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# Current Affairs Today — April 24, 2026

24 April 2026

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CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

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# Current Affairs Today — April 24, 2026

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## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

### 1. Pakistan Withdraws from SAFF Women's Championship 2026

Pakistan officially withdrew from the 2026 SAFF Women's Championship hosted by India, citing failure to receive a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from relevant authorities amid India-Pakistan tensions following the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack. The tournament will now proceed with six teams — India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, and Maldives — at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa, from May 25 to June 6, 2026.

#### Key Facts:

- Tournament: SAFF Women's Championship 2026
- Host venue: Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa
- Dates: May 25 – June 6, 2026
- Teams remaining: 6 (India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives)
- Reason for withdrawal: No NOC issued; India-Pakistan diplomatic strain
- Organiser: South Asian Football Federation (SAFF)

### 2. ReNew Energy's 6.5 GW Solar Ingot-Wafer Facility in Anakapalli, AP

ReNew Energy Global announced investment of ₹4,200 crore to establish a 6.5 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing facility in Anakapalli district (near Visakhapatnam), Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone. The facility is part of ReNew's ₹82,000 crore commitment to Andhra Pradesh and is expected to create 2,100+ direct and indirect jobs when commissioned within 24 months.

#### Key Facts:

- Company: ReNew Energy Global Plc
- Investment: ₹4,200 crore
- Capacity: 6.5 GW solar ingot-wafer manufacturing
- Location: Anakapalli district, Andhra Pradesh
- Foundation stone: CM N. Chandrababu Naidu

- Jobs: 2,100+ direct and indirect
- Part of: ₹82,000 crore total AP commitment by ReNew

### 3. NSO Launches First-Ever ASISSE Services Sector Survey

The National Statistics Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), launched the first-ever **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)** covering all States and Union Territories with a reference period of FY 2024–25. With a sample of ~1.21 lakh enterprises, it will generate data on India’s services sector which contributes more than 50% of GDP.

#### Key Facts:

- Survey: Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)
- Launched by: NSO / MoSPI
- Coverage: All States and UTs
- Reference period: FY 2024–25
- Sample size: ~1.21 lakh enterprises
- Entities covered: Companies under Companies Act 1956/2013 and LLP Act 2008
- Services sector share: 50%+ of India’s GDP

### 4. Manipur Conflict — Three-Year Mark: 217 Killed, 58,800+ Displaced

The Manipur ethnic conflict, which began on May 3, 2023 between the Meitei community (valley) and Kuki-Zo groups (hills), has entered its third year with 217 deaths and over 58,800 persons displaced as of March 2026. Fresh violence in April 2026 included the killing of a 5-year-old boy and his 6-month-old sister in Bishnupur district. The state government lifted restrictions across five Valley districts on April 18, 2026.

#### Key Facts:

- Conflict: Manipur ethnic violence (Meitei vs Kuki-Zo)
- Duration: Since May 3, 2023 (3 years)
- Deaths: 217 (as of March 2026)
- Displaced: 58,821 persons
- Recent violence: Bishnupur district (children killed, April 2026)
- Restrictions lifted: Five valley districts, April 18, 2026

## 5. IMD Issues Severe Heatwave Warning for North and Central India

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a severe heatwave warning for North and Central India from April 23–27, 2026, with temperatures projected at up to 44°C — 4–5°C above normal. East and West Uttar Pradesh are under “severe heatwave” alerts; Vidarbha region of Maharashtra faces an “extreme heat warning.” The IMD’s April–June 2026 seasonal forecast warns of above-normal heatwave days across East, Central, Northwest, and Peninsular India.

### Key Facts:

- Alert: Severe heatwave, April 23–27, 2026
- Peak temperature: Up to 44°C (4–5°C above normal)
- Worst-hit: East/West UP (severe); Vidarbha, Maharashtra (extreme)
- Forecast: Above-normal heatwave days across most of India (Apr–Jun)
- Issuing authority: India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- Risk groups: Elderly, children, outdoor workers

## 6. State of India’s Environment 2026 Report — CSE

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) released the **State of India’s Environment 2026** annual report highlighting that seven of nine planetary boundaries have been breached globally; extreme weather caused 4,419 deaths in India in 2025; only 15% of India’s population lives within 10 km of an air quality monitoring station; and the invasive plant *Lantana camara* now occupies nearly 50% of forest scrublands, intensifying human-wildlife conflict.

### Key Facts:

- Published by: Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)
- Planetary boundaries breached globally: 7 of 9
- Extreme weather deaths in India (2025): 4,419
- Air quality monitoring coverage: Only 15% of population within 10 km
- Lantana camara: ~50% of forest scrubland occupied — intensifying tiger conflict
- Ocean acidity increase: 30–40% since industrial era

## 7. Poshan Pakhwada 8th Edition Concludes

The Ministry of Women and Child Development concluded the 8th edition of **Poshan Pakhwada** (April 9–23, 2026) with the theme “**Maximising Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life.**” The campaign focuses on early childhood nutrition under the POSHAN 2.0 framework and aligns with NEP 2020’s emphasis on Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) as foundational to learning outcomes.

**Key Facts:**

- Campaign: Poshan Pakhwada, 8th Edition
- Duration: April 9–23, 2026
- Theme: “Maximising Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life”
- Ministry: Women and Child Development
- Framework: POSHAN 2.0
- Relevance: ECCE, NEP 2020, stunting and wasting reduction targets

**QUICK BITES**

- **NARIT-AI:** Gujarat Police launched NARIT-AI (Narcotics Analysis and RAG-based Investigation Tool) — an AI tool built on Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) technology to assist in NDPS case analysis and improve conviction rates
- **India GDP Rank:** India slipped to 6th globally (\$3.9–4.2 trillion nominal) due to rupee depreciation — India remains 3rd largest by PPP
- **UN Economic Survey:** India’s economy projected to grow 6.4% in 2026 and 6.6% in 2027 (UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2026)

## FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
SAFF Women's Championship 2026 venue	Pandit J. Nehru Stadium, Margao, Goa
Pakistan's withdrawal reason	No NOC from authorities; India-Pakistan tension
ReNew solar facility	6.5 GW, Anakapalli, AP; ₹4,200 crore
ASISSE	First-ever NSO survey of incorporated services; ~1.21 lakh sample
Manipur deaths (since May 2023)	217 killed; 58,821 displaced
IMD heatwave peak	Up to 44°C; East/West UP under severe alert
CSE planetary boundaries	7 of 9 breached globally
Extreme weather deaths 2025	4,419 in India
Poshan Pakhwada 8th edition theme	"Maximising Brain Development in First Six Years"
NARIT-AI	Gujarat Police AI narcotics investigation tool

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