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TOP STORIES — APRIL 22, 2026

1. World Earth Day 2026 — “Our Power, Our Planet”

April 22 marks the **56th Earth Day** with the global theme “**Our Power, Our Planet**”, calling for a tripling of global clean electricity generation by 2030. India announced expansion of **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) to include a “**Net-Zero Households**” incentive scheme — covering rooftop solar, rainwater harvesting, and waste segregation for BPL families. India’s major tech firms also pledged **100% renewable energy supply chains by 2030**. Earth Day was first observed on **April 22, 1970** in the United States. The **UNFCCC COP process** and **Paris Agreement** are the primary international legal frameworks for climate action.

2. Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance 2026

The **Meghalaya Cabinet** approved an ordinance granting **Khasi and Garo** languages full official status alongside English in the state. This is significant as Khasi and Garo are among the 22 scheduled languages in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution. Meghalaya is the only state where both Khasi (an Austroasiatic language) and Garo (a Tibeto-Burman language) coexist as dominant languages. The move addresses long-standing demands from tribal communities. Articles **29 and 30** of the Constitution protect minority language rights.

3. AI in Policing — From Reactive to Predictive Investigation

A government policy paper on **AI integration in law enforcement** highlights how machine learning and CCTV analytics are transforming policing from reactive crime response to **predictive investigation**. Pilot programmes in Delhi and Hyderabad use AI to identify crime hotspots, match suspects via facial recognition, and manage case evidence digitally. Key concerns: **algorithmic bias**, **privacy rights** (Personal Data Protection Act, 2023), and **accountability frameworks** for AI-aided arrests.

4. Kankaria Coaching Depot — India’s First Water-Neutral Railway Facility

Ahmedabad’s Kankaria Coaching Depot has achieved **water-neutral** status — the first such railway facility in India — through a combination of **rainwater harvesting**, **wastewater recycling**, and **solar-powered water treatment**. The depot now meets 100% of its water needs from recycled and harvested sources. This aligns with **Indian Railways’ Green Mission** targets and the broader **National Water Mission** under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC).

5. India Post FY2025-26 — Record ₹15,296 Crore Revenue

India Post recorded its highest-ever revenue of **₹15,296 crore** in FY2025-26, driven by growth in financial services (Post Office Savings Bank, postal life insurance) and logistics (parcel and e-commerce delivery). The **PLI (Postal Life Insurance)** scheme for food processing emerged as a key growth vertical. India Post operates the world’s largest postal network — **~1.65 lakh post offices** across India, with **~90%** in rural areas.

6. Core Sector Output — Warning Signs for the Economy

India’s **eight core sector industries** (coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement, electricity) showed a contraction in March 2026, signalling a potential slowdown in industrial momentum. The core sector accounts for **~41% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)**. Cement and electricity showed the sharpest declines, raising concerns ahead of the **RBI’s monetary policy review**.

7. DRDO’s Prajna Satellite Imaging System — MHA Integration

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has integrated **DRDO’s Prajna satellite imaging system** into its national security surveillance infrastructure. Prajna provides **real-time high-resolution imaging** of sensitive border areas and conflict zones, enabling faster intelligence-to-action cycles. This is part of India’s broader **Space-based Surveillance Programme** and aligns with the **Defence Space Agency (DSA)** mandate. Prajna works alongside the **RISAT** and **Cartosat** satellite constellations.

KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

TOPIC	KEY NUMBER / FACT
Earth Day	Founded April 22, 1970; 56th in 2026; theme “Our Power, Our Planet”
Meghalaya	Khasi (Austroasiatic) + Garo (Tibeto-Burman) = official languages alongside English
Kankaria Depot	India’s first water-neutral railway facility; Ahmedabad
India Post revenue	₹15,296 crore (FY2025-26 record)
India Post network	~1.65 lakh post offices; ~90% rural
Core sector	~41% of IIP; contracted in March 2026
Prajna	DRDO satellite imaging system; MHA integration for border surveillance
Mission LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment; launched by PM Modi at COP27 (2022)

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