

Current Affairs for 17th & 18th April, 2026

1. Kar Saathi is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled taxpayer assistance platform launched by which organization?

- [A] Reserve Bank of India
- [B] Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- [C] Income Tax Department
- [D] NITI Aayog

Correct Answer: C [Income Tax Department]

Notes:

Kar Saathi is an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled taxpayer assistance platform launched by the Income Tax Department. It is a digital chatbot providing a one-stop solution for direct tax services like return filing, compliance, and grievance redressal. It supports implementation of the Income Tax Act, 2025 by ensuring smooth transition and better taxpayer experience. It offers 24x7 assistance for queries on Income Tax Return (ITR), deductions, refunds, notices, and forms.

2. Min Aung Hlaing has been elected as president of which country?

- [A] Myanmar
- [B] Bangladesh
- [C] Sri Lanka
- [D] Indonesia

Correct Answer: A [Myanmar]

Notes:

Min Aung Hlaing was elected President of Myanmar, consolidating his political power five years after the

Myanmar coup 2021. His rise follows a controversial election dominated by the Union Solidarity and Development Party, widely criticised as a sham by Western nations. He overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, triggering protests that escalated into a nationwide civil war. He secured victory with 429 votes against rival Nyo Saw, backed by military-appointed lawmakers. His presidency is seen as an attempt to legitimise military rule under a civilian façade.

3. Which state has the highest number of women SHGs trained as drone pilots under the Namoo Drone Didi Yojana (NDDY) as of April 2026?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Kerala
- [D] Tamil Nadu

Correct Answer: A [Karnataka]

Notes:

Karnataka has recorded the highest number of women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) trained as drone pilots under the Namoo Drone Didi Yojana (NDDY). The scheme is a Central Sector initiative aimed at empowering women-led SHGs under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission by providing drone technology for agricultural services. It aims to enable SHGs to provide drone rental services to farmers, mainly for spraying liquid fertilizers and pesticides. Around 15,000 drones will be distributed to selected women SHGs during 2024–25 to 2025–26.

4. Juang tribe is primarily found in which state?

- [A] Maharashtra
- [B] Odisha
- [C] Jharkhand
- [D] Bihar

Correct Answer: B [Odisha]

Notes:

A 16-year-old girl from the Juang tribe in Odisha brought significant social change by transforming village attitudes toward child health and child marriage. The Juang tribe is one of the 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) among the 62 tribes found in Odisha and is mainly concentrated in Keonjhar and Dhenkanal districts. They speak the Juang language, which belongs to the Munda branch of the Austroasiatic language family, and follow a structured clan and kinship system. Traditionally dependent on hunting, gathering, and limited cultivation, they later adapted to basket-weaving and barter trade after forest restrictions during the colonial period.

5. INS Aridhaman, that was recently seen in news, is part of which class of submarines?

- [A] Kalvari class
- [B] Scorpene class
- [C] Chakra class
- [D] Arihant class

Correct Answer: D [Arihant class]

Notes:

India has inducted its third nuclear-powered ballistic

missile submarine, INS Aridhaman, into the Indian Navy, strengthening its strategic deterrence capability. INS Aridhaman is the third indigenously built Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) and the second submarine of the Arihant class (Submersible Ship Ballistic Nuclear). It has been developed under the Advanced Technology Vessel project (ATV) at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam. The submarine has a displacement of about 6,000 tonnes on the surface and 7,000 tonnes when submerged.

6. Rongali Bihu is mainly celebrated in which state?

[A] Mizoram

[B] Manipur

[C] Assam

[D] Tripura

Correct Answer: C [Assam]

Notes:

The festive spirit of Rongali Bihu has spread across different parts of Assam. It is one of the most important festivals of Assam, also known as Bohag Bihu, marking the Assamese New Year and the arrival of spring. The term "Rongali" is derived from the word "Rong," meaning joy, happiness, and celebration. The festival reflects the rich cultural traditions and social life of Assamese society. During celebrations, women wear traditional mekhela chador made of pat, muga silk, or cotton.

7.The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed annually on which day?

- [A] April 4
- [B] April 5
- [C] April 6
- [D] April 7

Correct Answer: C [April 6]

Notes:

The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace is observed annually on 6 April. It highlights the power of sport as a tool for social change, promoting community development, inclusion, and well-being. The day emphasizes the role of sports in fostering peace, mutual understanding, and cooperation across societies. It serves as a global platform to encourage the use of sport for education, empowerment, and sustainable development.

