocated to India for exclusive use.
 - ❖ While, the waters of Western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab were allocated to Pakistan except for specified domestic, non-consumptive, and agricultural use permitted to India as provided in the Treaty.
7. **Mission SAKSHAM:**

Context: The Reserve Bank of India has launched Mission SAKSHAM, a nationwide capacity-building programme for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).

About Mission SAKSHAM:

- ❖ Reserve Bank of India launched Mission SAKSHAM for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
- ❖ Mission SAKSHAM is a nationwide capacity-building programme for UCBs.
- ❖ The initiative aims to improve governance, resilience, and professional standards in cooperative banks.
- ❖ The programme reflects RBI's efforts to modernise the cooperative banking sector while preserving its community-based character.
- ❖ Mission SAKSHAM is designed as a mission-mode exercise across India.
- ❖ The programme aims to cover nearly 1.40 lakh participants through physical and digital training modules.
- ❖ Its primary objective is to strengthen managerial and operational capabilities of UCBs.
- ❖ The initiative focuses on better governance standards, compliance culture, and institutional resilience.
- ❖ RBI aims to create stronger and professionally managed cooperative banks through the programme.
- ❖ "SAKSHAM" means "capable," symbolising future-ready and efficient cooperative banks.
- ❖ The programme targets board members, senior management, risk officers, compliance officials, audit heads, IT staff, and other employees of UCBs.
- ❖ Training will be conducted through classroom sessions and e-learning modules.
- ❖ Course materials will also be provided in regional languages to improve accessibility and learning outcomes.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated 594-km long Access-Controlled Greenfield Ganga Expressway in Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh.
- ☐ To advance India's cybersecurity audit ecosystem and bolster the nation's overall cyber resilience, CERT-In successfully hosted a three-day National Annual Conference — "CERT-In SAMVAAD 2026" — bringing together over 500 delegates, including policymakers, Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) from industry and regulatory bodies, representatives from CERT-In Empanelled Auditing Organisations and cybersecurity professionals from across the country. The

conference was organised in association with BITS Pilani, Goa and held from April 27 to April 29, 2026, at the BITS Pilani K. K. Birla Goa Campus. The theme of the conference was "Securing Digital Bharat through Future-Ready Audits: Adapting, Assuring, Advancing".

- ☐ An Indian Navy Fast Attack Craft (FAC), INS Kalpeni has arrived at Addu Atoll, marking a significant step in the ongoing maritime engagement between India and the Maldives. INS Kalpeni is a Car Nicobar class Waterjet FAC commissioned in 2010. It is named after Kalpeni Island in the Lakshadweep group of Islands. Addu Atoll is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives, lies north of the Chagos Archipelago in the central Indian Ocean.
- ☐ Cyborg Botany is an interdisciplinary field that creates hybrid systems by integrating living plants with electronic components (such as sensors and conductive materials). It aims to tap into the plant's internal biochemical signals at the source, effectively turning the biological organism into a living circuit board that can monitor and report on its own environmental health.
- ☐ The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) will establish a basmati and organic training centre along with a demonstration farm in Pilibhit district of Uttar Pradesh.
- ☐ The Indian Army will host the first edition of the multilateral military exercise 'Pragati' at the Foreign Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ☐ The Union government is set to launch Prashast 2.0, an upgraded digital platform designed to identify 21 types of disabilities in children and improve support for Children With Special Needs (CWSN). The app aims to strengthen early screening, simplify certification and ensure better inclusion of such children in mainstream education.

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