

# Daily Current Affairs

## 25 April 2025

### India And Saudi Arabia

- **India and Saudi Arabia signed four MoUs** and agreed to expand the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council to include two new committees.
- This was agreed by the top leadership of both countries during Prime Minister Modi's visit to Saudi Arabia.



- These MoUs are –
- **Cooperation in the field of Space** by the space agencies of both countries,
- Cooperation in the field of Health.
- **Agreement between NADA and the Saudi anti-doping agency** for cooperation in the field of Anti-Doping.
- **Cooperation in the Inward Surface Parcel** between the postal authorities of the countries.
- This was Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third visit to Saudi Arabia as the Prime Minister of India. He first visited Saudi Arabia in 2016 and again in 2019.

## UNESCO Names 16 New Global Geoparks

- UNESCO designated **16 new Global Geoparks**, expanding its network to a total of **229 geoparks across 50 countries**. This brings the total area covered by the UNESCO Global **Geoparks Network to almost 855,000 km<sup>2</sup>**, equivalent to the size of Namibia.



- **These new geoparks, spread across Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America**, are recognized for their outstanding geological heritage, which includes features such as volcanic ranges, rock formations, mountain ranges, fossil sites, ancient desert landscapes, and more.
- **In addition to preserving geological wonders**, these sites promote environmental education, the conservation of local ecosystems, and the cultural knowledge of indigenous communities.
- China: Kanbula UNESCO Global Geopark
- China: Yunyang UNESCO Global Geopark
- Indonesia: Kebumen UNESCO Global Geopark
- Indonesia: Meratus UNESCO Global Geopark
- Republic Of Korea: Danyang UNESCO Global Geopark
- Republic Of Korea: Gyeongbuk Donghaean UNESCO Global Geopark
- Norway: The Fjord Coast UNESCO Global Geopark
- Italy: MurGEopark UNESCO Global Geopark
- Spain: Costa Quebrada UNESCO Global Geopark
- United Kingdom: Arran UNESCO Global Geopark
- Saudi Arabia: North Riyadh UNESCO Global Geopark

- Saudi Arabia: Salma UNESCO Global Geopark
- Viet Nam: Lang Son UNESCO Global Geopark
- Ecuador: Napo Sumaco UNESCO Global Geopark
- Ecuador: Tungurahua Volcano UNESCO Global Geopark

## Central Advisory Board Of Archaeology

- **38th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology** was hosted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in New Delhi. The meeting was hosted by the **Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India**, Yadubir Singh.



- The **37th meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology** was held on 14 June 2022 in New Delhi. The Central Advisory Board of Archaeology was constituted by the government of India in 1945. The Board is constituted by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, after every three years.

## National Panchayat Awards–2025

- For the first time, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj introduces the **Special Category National Panchayat Awards–2025**, presented during the National Panchayati Raj Day celebration at Lohna Uttar Gram Panchayat, Madhubani, Bihar. These awards recognize outstanding contributions by Gram Panchayats in advancing national priorities such as Climate Action and Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance) through enhanced Own Source Revenue (OSR).
- **Three Special Award Categories**
- CASPA – Climate Action Special Panchayat Award
- ANPSA – Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award

- PKNSSP – Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (for excellence in capacity building institutions)

### **Climate Action Special Panchayat Award (CASPA)**

- Rank 1: Dawwa S Gram Panchayat, Gondia District, Maharashtra
- Rank 2: Biradahalli Gram Panchayat, Hassan District, Karnataka
- Rank 3: Motipur Gram Panchayat, Samastipur District, Bihar

### **Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award (ANPSA)**

- Rank 1: Mall Gram Panchayat, Rangareddi District, Telangana
- Rank 2: Hatbadra Gram Panchayat, Mayurbhanj District, Odisha
- Rank 3: Gollapudi Gram Panchayat, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh

### **Panchayat Kshamta Nirman Sarvottam Sansthan Puraskar (PKNSSP)**

- Rank 1: Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Kerala
- Rank 2: State Institute for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Odisha
- Rank 3: State Institute of Panchayat and Rural Development, Assam
- Each award includes a financial incentive of Rs.1 crore (Rank 1), Rs.75 lakh (Rank 2), and Rs.50 lakh (Rank 3) respectively. The awardees will be presented with specially designed trophies and certificates. Notably, 3 of the 6 awardee Gram Panchayats – from Bihar (Motipur Gram Panchayat), Maharashtra (Dawwa S Gram Panchayat), and Odisha (Hatbadra Gram Panchayat) – are headed by women Sarpanches.

