

The week from 20th April 2026 to 26th April 2026

Philippines joined the “Pax Silica”- a supply-chain security framework as its 13th member, aligning with “friend-shoring” to reduce reliance on China. A 4,000-acre Luzon hub will boost semiconductors and minerals like nickel and cobalt, strengthening ties with United States amid regional tensions.

India slipped from 4th to 6th position in global GDP rankings, with an output of \$4.15 trillion, now behind the United Kingdom. The shift reflects rupee depreciation, though International Monetary Fund maintains India remains the fastest-growing major economy with strong future prospects.

Lok Sabha rejected the Constitution (106th Amendment) Bill, 2023 after it failed to secure a two-thirds majority, with 278 votes in favour and 211 against. The Bill proposed 33% reservation for women and increasing Lok Sabha strength to 816 after delimitation based on the 2011 Census.

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary has been designated as India’s 99th Ramsar Site. Located in Aligarh (UP) on the Central Asian Flyway, it supports migratory species like the Bar-headed Goose. With this, Uttar Pradesh now has the highest number of Ramsar sites, strengthening wetland conservation and eco-tourism.

UK Parliament passed the landmark Tobacco and Vapes Bill banning tobacco sales to those born on or after 1 January 2009, creating a “smoke-free generation” by raising the legal age annually. It also tightens vape regulations, aiming to cut smoking-related deaths and reduce healthcare costs for the National Health Service.

NASA completed final assembly of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope at Goddard Space Flight Center. Designed for wide-field surveys, it will study dark energy and dark matter, capturing data far faster than Hubble, with a planned 2026 launch aboard SpaceX’s Falcon Heavy.

A new snake species, Calamaria garoensis, has been discovered in the Garo Hills of Meghalaya. It belongs to the reed snake group, known for their small size and secretive nature. Identified by scientists including those from the Zoological Survey of India, the find highlights the region’s rich biodiversity and underscores the need for continued research and conservation in northeastern India.

Six grassroots activists won the Goldman Environmental Prize, marking the first all-women winners since its inception by the Goldman Environmental Foundation. Honouring activists from six continents, including Sasha Finch, the award highlights leadership in climate action, biodiversity conservation, Indigenous rights, and grassroots environmental efforts.

Abhishek Sharma became the first Indian to score multiple sub-50-ball centuries in the Indian Premier League. He smashed an unbeaten 135 against Delhi Capitals, reaching his hundred in 47 balls with 10 fours and 10 sixes, joining elite company alongside Chris Gayle.



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