8.Who has been named the International Event Ambassador for World 10K Bengaluru 2026, World Athletics Gold Label Race?

- [A] Allyson Felix
- [B] Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce
- [C] Yelena Isinbayeva
- [D] Blanka Vlasic

Correct Answer: D [Blanka Vlasic]

Notes:

Blanka Vlašić has been appointed International Event Ambassador for the World 10K Bengaluru 2026, scheduled on April 26. The event is a World Athletics

Gold Label Race, attracting elite runners and mass participation. Blanka Vlašić is a double Olympic medallist (silver at Beijing 2008 Olympics and bronze at Rio 2016 Olympics) and a two-time World Champion in high jump. She holds a personal best of 2.08 m (2009), which is the Croatian national record and among the highest jumps in women's history.

9. The Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) has been launched by which organization?

[A] NITI Aayog

[B] Reserve Bank of India

[C] National Statistics Office

[D] Securities and Exchange Board of India

Correct Answer: C [National Statistics Office]

Notes:

The National Statistics Office under Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation launched the first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) in April 2026. The survey covers all States and Union Territories with reference period FY 2024–25 and aims to build a comprehensive database of the incorporated services sector. It uses the GSTN database as the sampling frame and will survey around 1.21 lakh enterprises. ASISSE focuses on corporate entities registered under the Companies Act (1956/2013) and the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. It covers key service sectors such as trade, transport, hospitality, IT, education, and health, which together form a major part of India's economy.

10. Recently, a rare Indian giant flying squirrel was spotted in which tiger reserve of Chhattisgarh?

- [A] Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve
- [B] Achanakmar Tiger Reserve
- [C] Indravati Tiger Reserve
- [D] Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve

Correct Answer: D [Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve]

Notes:

Recently, a rare Indian giant flying squirrel was spotted in Udanti-Sitanadi Tiger Reserve, indicating rich biodiversity and possible range extension. The reserve is located in Chhattisgarh and was formed by combining the Udanti and Sitanadi Wildlife Sanctuaries. Its river system is dominated by the Mahanadi River, along with tributaries like Udanti, Sitanadi, Indravati, and Pairi. It forms a critical forest corridor connecting to Indravati Tiger Reserve, aiding wildlife movement.

11. India's first dedicated programme on administrative capacity building for scientists was launched under which mission?

- [A] Digital India Mission
- [B] Startup India Mission
- [C] Skill India Mission
- [D] Mission Karmayogi

Correct Answer: D [Mission Karmayogi]

Notes:

Government launched the India's first dedicated programme on "Administrative Capacity Building for Scientists and Academicians" under Mission Karmayogi



in April 2026. The launch took place during the SADHANA (Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement) Saptah at Vigyan Bhawan. The programme aims to equip scientists and academic leaders with governance, administrative, and decision-making skills.

12. Government e Marketplace (GeM) is India's national public procurement portal launched by which ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Finance
- [B] Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- [C] Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
- [D] Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs

Correct Answer: B [Ministry of Commerce & Industry]

Notes:

Government e Marketplace (GeM) is India's national public procurement portal, launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. GeM has achieved a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹18.4 lakh crore, including crossing ₹5 lakh crore GMV in FY 2025–26. It facilitates procurement of goods and services for Central Government, State Government Ministries, Departments, Public Sector Units (PSUs), and affiliated organizations. GeM is fully digital, cashless, and system-driven, offering end-to-end solutions with AI-powered tools and a multilingual Learning Management System (LMS).

13. Which ministry has released draft rules to manage tar balls and protect India's coastline and marine environment from oil spills?

[A] Ministry of Fisheries

[B] Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change

[C] Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

[D] Ministry of Shipping

Correct Answer: B [Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change]

Notes:

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released draft rules to manage tar balls and protect India's coastline and marine environment from oil spills. Tar balls are small, dark, sticky blobs of weathered oil formed in marine environments due to oil spills or natural seeps. It is formed when crude oil undergoes physical, chemical, and biological weathering, forming semi-solid or solid lumps transported by currents and waves to shores. It contains toxic contaminants, including heavy metals, trace elements, and persistent organic pollutants.