## National Campaign

- **National Zero Measles-Rubella Elimination campaign 2025-26** was launched in New Delhi today on the first day of the World Immunisation Week. This marks a significant step towards India's goal of eliminating **Measles and Rubella by 2026**.
- Launching the campaign virtually, Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda said, the campaign marks an opportunity to **achieve 100 per cent immunisation coverage by administering** two doses of the Measles and Rubella vaccine to children.



- He highlighted **that 332 districts in the country have reported zero measles cases** and 487 districts have reported zero rubella cases during January to March this year.
- **Measles and Rubella are highly infectious** viral diseases that can lead to serious illnesses, lifelong complications, and even death. Due to their high infection rate, India has set a goal to eliminate these diseases by 2026.



- Under the **Universal Immunisation Programme**, two doses of the Measles-Rubella vaccine are provided free of cost to all eligible children, at 9 to 12 months and 16 to 24 months of age. Last year, India has recorded a remarkable decline of 73 per cent in Measles cases and a 17 per cent reduction in Rubella cases in comparison with 2023.

## Pakistan Suspends Simla Agreement

- Pakistan has suspended the **1972 Simla Agreement**, closed the Wagah border, halted all trade, and banned Indian airlines from using its airspace. This decision follows India's move to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty and downgrade diplomatic ties in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead. As relations between the two nuclear-armed neighbors continue to spiral, all existing bilateral mechanisms are now effectively frozen.
- **Suspension of Simla Agreement (1972)** : Pakistan has put the agreement in abeyance, citing India's alleged involvement in terrorism and violations of international law in Kashmir. The Simla Agreement had upheld the sanctity of the Line of Control (LoC).
- **Closure of Wagah Border Crossing** : The border is closed with immediate effect.
- All cross-border movement through Wagah is suspended. Deadline of April 30 set for those with valid travel endorsements to return.
- **Suspension of All Trade with India** : Bilateral trade has been completely paused. Trade via land routes, sea, and air are impacted.
- **Airspace Closure** : Indian airlines are now banned from using Pakistani airspace. This affects major commercial flight routes over Pakistan.

- **All Bilateral Agreements Suspended** : Apart from Simla Agreement, all other agreements are under review and suspension. Cited reasons include alleged cross-border terrorism and transnational killings.
- **Warning on Indus Waters Treaty** : Pakistan warns that any diversion of water meant for them will be seen as an “Act of War”. Comes after India announced its own suspension of the treaty.

## Asia Rankings 2025

- **Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2025** were unveiled on April 23, showcasing the top universities in Asia. **With 853 universities from 35 countries** and territories included in this year’s rankings, the list highlights the leading institutions excelling in research, teaching, and innovation across the continent.
- The **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) continues** to shine, securing the top spot for Indian universities, ranked 38th overall in Asia. However, many Indian institutions saw a drop in their rankings compared to last year, signaling the evolving competition in higher education.

### Detailed Breakdown of Indian Universities in the Rankings

- 38th – Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
- 111th – Anna University
- 131st – Indian Institute of Technology Indore
- 140th – Mahatma Gandhi University
- 146th – Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
- 149th – Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
- 161st – Jamia Millia Islamia
- 184th – Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
- 184th – KIIT University
- 188th – Aligarh Muslim University
- 188th – UPES
- 191st – Indian Institute of Technology Patna
- 191st – National Institute of Technology Rourkela
- 200th – International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad

- Key Highlights of THE Asia Rankings 2025
- **IISc is the highest-ranked Indian university at 38th position**, despite a drop from 32nd place in 2024.
- Anna University and IIT Indore follow at 111th and 131st positions, respectively, marking a slight decline from their previous rankings.



- **Mahatma Gandhi University ranks at 140th**, slightly down from 134th last year.
- Other prominent Indian universities such as Shoolini University, Saveetha Institute, and Jamia Millia Islamia also feature in the rankings.
- In the broader regional context, **China continues to dominate the rankings, with Tsinghua University and Peking University leading** the charge at first and second places. Universities from Singapore, Japan, and Hong Kong also make up significant portions of the top 10 spots.

