

Daily Current Affairs

18 April 2026

World Heritage Day 2026

- Every on the 18th of April the world observes the World Heritage Day which is also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites. This day is observed to celebrate and protect the humanity's shared cultural and natural legacy.
- The theme for the World Heritage Day 2026 is '**Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters.**'
- The idea to celebrate the heritage globally was first proposed in the year 1982 by the **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)**.
- To recognize the importance of this UNESCO had officially declared April 18 as World Heritage Day in **1983**.
- The concept of the world heritage is governed by the 1972 World Heritage Convention under which many countries have identify and protect the sites of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
- India holds the prominent place in the global heritage rankings. As of 2026 India has **44 UNESCO** World Heritage Sites which is placing it among the top countries worldwide.



LIC Launches 'MyLIC' and 'Super Sales Saathi' Apps

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched the two new mobile applications. These two applications are MyLIC for customers and Super Sales Saathi for the intermediaries. It reflects the India's growing focus on technology-driven inclusive insurance services.
- LIC holds 260 million policies and LIC aims to simplify the policy management and enhance service efficiency along with empowering both customers and agents through seamless and paperless digital solutions.
- This initiative is part of the LIC's broader strategy too,
- Improve customer experience through digital tools
- Reduce dependency on manual paperwork
- Strengthen the insurance accessibility across India



Harvard South Asian Person of the Year Award 2026

- **Sayani Gupta** has been named the Harvard South Asian 'Person of the Year' 2026. The recognition was awarded by the **Harvard South Asian Association**. This association celebrates her impactful contribution to the storytelling and representation.
- The Harvard South Asian '**Person of the Year**' award honors the individuals who have made the meaningful impact on the South Asian culture, identity and representation.
- This promotes the,
- South Asian culture and heritage
- Also leadership and creativity
- Global dialogue on identity and representation



Boulders Classic 2026

- Indian golf star Shubhankar Sharma has made the incredible comeback to domestic golf, and he won the inaugural edition of Boulders Classic 2026 in Hyderabad.
- The tournament was held at the prestigious Boulder Hills Golf & Country Club and Shubhankar Sharma dominated from the start to the end of the play.
- As he is playing first domestic event since the December 2021 and the two-time DP World Tour winner showcased the exceptional precision, composure and the consistency to claim the title with the commanding style.

- The Boulders Classic 2026 is the newly introduced tournament in the Indian golf calendar and it offers the prize money of the of ₹1 crore.
- Key features of the tournament are,
- He hosted the world-class golf course in Hyderabad.
- It was also part of the PGTI circuit.
- And also attracted the top Indian golfing talent.



Setback for Women's Representation

- The Constitutional 131st Amendment Bill, 2026 was put to the vote after the intense two-day debate in the Lok Sabha.
- The results has surprised the many observers.
- Votes in favour: 298
- Votes against: 230
- Votes required: 360 at the full strength for the 2/3rd Majority
- As per the Constitution of India any amendment which needs to change the constitutional part it requires the approval under a strict framework.
- This includes,
- At least the two-thirds of members present and voting
- And also not less than 50% of the total strength of the House

Division 1		FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2026 7:29:33 PM
AYES	278	
NOES	211	
ABSTAIN	0	
Voted	489	

पीठासीन : माननीय अध्यक्ष, श्री ओम बिरला

India Recognises 55,200+ Startups in FY26

- The government has announced that over 55,200 startups were recognized during the 2025-26 financial year. Since the inception of the Startup India Initiative this has been that year which have witness the highest numbers of startups to be recognized.
- This growth highlights the strong entrepreneurial activity throughout the country. The recognition of the over 55,200+ startups in just one year marks the major achievement under the Startup India program.
- Since the launch on January 16, 2016, Startup India has aimed to create the supportive environment for innovation, simplify regulations and attract investments.
- **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)**
- The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) has emerged as the major funding backbone.
- By the end of 2025-26 over the ₹7,000 crore has been disbursed to more than 135 Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) and this AIFs have invested over ₹26,900 crore in 1,420+ startups.
- **Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS)**
- As the Early-stage startups often struggle with the initial funding and this is where the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) plays the foundational role.
- For them over 219 incubators have been selected across India and the total corpus of ₹945 crore fully committed.
- **Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS)**
- To improve access to loans the Credit Guarantee Scheme for Startups (CGSS) has been expanded in 2025-26.

- This guaranteed cover increased from the ₹10 crore to ₹20 crore per borrower and also reduced the annual guaranteed fees for lenders.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Heritage Day is observed on which date?

- A. April 15
- B. April 18
- C. May 1
- D. March 21

Answer: B. April 18

Explanation: World Heritage Day, also known as the International Day for Monuments and Sites, is celebrated every year on April 18.

2. Who proposed the idea of World Heritage Day in 1982?

- A. UNESCO
- B. United Nations
- C. International Council on Monuments and Sites
- D. World Bank

Answer: C. ICOMOS

Explanation: The idea was first proposed by ICOMOS in 1982 and later approved by UNESCO.

3. Which organization officially declared April 18 as World Heritage Day in 1983?

- A. WHO
- B. UNESCO
- C. IMF
- D. UNDP

Answer: B. UNESCO

Explanation: UNESCO officially recognized April 18 as World Heritage Day in 1983.

4. What is the theme of World Heritage Day 2026?

- A. Sustainable Tourism
- B. Cultural Unity
- C. Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters
- D. Protecting Nature

Answer: C

Explanation: The 2026 theme focuses on protecting heritage during emergencies like conflicts and disasters.

5. How many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India have as of 2026?

- A. 38
- B. 40
- C. 42
- D. 44

Answer: D. 44

Explanation: India has 44 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, placing it among top countries globally.

6. Which organization launched the MyLIC and Super Sales Saathi apps?

- A. SBI
- B. RBI
- C. Life Insurance Corporation of India
- D. IRDAI

Answer: C. LIC

Explanation: LIC launched these apps to improve digital insurance services.

7. Who was named Harvard South Asian Person of the Year 2026?

- A. Deepika Padukone
- B. Priyanka Chopra
- C. Alia Bhatt
- D. Sayani Gupta

Answer: D. Sayani Gupta

Explanation: She was honored for her contribution to storytelling and representation.

8. Who won the Boulders Classic 2026 golf tournament?

- A. Anirban Lahiri
- B. Tiger Woods
- C. Shubhankar Sharma
- D. Rory McIlroy

Answer: C. Shubhankar Sharma

Explanation: He won the inaugural edition held in Hyderabad.

9. Why did the Constitutional (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 fail to pass?

- A. Lack of discussion
- B. President rejected it
- C. It did not get simple majority
- D. It did not achieve the required two-thirds majority

Answer: D

Explanation: The bill required 360 votes but received only 298, failing to meet the two-thirds majority requirement.

10. Under which initiative were over 55,200 startups recognized in FY26?

- A. Make in India
- B. Digital India
- C. Skill India
- D. Startup India Initiative

Answer: D. Startup India Initiative

Explanation: This initiative supports innovation and entrepreneurship across India.

