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# Current Affairs Today — April 2, 2026

2 April 2026

**SECURITY & DEFENCE****ECONOMY****SCIENCE & TECH****POLITY**

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# Current Affairs Today — April 2, 2026

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## INS MALWAN — SECOND ASW SHALLOW WATER CRAFT DELIVERED

The Indian Navy received 'Malwan,' the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC), built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at Kochi on March 31, 2026.

### Key Facts

- Part of a series of 8 ASW SWCs under Aatmanirbhar Bharat; over 80% indigenous content
- Equipped with torpedoes, multi-function anti-submarine rockets, advanced radar and sonar
- Named after the historic coastal town of Malwan (Maharashtra) associated with Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj
- Capable of Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and mine warfare

### FACTS CORNER

Builder: Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi

Indigenous content: >80% by cost

Classification: DNV rules

Malwan: Coastal town in Sindhudurg district, Maharashtra

## INS SANSHODHAK — SURVEY VESSEL (LARGE) PROGRAMME COMPLETE

GRSE, Kolkata delivered INS Sanshodhak — the fourth and final Survey Vessel (Large) to the Indian Navy on March 30, 2026, completing the four-ship SVL programme.

### Key Facts

- Contract for 4 SVL ships signed: October 30, 2018
- Sister ships: INS Sandhayak (Feb 2024), INS Nirdeshak (Dec 2024), INS Ikshak (Nov 2025)
- 110 metres long; ~3,400 tonnes; equipped with autonomous underwater vehicles and digital side-scan sonar

- Designed by Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau; >80% indigenous content

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

Builder: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata

Displacement: ~3,400 tonnes; Length: 110 m

Capability: Hydrographic, oceanographic surveys; port/harbour approach surveys

## IRDAI MAKES IND AS MANDATORY FOR INSURERS

*IRDAI made Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS) mandatory for all insurers — life, general, health, and reinsurers — effective April 1, 2026.*

#### Key Facts

- Aligns India's insurance financial reporting with IFRS (International Financial Reporting Standards)
- Key standard: Ind AS 117 for insurance contracts
- Two-year parallel reporting period permitted; one-year forbearance given for initial non-compliance
- Ind AS originally notified in 2015 by MCA; now extended to insurance sector

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

Ind AS: India's version of IFRS; mandatory for large listed companies since 2016

Ind AS 117: Insurance contract accounting standard (equivalent to IFRS 17)

IRDAI: Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India; established 1999

## INDIA APPROVED FIRST DENGUE VACCINE — QDENG (TAK-003)

*India's drug regulator approved Takeda's tetravalent dengue vaccine Qdenga (TAK-003) for individuals aged 4–60 years — India's first approved dengue vaccine.*

#### Key Facts

- Developed by Japan's Takeda; 2 doses, 3 months apart; no pre-vaccination screening needed
- Unlike Sanofi's Dengvaxia, Qdenga does not require prior dengue infection history
- Expected cost: Rs 3,000–6,000 per dose (private sector)

- Lower efficacy against DENV-3 and DENV-4 in seronegative individuals
- Indian candidate DengiAll (Panacea Biotec + ICMR) in Phase III trials; expected ~2027

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

Dengue serotypes: 4 (DENV-1 to DENV-4); infection with one doesn't protect against others

Dengvaxia (Sanofi): Requires prior infection; increases severity risk in seronegative recipients

Qdenga: Tetravalent; live attenuated; no prior infection needed

## INDIA DECLARED EFFECTIVELY "NAXAL-FREE"

*Home Minister Amit Shah declared India effectively "Naxal-free" on March 30, 2026, citing security operations that neutralised Maoist strongholds across 180+ districts.*

#### Key Facts

- 4,839 Maoists surrendered; 2,218 arrested; 706 neutralised in security encounters
- At peak, Naxalites operated across 180+ districts in mineral-rich tribal areas
- Development push: schools, Aadhaar, ration cards, state presence in formerly affected areas
- Experts urge implementation of PESA and Forest Rights Act for lasting peace

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

Naxalbari (1967): Origin of Naxal movement, West Bengal

LWE peak: ~180 districts in 9 states (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, AP, Telangana, Maharashtra, MP, Bihar, WB)

PESA, 1996: Extends Gram Sabha powers to tribal (Schedule V) areas

## RODTEP SCHEME EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 2026

*The government extended the RoDTEP scheme for six months (April 1 – September 30, 2026) amid West Asia trade disruptions, via DGFT Notification No. 74/2025-26.*

