

CURRENT AFFAIRS INDIA

Exams & Policy

UPSC prep is buzzing with topics like PM Awas Yojana, Gramin, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's legacy, rising fertiliser use, and railway modernisation.

Heat & Power

With summer spiking early, states are pushing solar energy and power grid upgrades to avoid blackouts. Delhi recorded 42°C already.

Global Stage

India joined UK-France talks on keeping the Strait of Hormuz safe for ships – important because 80% of India's oil passes through there.

Technology

ISRO confirmed a new satellite launch in May to improve weather tracking and disaster alerts.

Assembly Elections

Addressing an election rally in Cooch Behar district, Himanta said, "In Assam, even after the BJP formed the government, there was no restriction on fish and meat consumption and asserted that if BJP comes to power then the only restriction will be on beef consumption and cattle smuggling.

AIADMK Candidate List for Tamil Nadu Assembly Election 2026: Tamil Nadu's core Opposition party AIADMK, which is leading the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in the state, released its first list of 23 candidates for the upcoming Assembly polls. The third list comprises 17 candidates, and the party has already announced its candidates for 150 candidates in two phases.

Not just English, Khasi and Garo languages will be 'official' too in Meghalaya. Chief Minister Conrad Sangma announces approval of Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026, by state Cabinet. Calling the decision "historic", Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma announced the approval of the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance, 2026 by the state cabinet. The move comes amid a long-standing demand for the inclusion of Khasi and Garo – the languages of the state's two largest tribes – in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Currently, all official business in the state is carried out in English.



"Our government strongly believes that the state must first accord official status to both the languages... This will send a strong message to the Government of India and further strengthen the case for their inclusion in the Eighth Schedule," said Sangma.

CURRENT AFFAIRS INTERNATIONAL

US & Iran: Peace Talks Back On?

The US and Iran might meet again in Pakistan this week. A ceasefire is still on, but barely. After talks failed last weekend, the US blocked Iranian ships. Now both sides are trying again. Why you should care: This war pushed oil past \$100/barrel, making gas, flights, and even snacks more expensive.

Israel & Lebanon Talk After Decades

Israel and Lebanon had their first direct talks in 30+ years in Washington. No deal yet – Israel wants a militant group disarmed, Lebanon wants bombing to stop. Celebrations in Lebanon as 10-day ceasefire with Israel begins. Celebratory gunfire heard in Beirut as truce takes effect, though Lebanese military reports violations.

SpaceX launches 25 Starlink satellites Saturday.

Economy: World markets jumped on hopes the Iran war might end.

Geopolitical Shifts: Analysts note a potential shift in global power, with Iran holding its ground, China influencing regional diplomacy, and Pakistan gaining diplomatic credit for its role in the US-Iran truce. A Pakistan-brokered US-Iran fragile ceasefire has taken effect, but disputes over its scope are fuelling regional tensions. US President Donald Trump said US forces will remain around Iran until a "real agreement" is fully enforced, warning of further conflict if not.

North Korean Missile Tests: North Korea has reportedly tested advanced weapons, including ballistic missiles equipped with cluster-bomb warheads, announced through state media on April 9.

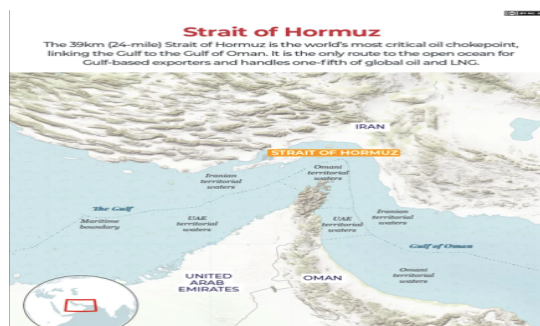
Singapore Leadership Transition: Lawrence Wong has taken over as the new Prime Minister of Singapore, following the People's Action Party (PAP) victory, ensuring stability in the island nation.