## 2nd Asian Yogasana Championships

- **2nd Asian Yogasana Championships** is set to begin at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. The **3-day event by Yogasana Bharat** will last till the 27th of this month.
- **Over 170 athletes from 21 Asian countries** will participate, along with several technical officials and team managers and coaches. The event is part of the government's effort to **promote Yogasana as a competitive global sport**. World Yogasana's General Secretary Dr. Jaydeep Arya said, It is Prime Minister Narendra Modi who established Yoga at an international forum, and now it has got the status of a sport.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. Which Gram Panchayat Secured Rank 1 Under The Atma Nirbhar Panchayat Special Award**

- A. Hatbadra Gram Panchayat, Odisha
- B. Gollapudi Gram Panchayat, Andhra Pradesh
- C. Mall Gram Panchayat, Telangana
- D. Motipur Gram Panchayat, Bihar

**ANSWER: C**

**2. When Is National Panchayati Raj Day Observed In India**

- A. April 22
- B. April 23
- C. April 24
- D. April 25

**ANSWER: C**

**3. Who Hosted 38th CABA Meeting On Behalf Of Archaeological Survey Of India**

- A. Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
- B. Yadubir Singh
- C. G. Kishan Reddy
- D. Sanjay Malhotra

**ANSWER: B**

**4. Which Female Cricketer Was Recognized As The Leading Women's Cricketer In The World In The 2025 Wisden Edition**

- A. Meg Lanning
- B. Smriti Mandhana
- C. Heather Knight
- D. Harmanpreet Kaur

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Which Organization Has Released Its "World Economic Outlook: A Critical Juncture Among Policy Shift" Report In April 2025**

- A. International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- B. World Bank
- C. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- D. Asian Development Bank

**ANSWER: A**

**6. Arun-3 Hydroelectric Project, Is Located In Which Country**

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Myanmar

**ANSWER: B**

**7. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) Operates Under Which Ministry**

- A. Ministry of Jal Shakti
- B. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- C. Ministry of Science and Technology
- D. Ministry of Earth Sciences

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Which Space Organization Has Developed First Ever Space-based Quantum Sensor For Gravity Measurements**

- A. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
- B. China National Space Administration (CNSA)
- C. Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)
- D. National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

**ANSWER: D**

**9. Which Ministry Launched The 'AI Careers For Women' Initiative**

- A. Ministry of Women and Child Development
- B. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C. Ministry of Education
- D. Ministry of Science and Technology

**ANSWER: B**

**10. Where Is India's Largest International Cruise Terminal Located**

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kolkata
- C. Delhi
- D. Kochi

**ANSWER: A**

**11. How Many Mous Were Signed Between India And Saudi Arabia**

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which Event Did Olympian Vithya Ramraj Win Gold In At The National Federation Senior Athletics Competition In Kochi**

- A. Women's 400-meter hurdles
- B. Women's 800-meter race
- C. Women's 100-meter sprint
- D. Women's 200-meter hurdles

**ANSWER: A**

**13. What Was The Name Of The Operation In Which The Indian Army Foiled An Infiltration Attempt In Baramulla District**

- A. Operation Sarjeevan
- B. Operation Tikka
- C. Operation Uri
- D. Operation Nala

**ANSWER: B**

**14. In Which City Was The 'Garia And Borsho Boron Utsav' 2025 Inaugurated**

- A. Agartala
- B. Shillong
- C. Imphal
- D. Aizawl

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Which Company Partnered With Ministry Of Skill Development And Entrepreneurship To Launch 'AI Careers For Women' Initiative**

- A. Google
- B. Infosys
- C. TCS
- D. Microsoft

**ANSWER: D**

**16. Which Application Received The Prime Minister's Award For Excellence In Public Administration 2024 For Innovation**

- A. PoshanTracker
- B. DigiAnganwadi
- C. SwasthyaSetu
- D. NutrilIndia

**ANSWER: A**

**17. The Rulers Of Which Dynasty Were First To Make Land Grants To Brahmins**

- A. Maurya
- B. Sunga
- C. Satvahanas
- D. Kanvas

**ANSWER: C**

**18. The Governors Called Strategos Were Introduced By \_\_\_\_**

- A. Sakas
- B. Indo-Greeks
- C. Kushanas
- D. Bactrians

**ANSWER: B**

**19. Which One Is The Longest Epic Of The World**

- A. Ramayana
- B. Ramcharitmanas
- C. Mahabharata
- D. Hanuman Chalisa

**ANSWER: C**

**20. In Which Five Year Plan Rourkela & Durgapur Steel Plants Were Conceived**

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth

**ANSWER: B**