#### Key Facts

- Covers Central, State, and Local taxes not refunded under GST or Duty Drawback

- Rates unchanged at 0.3%–3.9% of FOB value; budget allocation FY27: Rs 10,000 crore
- Replaces MEIS scheme which faced WTO challenges from the US
- e-scrip valid for 2 years and transferable; administered by DGFT

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

RoDTEP: Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products; launched January 2021

MEIS: Merchandise Exports from India Scheme; discontinued after WTO dispute

DGFT: Directorate General of Foreign Trade under Ministry of Commerce

## RARE EARTH CORRIDORS — BUDGET 2026-27

*Union Budget 2026-27 announced dedicated Rare Earth Corridors in Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu for integrated mining, processing, and manufacturing.*

#### Key Facts

- Targets reducing India's ~90% dependence on Chinese rare earth processing
- Builds on November 2025 scheme for Sintered Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (Rs 7,280 crore)
- Key sectors: electronics, renewables, EVs, and defence
- A Joint Working Group to develop SOPs for corridor development

#### ★ FACTS CORNER

Rare Earth Elements (REEs): 17 elements (lanthanides + Sc, Y); critical for EVs, defence electronics, wind turbines

China's share: ~90% of global REE processing

India's REE deposits: Monazite beach sands in AP, TN, Kerala, Odisha (2nd largest thorium reserves globally)

## RAJA RAVI VARMA'S "YASHODA AND KRISHNA" — RS 167.2 CRORE RECORD

*Raja Ravi Varma's oil painting "Yashoda and Krishna" sold for Rs 167.2 crore at Saffronart's Spring Live Auction — the highest price ever paid for an Indian artwork at auction.*

### Key Facts

- Surpasses previous record of ~Rs 118 crore (MF Husain’s “Untitled — Gram Yatra”)
- Estimated at Rs 80–120 crore; bought by Cyrus Poonawalla (Serum Institute)
- Painted in the 1890s; Raja Ravi Varma (1848–1906), from Kilimanoor, Travancore, Kerala
- His lithographic press (est. 1894) mass-produced oleograph prints of Hindu deities
- Works classified as National Treasures; cannot be permanently exported

#### FACTS CORNER

Raja Ravi Varma: Father of modern Indian art; first Indian artist to use European oil technique on Indian mythological themes

Famous works: Shakuntala, Saraswati, Hamsa Damayanti, Yashoda and Krishna

Lithographic press (1894): Democratised religious imagery; standardised Hindu deity iconography across India

## S-400 TRIUMF — FINAL DELIVERIES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

*Russia’s remaining two S-400 Triumph squadrons contracted by India are set to arrive ahead of the original 2027 schedule — one in April 2026, the last by November 2026.*

### Key Facts

- India contracted 5 S-400 squadrons in a \$5.43 billion deal signed October 2018
- S-400 intercepts aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at ranges up to 400 km
- Delivery delayed due to Russia–Ukraine conflict impacting Russian defence exports

#### FACTS CORNER

S-400: Russia’s most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile system

CAATSA risk: US Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act; India given waiver

Deal value: ~\$5.43 billion (2018); 5 squadrons total

## E-GRAMSWARAJ CROSSES RS 3 LAKH CRORE CUMULATIVE PAYMENTS

India's Gram Panchayats have routed over Rs 3 lakh crore in payments through e-GramSwaraj; SabhaSaar meeting tool now available in 23 Indian languages.

### Key Facts

- FY26 alone: Rs 53,342 crore transferred via e-GramSwaraj-PFMS interface
- 2,55,254 Gram Panchayats uploaded development plans; 2,50,807 made online payments in FY26
- SabhaSaar (AI-powered voice-to-text meeting summarisation) expanded from 13 to 23 languages

### FACTS CORNER

e-GramSwaraj: Digital platform for Panchayat planning and accounting; Ministry of Panchayati Raj

PFMS: Public Financial Management System for direct benefit transfers

SabhaSaar: AI meeting summarisation tool in 23 Indian languages

## BODHANA SIVANANDAN — BRITAIN'S TOP FEMALE CHESS PLAYER

Eleven-year-old Bodhana Sivanandan (Indian-origin) became Britain's number one ranked female chess player in April 2026, surpassing four-time British Women's Champion Lan Yao.