International Security Alert: British and Norwegian forces conducted a month-long operation in April 2026 to track and deter Russian submarines detected operating near critical undersea cables and pipelines in the North Atlantic and near British waters. The coordinated response, involving RAF P8 aircraft and Royal Navy frigates, monitored the vessels 24/7, successfully forcing them to retreat northward.

Did You Know?

The Strait of Hormuz is only 33 km wide at its narrowest point – that's shorter than a Mumbai-to-Pune car ride. But 20% of the world's oil passes through it every day. One blockage = global price hike.

Teen Take: Wars and heat waves feel far away, but they hit your wallet and future. Knowing what's up = power.



Vinisha Umashankar is a young Indian innovator from Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu, famous for inventing the *solar-powered ironing cart "Iron-Max"*. She's often called the "Greta Thunberg of India" for youth climate action.

The Invention

At age 12 in 2019, she designed a cart with solar panels on the roof to power a steam iron — replacing charcoal used by street ironing vendors. Five hours of sunshine runs the iron for 6 hours, with battery backup for cloudy days. The cart also has phone charging points for vendors to earn extra income.

Why?

She noticed local ironing vendors dumping burnt charcoal and realized 10 million carts in India burn ~5 kg charcoal each daily. That means deforestation + air pollution + health issues for vendors.

Global Recognition- India's *Queen's Baton bearer* for Commonwealth Games 2022

- Earthshot Prize 2021 Finalist— Prince William's global environment award
- Children's Climate Prize winner from Sweden
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam IGNITE Award from Govt of India
- Spoke at *COP26 UN Climate Summit* in Glasgow at age 14

Impact

Her cart helps 13 of 15 UN Sustainable Development Goals. She plans to manufacture it affordably across India, then Asia & Africa. Cost: ₹40,000-50,000 with 20-25 year lifespan.

Fun Fact

She taught herself college-level physics to build it, started to love science after an encyclopedia she got at age 5.



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Hey everyone! 🙌 We are teenagers from a boarding school in the foothills, who believe change begins with us. The newsletter, a fortnightly, explores stories, events and ideas that shape our world. From happenings to global issues, we'll dive into it all. Join us, collaborate, critique and voice your opinions as we share our perspectives, insights, and creativity with you!

Your feedback and contributions would be a game changer!

Do write to us, @theworldthisweek4@gmail.com

World Heritage Day 2026: Preserving the Past, Shaping the Future

Every year on 18 April, the world comes together to celebrate World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites. In 2026, the day serves as a powerful reminder that our shared heritage—cultural, natural, and mixed—is not just a record of the past, but a living legacy that shapes our present and future.

It reminds us that heritage is a bridge between the past and the future. By protecting monuments, sites, and landscapes today, we ensure that the stories, knowledge, and beauty they hold continue to inspire generations to come. Preserving world heritage is not just about saving stones and structures—it is about preserving humanity's collective soul.

World heritage sites reflect the creativity, beliefs, struggles, and achievements of humanity across centuries. From ancient monuments and historic cities to sacred landscapes and natural wonders, these sites tell stories that transcend borders and generations. They help us understand who we are, where we come from, and how deeply connected human history is to nature.

The Importance of World Heritage

World heritage sites are symbols of universal value. They belong not to one nation or community alone, but to all of humankind. Protecting them is essential for preserving cultural identity, promoting mutual respect, and fostering peace. These sites also support education, research, tourism, and local economies, making heritage conservation both a cultural and developmental priority. However, they face growing threats in the modern world. Climate change, urbanization, pollution, armed conflict, and unsustainable tourism place immense pressure on fragile monuments and ecosystems. World Heritage Day 2026 highlights the urgent need for responsible stewardship and collective action to protect these irreplaceable treasures.

Heritage and the Future

In 2026, the celebration emphasizes the role of youth, technology, and community participation in heritage conservation. Digital tools such as 3D documentation, virtual museums, and satellite monitoring are transforming how heritage is preserved and shared. At the same time, involving local communities ensures that conservation efforts remain inclusive, ethical, and sustainable. Young people, in particular, play a crucial role. By learning about heritage, advocating for its protection, and innovating new solutions, they become custodians of history and ambassadors for cultural diversity.

