

Daily Current Affairs

27 April 2026

World Design Day 2026

- The World Design Day is celebrated every year on April 27. This day shines as the spotlight on the roles of design in shaping our everyday lives. From the smartphones we use to the cities we live in and the design influences everything around us.
- The day it is also known as International Design Day this occasion encourages creativity, innovation and the use of design to solve real-world problems and improve quality of life globally.
- The World Design Day is also called International Design Day and commemorates the founding of the International Council of Design in 1963.



World Malaria Day 2026

- World Malaria Day 2026 is to be observed on April 25 every year to spread awareness and push global action against malaria. This day highlights the progress made over the years and reminds the world of ongoing challenges.

- It was established by the World Health Organization in the year 2007 and it is first observed in 2008.
- The day have replaced the earlier which was known as Africa Malaria Day.
- It also focuses on reducing malaria deaths, transmission and economic burden
- The theme for 2026 is the '**Driven to End Malaria: Now We Can. Now We Must.**'
- The WHO's malaria strategy or 2016-2030 aims to reduce malaria cases and deaths by 90% by 2030
- India has made the remarkable progress, but it still faces challenges.
- Key Achievements
- The 80% reduction in malaria cases from 2015 to 2023.
- Also exited the High Burden to High Impact group in 2024.
- Over 160 districts have reported zero cases (2022-2024).



National Panchayati Raj Day 2026

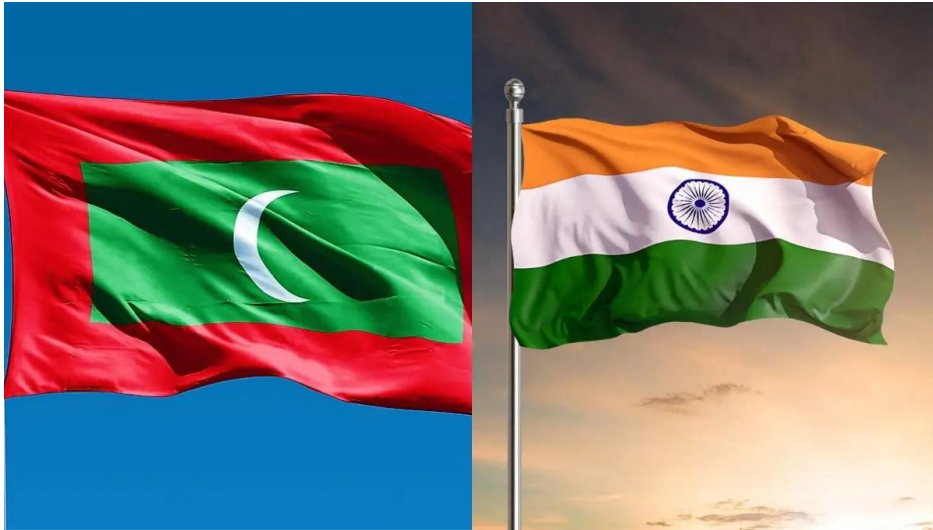
- The National Panchayati Raj Day 2026 is observed on the April 24 every year across the India. This day marks the significant moment to strengthen the grassroots democracy.
- The day commemorates the implementation of the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 and which came into force in 1993 and it have institutionalized the local self-governance in rural India.

- The theme for this year is the ‘**Sashakt Panchayat, Sarvangeen Vikas**’.
- The system was given the constitutional status via the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act of 1992 and which have established a three-tier structure.
- Gram Panchayat (village level)
- Panchayat Samiti (block/intermediate level)
- Zilla Parishad (district level)



India Approves ₹30 Billion Currency Swap for Maldives

- India has approved the ₹30 billion currency swap facility for the Maldives under the SAARC framework. This swap has strengthened the economic cooperation between the two nations. This move comes at that critical time when the global uncertainties and the regional pressures are affecting small economies.
- India via the Reserve Bank of India has allowed the Maldives to withdraw the ₹30 billion under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework (2024-2027).
- This facility will falls under the INR Swap Window and it is designed to provide the quick liquidity support to member nations.
- The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) has introduced the currency swap framework in 2012 to help the member to countries manage short-term foreign exchange shortages.
- Interestingly the approval of this ₹30 billion swap coincided with Maldives have repaid the \$400 million swap facility previously availed under this bilateral agreement.



