

Daily Current Affairs

29 April 2026

International Dance Day 2026

- The International Dance Day 2026 celebrated on the **29 April 2026** around the world. This day highlights the dance as the powerful form of expression, culture and communication.
- It is also known as the **World Dance Day**, and this occasion encourages people of all ages to connect through the movement and rhythm. It is organized by the International Theatre Institute with support from UNESCO and making it a globally recognized cultural event.
- International Dance Day was established in the year 1982 by the International Theatre Institute. The date was chosen to honor the birth anniversary of Jean-Georges Noverre who has revolutionized ballet and he is regarded as the father of modern dance theatre.



RBI Launches Mission SAKSHAM

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched the Mission SAKSHAM on the April 28, 2026, and it aims to strengthening the **Urban Co-operative Banking (UCB) sector**.
- This initiative focuses on improving the skills, governance and its operational efficiency through large-scale training programs.
- This mission will cover around the 1.4 lakh participants, and the mission is set to target the various key stakeholders such as the board members, senior management and technical staff.
- Mission SAKSHAM which stands for the 'Sahkari Bank Kshamta Nirman' and it is designed as the mission-mode capacity-building initiative.
- It also aims to upgrade the skills and capabilities of those personnel who are working in Urban Co-operative Banks across India.
- This initiative are also aims to strengthen the compliance culture and also to ensure that banks adhere to regulatory norms more effectively.
- Another important aspect is the enhancing risk management and the audit practices which will help to prevent financial irregularities and improve transparency.
- The **Urban Co-operative Banks** play the important role in the India's financial ecosystem and specially to providing banking services to small businesses, local communities and the middle-income groups.
- However, the sector has faced challenges such as the,
 - Weak governance structures.
 - The limited professional expertise.
 - Some of the compliance gaps.
 - The technological limitations.



Symbiosis University Launches Asia's First UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development

- Symbiosis Skills and Professional University has launched Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development. This initiative aims to empower the women by enhancing their participation in the high-growth sectors like AI, robotics and the advanced manufacturing.
- This landmark move will place India at the forefront of the global efforts to bridge the gender gap in the skill development and future jobs and specially for the women.
- This initiative was inaugurated by the Ministry of Skills Mr. Jayant Chaudhary during the international conference under the theme of '**Women Leading the Future of Work.**'
- **Key highlights of the launch,**
 - It is the first UNESCO Chair of its kind in Asia.
 - It will focus on the gender inclusion in emerging industries.
 - Also had the collaboration with UNESCO.
 - Key sectors targeted under this are,
 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
 - Robotics and Automation

- Semiconductor Technology
- Defense Technology
- Advanced Manufacturing
- The UNESCO Chair is a program established by the UNESCO too,
- Promote research and knowledge sharing.
- It will also encourage international collaboration.
- It will address the global challenges like education, sustainability and equality



India Submits Updated Climate Targets

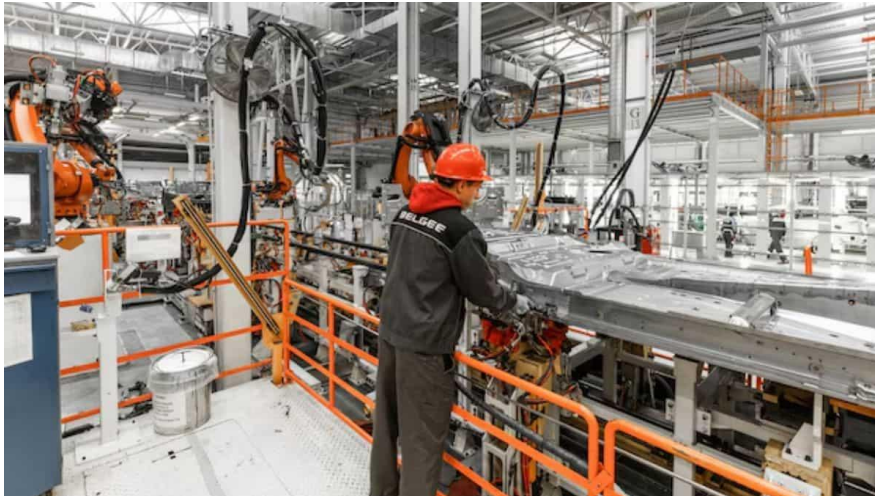
- India has submitted its updated targets for the 2031-2035 to the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. This new plan focuses on reducing emissions, expanding clean energy and increasing the forest cover.
- These targets were announced after the Cabinet approval in the month of March 2026 and these targets will reflect the India's growing role to tackling climate change while.
- The targets are aimed to significantly reduce emissions and boost clean energy. India has come a long way with the environmental efforts and it will try to come closer to 2070 net Zero target.
- Updated NDC of India reflects the higher level of climate ambition while balancing development needs. These targets are part of the global commitments under the Paris Agreement to combat climate change.
- The new goals are focus on three major pillars,