A Shared Responsibility

World Heritage Day is not only about admiration—it is a call to action. Governments, organizations, professionals, and citizens all share the responsibility of safeguarding heritage for future generations. Simple actions such as raising awareness, respecting heritage sites, supporting conservation initiatives, and promoting sustainable tourism can make a meaningful difference.



ATHLETICS

A World Athletics panel has refused 11 allegiance transfer requests to Turkiye over what it called a “coordinated recruitment strategy” by the Turkish government to attract overseas athletes with lucrative contracts, the sport’s governing body has said. The requests came from five Kenyan athletes, including former women’s marathon world record holder Brigid Kosgei, and four Jamaicans, including Olympic discus gold medalist Roje Stona and Olympic shot put bronze medalist Rajindra Campbell.

FOOTBALL

Chelsea could blow the race for UEFA Champions League qualification wide open if they beat Manchester United in the English Premier League. The Blues have only won one of their last five Premier League matches, increasing the pressure on manager Liam Rosenior in his first season in charge of the football club. United suffered a shock home defeat by Leeds United last week and arrive with injuries and suspensions that will leave them feeling vulnerable for the first time under interim head coach Michael Carrick.

Football fans in the US have criticised FIFA and local organisers over a move to ban tailgating at World Cup games. Football fans have a new bone to pick with FIFA ahead of the [World Cup](#). This time, it’s over a reported restriction on tailgating at World Cup venues in the United States, one of the three cohost nations for the biggest sporting event in the world. The sport’s global governing body has already come under fire for exorbitant ticket prices and inflated fares in host cities. It has also been urged to call upon US President Donald Trump to ensure the safety of fans and keep US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents away from the stadiums during the World Cup.



Tailgating is a popular part of sports culture in the US, with these fans enjoying it before a New York Giants vs Denver Broncos NFL game outside the MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the United States [File: Chris Pedota/USA Today via Reuters]

Stretching out

Olivia Rodrigo's new album, *You Seem Pretty Sad* for a *Girl So in Love*, drops in June. Seems like the long, rambling album title is the mood of 2026. Harry Styles, Taylor Swift and Lana Del Rey have all gone wordy. Bow to the OG overachiever. Fiona Apple's gloriously extra 1999 album, *When the Pawn...*, goes on for 90 words. Today's kids could never!



Iran women football players thank Australian government for protection

The two Iran footballers who stayed in Australia following the Asian Cup say they want to rebuild lives in ‘safety’. Iranian women football players Fatemeh Pasandideh and Atefeh Ramezansadeh have thanked the Australian government for offering a “safe haven” and said they wished to resume their sporting careers after rebuilding their lives.

In their first public comments since being granted humanitarian visas, the players said in a statement on Friday the compassion and support shown to them had provided them hope for a future where they could live and compete in safety.

“We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Australian government, and particularly Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke, for granting us humanitarian protection and a safe haven in this beautiful country,” they said. Australia initially granted humanitarian visas to six players and one support staff member from the Iranian squad after their Asian Cup campaign in Australia began just as the United States and Israel launched air strikes on Iran.

Five of the group subsequently changed their minds and decided to return home, leaving only Pasandideh and Ramezansadeh in Australia. The duo began training with the A-League Women’s team Brisbane Roar last month. “At this stage, our primary focus is on our safety, our health and beginning the process of rebuilding our lives,” they said. “We are elite athletes, and it remains our dream to continue our sporting careers here in Australia.



Iran player Fatemeh Pasandideh salutes during the national anthem prior to a 2026 AFC Women's Asian Cup game [Dave Hunt/EPA]

This week, we're...
Signing off

Google will soon allow users to update their Gmail handles (mails will be delivered regardless of the old or new name). Pity. Having a cringe personal Gmail ID was one of the defining signs of being an actual human. Goodbye, HotMilf69, Ch0c0L8_Bunny, RatLover23, BritneyzBF, and GigglyBear4U – we’ll miss the idiots we once were.