ISRO's Nationwide Land Mapping Project

- On the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day the ISRO has announced that the major milestone to supporting rural governance. This agency has completed the high-resolution land use and land cover mapping for the entire country.
- This initiative aims to empower the local bodies with accurate data for the better planning and decision-making. ISRO is playing the important role to promoting data-driven development at the grassroots level.
- Key highlights include the high-resolution mapping at 1:10,000 scale.
- It has coverage of the entire country and also the data made available to government organizations.
- Also, the focus is on land use and land cover analysis.
- Geospatial technology uses satellite data and mapping tools to provide detailed information about land and resources.
- ISRO's initiative demonstrates how such technology can transform governance.
- It enables better resource allocation, the improved monitoring of development projects and also scientific planning based on real-time data.
- It will also boost the disaster management and environmental monitoring.
- The Land use and land cover (LULC) mapping refers to the classification of land which is based on how it will be used and what exists on it.
- Land Use: Human activities (in agriculture, urban areas, industries)
- Land Cover: Physical features (in forests, water bodies, barren land)



New Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog

- The government has reconstituted the NITI Aayog, appointing Ashok Kumar Lahiri as its vice chairman and four new full-time members.
- Lahiri, currently a BJP MLA in West Bengal, is a **former chief economic advisor** to the government of India and a member of the **15th Finance Commission**. He is not contesting the ongoing assembly elections in the state.
- NITI Aayog was established on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission.
- The Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog is appointed by the Prime Minister of India.
- Ashok Lahiri also served as a member of the 15th Finance Commission of India.
- IISER Bhopal is one of India's premier autonomous institutes for science education and research.



India's Forex Reserves Rise to \$703.3 Billion

- India's foreign exchange reserves increased by **\$2.36 billion** to reach **\$703.31 billion** for the week ended April 17, 2026, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The rise reflects stronger foreign currency assets and continued external sector stability.
- The latest increase follows a previous rise of **\$3.825 billion** in the week ending April 10, when reserves reached **\$700.946 billion**. This shows a consistent recovery in India's reserve position over recent weeks after temporary declines caused by global uncertainties.
- Foreign Currency Assets (FCA), the largest component of forex reserves, increased by \$1.48 billion to **\$557.46 billion**. FCA includes the value of foreign currencies held by the RBI and is influenced by changes in exchange rates of major global currencies such as the US dollar, euro and yen.
- India's forex reserves had touched an all-time high of \$728.494 billion in February 2026. However, reserves declined in the following weeks due to geopolitical tensions in West Asia, which created pressure on the rupee and forced the RBI to intervene in the currency market through dollar sales.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. World Design Day is observed annually on which date?

- A. April 22
- B. April 25
- C. April 27
- D. May 1

Answer: C. April 27

2. World Design Day commemorates the establishment of which organization?

- A. UNESCO
- B. International Council of Design
- C. World Bank
- D. IMF

Answer: B. International Council of Design

3. World Malaria Day is observed every year on:

- A. April 21
- B. April 24
- C. April 25
- D. April 27

Answer: C. April 25

4. World Malaria Day was established by which organization?

- A. UNICEF
- B. World Health Organization
- C. FAO
- D. World Bank

Answer: B. World Health Organization

5. National Panchayati Raj Day marks the implementation of which Act?

- A. 42nd Constitutional Amendment Act
- B. 44th Constitutional Amendment Act
- C. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act
- D. 86th Constitutional Amendment Act

Answer: C. 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act

6. The Panchayati Raj system in India follows how many tiers?

- A. Two-tier
- B. Three-tier
- C. Four-tier
- D. Five-tier

Answer: B. Three-tier

7. India's ₹30 billion currency swap facility for Maldives is provided under which framework?

- A. BRICS Financial Mechanism
- B. ASEAN Swap Framework
- C. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Currency Swap Framework
- D. G20 Financial Stability Framework

Answer: C. SAARC Currency Swap Framework

8. The currency swap facility to Maldives is provided by which institution?

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Reserve Bank of India
- C. Ministry of Finance
- D. SEBI

Answer: B. Reserve Bank of India

9. ISRO's land mapping project primarily focuses on:

- A. Ocean currents
- B. Space debris tracking

- C. Land use and land cover mapping
- D. Weather forecasting only

Answer: C. Land use and land cover mapping

10. Who has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of NITI Aayog?

- A. Raghuram Rajan
- B. Arvind Subramanian
- C. Ashok Kumar Lahiri
- D. Urjit Patel

Answer: C. Ashok Kumar Lahiri