- Emission reduction,
- Clean energy transition
- Carbon sequestration.
- Key Targets Announced
- 47% reduction in emissions intensity of GDP
- 60% installed power capacity from non fossil sources
- 3.5-4 billion tonnes carbon sink via forests and tree cover
- India has consistently delivered the its climate commitments ahead of schedule.
- The original 2015 NDC targets included to reducing emissions intensity by 33-35% and achieving 40% non fossil energy capacity by 2030.
- Notably, India has achieved the,
- 36% emission intensity reduction (by 2020)
- 52.57% non fossil power capacity (Feb 2026)
- Key government schemes which are supporting this transition include,
- Green Hydrogen Mission
- PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana
- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes
- PM-KUSUM scheme for solar energy in agriculture
- India is also actively associated and collaborated with different countries for the initiatives like,
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
- The **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** are the climate action plans which are submitted by the individual countries under the Paris Agreement of UNFCCC.



India's IIP Growth Slips to 4.1% in March 2026

- The industrial output growth of the country eased to the 4.1% in March 2026 and it marks the five-month low. This growth signals the slowdown in the economic momentum towards the end of this financial year.
- According to data released by the **National Statistics Office** the moderation in the growth was largely due to the weaker performance in the power and the manufacturing sectors, also the mining sector have showed the resilience.
- The **Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** tracks the performance of various important industrial sectors like the manufacturing, mining and the electricity.
- It also serves as the crucial indicator of the **economic health, demand trends and the industrial capacity utilization.**
- The slowdown in the IIP growth will often indicates the,
 - The weak demand or consumption.
 - The supply side disruptions.
 - The sector-specific challenges.
- The Manufacturing which holds the largest weight in the IIP had grew by the 4.3% in March 2026 and it is only slightly higher than 4% in March 2025.
- This suggests that it lack the strong acceleration in factory activity.



UAE Announces Exit From OPEC and OPEC+

- The United Arab Emirates has announced that it will exit the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** from next month. With this exit UAE ending the almost six decades of membership.
- The decision comes as the UAE seeks greater flexibility to increase oil production after important investments in capacity expansion. Some of the experts believe that this move could reshape the global oil markets and will weaken OPEC's influence.
- The UAE's decision is largely driven by its ambition to boost oil production without the quota restrictions which are imposed by OPEC and OPEC+.
- **Key Reasons Behind the Exit**
 - The desire for greater production flexibility.
 - Also, the frustration over OPEC production limits as per the quotas.
 - Also, the heavy investments in the expanding oil capacity.
 - The rising need to meet the growing global energy demand.
- The **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries** was established in the year 1960 by the various countries like **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela**.
- **Role of OPEC**
 - It coordinates with oil production among member nations.
 - Also maintains stable oil prices.
 - And it also protects the interests of the oil-exporting countries.
- The UAE joined OPEC in 1967, and its exit will reduce OPEC's strength both economically and strategically.

- The exit if the UAE from the OPEC expected to put the pressure on Saudi Arabia which is considered as the de facto leader of OPEC.
- **Challenges for OPEC**
- Could face the loss of about 15% production capacity influence.
- Also, the difficulty in enforcing the production discipline.
- Ans will increase the burden on Saudi Arabia to stabilize markets.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. International Dance Day is celebrated every year on:

- A. 27 April
- B. 28 April
- C. 29 April
- D. 30 April

Answer: C. 29 April

2. International Dance Day was established in 1982 by:

- A. UNESCO
- B. International Theatre Institute
- C. UNICEF
- D. World Bank

Answer: B. International Theatre Institute

3. International Dance Day is observed in honour of:

- A. Marius Petipa
- B. Rudolf Nureyev
- C. Jean-Georges Noverre
- D. Isadora Duncan

Answer: C. Jean-Georges Noverre

4. Mission SAKSHAM was launched by:

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

Answer: B. Reserve Bank of India

5. Mission SAKSHAM primarily aims to strengthen:

- A. Commercial Banks
- B. Rural Banks
- C. Payment Banks
- D. Urban Co-operative Banks

Answer: D. Urban Co-operative Banks

6. Asia's first UNESCO Chair on Gender Inclusion and Skill Development was launched by:

- A. Delhi University
- B. JNU

- C. Symbiosis Skills and Professional University
- D. IIT Bombay

Answer: C. Symbiosis Skills and Professional University

7. India submitted its updated climate targets to:

- A. IMF
- B. World Bank
- C. UNFCCC
- D. UNEP

Answer: C. UNFCCC

8. India aims to achieve what percentage of installed power capacity from non-fossil sources?

- A. 40%
- B. 50%
- C. 60%
- D. 75%

Answer: C. 60%

9. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures:

- A. Agricultural output
- B. Service sector growth
- C. Industrial sector performance
- D. Export performance

Answer: C. Industrial sector performance

10. Which country recently announced its exit from OPEC?

- A. Qatar
- B. Kuwait
- C. Iran
- D. United Arab Emirates

Answer: D. United Arab Emirates