Wipro announces share buyback worth ₹15,000 crore.

Wipro's board at its meeting today approved the proposal to buyback up to 60,00,00,000 fully paid-up equity shares or 5.7% of the total paid-up equity share capital, for an aggregate amount not exceeding ₹15,000 crore.

European banks can withstand current shocks, watchdog head says: European lenders are resilient enough to absorb current financial and geopolitical shocks but need to prepare for future uncertainties including cybersecurity risks from AI, François-Louis Michaud, the new head of the European Banking Authority, said.

Europe has 'maybe six weeks of jet fuel left', energy boss warns. The Strait of Hormuz, a key route for jet fuel out of the Gulf, has been effectively closed by Iran for more than six weeks in response to US and Israeli attacks, sending the price rocketing and prompting fears of shortages. Exports from the Gulf region were the largest source of jet fuel to the global market.

Cheaper Doritos and Lays helps PepsiCo win back struggling snackers. The food and drinks giant said on Thursday sales had jumped 8.5% in the first three months of the year to \$19.4bn (£14.4bn). It followed a series of price cuts ahead of the Super Bowl, some worth as much as 15%, on products including Doritos, Lays (known as Walkers in the UK), Tostitos and Cheetos.

Charles Schwab is rolling out crypto trading, allowing clients to buy bitcoin and ether in the coming weeks. The move places the brokerage in direct competition with Robinhood and Coinbase, both of which tend to serve younger clients and offer commission-free trading on stocks (but still carry a fee on crypto). Schwab is the latest example of increasing crypto acceptance by traditional financial firms that previously were waiting on the sidelines to launch crypto offerings.

Companies are likely to slow hiring and even retrench during the rest of this year as the West Asia war ripples through global operations, said Dustin Seale, partner at Heidrick & Struggles and regional leader of consulting for APAC and the Middle East.

Hiring could take at least a year to recover, and potentially up to two years if the conflict drags on, Seale said. Inflationary pressures will also have an impact on companies' hiring spends, he added. "Things deteriorate faster than they return to health. If the authorities reach agreements now, we have at least a year-long recovery, maybe a little more. If the conflict gets extended further, then we're actually talking about a couple of years of recovery," Seale said.



Zara owner Inditex has said that the company **suffered a data breach** at a third-party company containing information on transactions with customers. The breach exposed information related to commercial transactions, Bloomberg reported. The company also said that the security incident originated with a former technology provider and has impacted several companies operating internationally. Inditex noted that it immediately applied security protocols following the discovery and has started notifying the relevant authorities.

Amazon to spend \$11bn on satellite firm in growing **Starlink** rivalry. The deal, announced Tuesday, will allow Amazon to get thousands of satellites into low-earth orbit through the Amazon Leo project the company has been working on for several years. Elon Musk's company, which is private, says it already has more than 10,000 active satellites offering internet and mobile phone service to more than 10 million paying customers.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday announced a **new European age verification app** that will give users a sort of digital ID card to prove their ages online – without sharing their sensitive personal information with every site or app they want to access. The move comes as tech platforms face growing global pressure to better protect young people online. Some tech leaders have raised practical and privacy concerns around collecting users' sensitive information to verify their ages.

AI is not killing your job options. It's expanding them. Instead of wiping out jobs, AI is shifting the tasks of developers. They are doing less routine coding work and devoting more of their schedule to overseeing swarms of AI-powered code-writing agents – autonomous bots that can complete tasks. Engineers, in turn, are spending more time designing the structure of software and generating ideas. "The job will look different. That doesn't mean it's going away," said Amanda Richardson, the CEO of CoderPad. Instead of wiping out jobs, AI is shifting the tasks of developers. They are doing less routine coding work and devoting more of their schedule to overseeing swarms of AI-powered code-writing agents – autonomous bots that can complete tasks. Engineers, in turn, are spending more time designing the structure of software and generating ideas.