14. Madras Hedgehog, that was recently seen in news, is primarily found in which region of India?

[A] Northern Plains and Himalayas

[B] Peninsular India

[C] Western Ghats only

[D] None of the Above

Correct Answer: B [Peninsular India]

Notes:

The complete mitochondrial genome of the Madras Hedgehog (*Paraechinus nudiventris*) has been analysed for the first time, revealing insights into its evolutionary history. Locally called Mulleli, it is also known as the bare-bellied hedgehog, discovered in 1851. They are found in dry scrublands, thorn forests, grasslands, and farmland edges in peninsular India—mainly Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and parts of Karnataka. It is listed as Least Concern in International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) list.

15. Who has become India's first openly queer Member of Parliament (MP)?

- [A] Menaka Guruswamy
- [B] Indu Goswami
- [C] Kiran Chaudhary
- [D] Medha Kulkarni

Correct Answer: A [Menaka Guruswamy]

Notes:

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy took oath as a Member of Rajya Sabha on 6 April 2026. She was nominated by Trinamool Congress and became India's first openly queer Member of Parliament (MP). She was a key lawyer in the Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India case leading to decriminalisation of homosexuality under Section 377 of IPC in 2018. Oath ceremony was conducted by Chairman C. P. Radhakrishnan in presence of Kiren Rijiju. She is a Rhodes Scholar from University of Oxford and alumna of Harvard Law School.

16. Which country is the host of One Health Summit 2026?

[A] France

[B] Australia

[C] India

[D] New Zealand

Correct Answer: A [France]

Notes:

The One Health Summit was held in Lyon on 7 April 2026, coinciding with World Health Day under the G7 French Presidency. It highlighted the One Health approach linking human, animal, plant, and ecosystem health. The Summit showcased the quadripartite partnership of Food and Agriculture Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, and World Organisation for Animal Health. It emphasized science-based cooperation, multilateralism, and strengthening global health surveillance systems.

17. Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli won which medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2026?

[A] Gold medal

[B] Silver medal

[C] Bronze medal

[D] None of the above

Correct Answer: A [Gold medal]

Notes:

Palak and Mukesh Nelavalli won gold medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup 2026, Spain. They set a new world record with a combined score of 487.7, also marking a junior world record. The previous record was held by Uzbekistan shooters. In the final, they defeated China (silver) and Hungary (bronze). International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) governs the event.

18.The Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbon Energy Minerals) Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026 complements which Act?

[A] Mines Act, 1952

[B] Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 2025

[C] Environment Protection Act, 1986

[D] National Mineral Policy, 2019

Correct Answer: B [Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation), 2025]

Notes:

The Ministry of Mines notified the Minerals (Other than Atomic and Hydrocarbon Energy Minerals) Concession (Second Amendment) Rules, 2026. It complements the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 (amended in 2025) to enhance mineral self-reliance. The objective is to optimize allocation and improve efficiency in extraction of critical and deep-seated minerals like gold, copper, and lithium. Areal cap fixed at 10% for Mining Lease and 30% for

Composite Licence. States must approve inclusion of critical minerals within 30 days.

19. What is India's rank in global fish production?

- [A] First
- [B] Second
- [C] Third
- [D] Fourth

Correct Answer: B [Second]

Notes:

India is the second-largest fish-producing country globally, contributing nearly 8% of world fish production. The fisheries sector contributes about 7.43% to Agricultural Gross Value Added (GVA) and supports livelihoods of nearly three crore people, especially in coastal and rural areas. Fish production increased from 95.79 lakh tonnes (2013–14) to 197.75 lakh tonnes (2024–25), showing approx 106% growth. Seafood exports reached ₹62,408 crore in 2024–25, with frozen shrimp as the leading export. Growth driven by policy reforms, infrastructure development, financial inclusion, and digital governance. Sector ensures nutritional security, employment generation, rural diversification, and enhances export competitiveness.

20. The Balason River, that was recently seen in news, is located in which state?

- [A] Sikkim
- [B] Assam
- [C] West Bengal
- [D] Arunachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: C [West Bengal]

Notes:

An application before the National Green Tribunal has raised concerns regarding environmental law violations and riverbank regulations due to construction along the Balason River in Darjeeling. It is located in West Bengal. The river originates from Lepchajagat on the Ghum-Simana ridge below Tiger Hill in Darjeeling at an altitude of about 2,361 m. The name is derived from the Lepcha language (“Balasun”), reflecting indigenous cultural heritage. It flows approximately 51.92 km from north to southeast and joins the Mahananda River at Naukaghat (Siliguri), making it a right-bank tributary.