### Key Facts

- FIDE rating: 2366; ranked 72nd among women globally
- Took up chess during COVID lockdown
- Beat former Women's World title holder GM Mariya Muzychuk at European Club Cup (Rhodes)
- Became the youngest female player to beat a grandmaster (beat GM Peter Wells, aged 10)

### FACTS CORNER

FIDE: Fédération Internationale des Échecs; world chess governing body; HQ: Lausanne, Switzerland

GM title: Highest FIDE title; requires rating  $\geq 2500$  + 3 GM norms

Bodhana: Studies in Harrow, London; parents of Indian origin

## INDONESIA EARTHQUAKE (MAGNITUDE 7.4–7.6) — MOLUCCA SEA

A 7.4–7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Indonesia’s Molucca Sea on April 1–2, 2026, triggering a tsunami warning for Indonesia, Philippines, and Malaysia.

### Key Facts

- Waves up to 75 cm recorded; warning lifted after threat subsided; one killed
- Nearly 50 aftershocks; buildings damaged in Manado
- Indonesia sits on the Pacific “Ring of Fire” — one of the world’s most earthquake-prone nations

### ★ FACTS CORNER

Molucca Sea: Part of the western Pacific Ocean; between Sulawesi and Maluku islands

Ring of Fire: ~40,000 km horseshoe arc; 75% of world’s volcanoes; 90% of earthquakes

Indonesia: 4th most populous country; 17,000+ islands; sits at junction of 3 tectonic plates

## THAILAND TO HOST IMF–WORLD BANK ANNUAL MEETINGS 2026

Thailand will host the 2026 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings in Bangkok (October 12–18) — its second time hosting after 1991.

### Key Facts

- Venue: Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok
- 15,000+ participants from 191 member countries expected
- Theme: “Thailand’s New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience”

### ★ FACTS CORNER

IMF: International Monetary Fund; 191 members; HQ: Washington D.C.; MD: Kristalina Georgieva

World Bank: 189 members; HQ: Washington D.C.; President: Ajay Banga (Indian-origin)

Annual Meetings: Held jointly every year; once every 3 years outside Washington

## ODISHA POLICE — PRESIDENT’S POLICE COLOUR

*The President of India approved the President’s Police Colour — the highest honour for a police force — to Odisha Police on April 1, 2026, the force’s 91st Foundation Day.*

### Key Facts

- Recognition for achievements in anti-Naxal operations, cybercrime, and narcotics control
- Officers entitled to wear a special emblem on the left sleeve as mark of distinction

### ★ FACTS CORNER

President’s Police Colour: Highest honour for a police force in India; conferred by President

Odisha Police: Founded 1936; HQ: Cuttack

## NAAC REFORMS AND UGC REGULATIONS 2026

*New UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education) Regulations 2026 make NAAC accreditation or 60% NBA-accredited programmes mandatory for colleges to receive UGC grants.*

### Key Facts

- NAAC established 1994 as autonomous institution under UGC
- CBI arrested NAAC inspection committee members in Feb 2025 for bribery in A++ accreditation
- Regulations notified January 13, 2026; uses outcomes-based, data-driven assessment

### ★ FACTS CORNER

NAAC: National Assessment and Accreditation Council; autonomous body under UGC; HQ: Bengaluru

NBA: National Board of Accreditation; programme-level accreditation (engineering, management)

Accreditation grades: A++, A+, A, B++, B+, B, C, D (failing)

## GLP-1 RECEPTOR AGONIST DRUGS — INDIA CRACKDOWN

India's drug regulators inspected 49 businesses selling GLP-1 receptor agonist drugs amid concerns about non-medical use and counterfeit products.

### Key Facts

- GLP-1 drugs approved for Type 2 diabetes and obesity; can only be prescribed by specialists
- Originally developed by Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly; now widely copied by generics manufacturers
- Concerns: weight-loss trend-driven misuse and counterfeit products

### ★ FACTS CORNER

GLP-1: Glucagon-Like Peptide-1; hormone that stimulates insulin secretion and reduces appetite

Examples: Semaglutide (Ozempic/Wegovy), Liraglutide (Victoza), Dulaglutide (Trulicity)

Mechanism: Slows gastric emptying, reduces appetite, controls blood sugar

## CONTEMPT OF COURT — CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

Recent high-profile cases involving NCERT textbooks and police reform compliance have highlighted India's contempt powers under Articles 129 and 215.

### Key Facts

- Civil contempt: wilful disobedience of court order
- Criminal contempt: scandalising the court or obstructing justice
- Punishment: imprisonment up to 6 months, fine up to Rs 2,000, or both
- Truth added as valid defence through 2006 amendment (must serve public interest)

### ★ FACTS CORNER

Article 129: SC is a court of record; power to punish for contempt

Article 215: High Courts are courts of record; similar contempt power

Contempt of Courts Act, 1971: Defines civil and criminal contempt; statutory safeguards

Inherent powers: SC's contempt power is self-derived, not delegated by Parliament

## FCRA AMENDMENT BILL 2026

*The Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill 2026 seeks to tighten oversight of foreign assets when NGO registrations are cancelled, with a new Designated Authority for asset management.*

### Key Facts

- Distinguishes provisional vesting (reversible) and permanent vesting (transferred to government)
- Expands prohibitions to individuals engaged in news production/broadcast
- Reduces maximum imprisonment for violations from 5 years to 1 year
- Appeals allowed to District Judge within 90 days

### FACTS CORNER

FCRA, 2010: Regulates foreign contributions to NGOs, associations, and individuals

Administered by: Ministry of Home Affairs

FCRA purpose: Prevent foreign interference in domestic affairs through funding channels

## YUVIKA 2026 — ISRO'S PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG SCIENTISTS

*ISRO's YUVIKA 2026 — a two-week residential space science programme for Class 9 students — is scheduled for May 11–22, 2026 across seven ISRO centres.*

### Key Facts

- Fully sponsored: lodging, boarding, course materials, II AC train fare reimbursement
- Hosted at VSSC, SDSC (Sriharikota), URSC (Bengaluru), SAC (Ahmedabad) and others
- Selection: academic performance, science Olympiads, NCC/NSS/sports achievements

### FACTS CORNER

YUVIKA: YUva VIgyani KARYakram; for Class 9 students; started 2019

VSSC: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

SDSC: Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota (launch site)

## KUGTI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY — SNOW LEOPARD RESEARCH

*New research documented snow leopard presence in Kugti Wildlife Sanctuary, Chamba, Himachal Pradesh — producing the first photographic evidence.*

### Key Facts

- Second largest wildlife sanctuary in Himachal Pradesh
- Located in Bharmour, Chamba district; altitude 2,195–5,040 metres
- Hosts snow leopards, Himalayan brown bear, Himalayan tahr, musk deer

### FACTS CORNER

Snow Leopard: *Panthera uncia*; Schedule I (Wildlife Protection Act); Vulnerable (IUCN)

Kugti WLS: ~400 sq km; part of the Great Himalayan biodiversity zone

Himachal Pradesh largest WLS: Pin Valley National Park / Great Himalayan National Park (UNESCO WHS)

## SADHNA SAPTAH 2026 — MISSION KARMAYOGI

*PM launched Sadhna Saptah 2026 — a week-long national capacity-building programme for civil servants using the iGOT platform.*

### Key Facts

- Organised by DoPT; aligns civil service with Viksit Bharat 2047
- Covers AI, technology, governance reforms, and indigenous knowledge systems
- Uses iGOT (Integrated Government Online Training) digital platform

### FACTS CORNER

Mission Karmayogi: National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building; launched 2020

iGOT: Integrated Government Online Training Karmayogi platform

DoPT: Department of Personnel and Training under Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions

**INS Malwan (ASW SWC #2, CSL) + INS Sanshodhak (SVL #4, GRSE)** — both >80% indigenous **Dengue vaccine:** Qdenga (TAK-003, Takeda) — India's first; 2 doses; no prior screening needed **Naxalism:** 4,839 surrendered; 2,218 arrested; 706 neutralised — declared effectively "Naxal-free" **RoDTEP:** Extended April 1 — September 30, 2026; rates 0.3–3.9% of FOB value **Rare Earth Corridors:** Odisha, Kerala, AP, Tamil Nadu — reduces China's ~90% processing monopoly **Raja Ravi Varma:** "Yashoda and Krishna" sold Rs 167.2 cr (record); born Kilimanoor, Kerala, 1848 **S-400:** \$5.43 bn deal (2018); 5 squadrons; final 2 to arrive April–November 2026 **Qdenga vs Dengvaxia:** Qdenga — no prior infection needed; Dengvaxia — requires seropositivity **Contempt of Court:** Articles 129 (SC) + 215 (HC); Contempt of Courts Act, 1971

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**INS Malwan & INS Sanshodhak — India's Naval Indigenisation...**

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