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Current Affairs Today — April 25, 2026

25 April 2026

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

CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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TODAY'S TOP STORIES

1. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 — 784 Provisions Decriminalised

The **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026**, passed by both Houses of Parliament, decriminalises **784 provisions across 79 Central Acts** administered by 23 ministries — converting criminal penalties (imprisonment) into civil/administrative penalties for minor or technical defaults. Introduced in Lok Sabha on March 27, 2026 by MoS Commerce **Jitin Prasada**, the Act introduces **graded enforcement**: advisory for first contravention → warning for second → civil penalty for subsequent violations. It amends laws including the RBI Act, Food Safety Act, Motor Vehicles Act, Railways Act, and Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Key Facts:

- Acts amended: 79 Central Acts across 23 Ministries
- Provisions: 784 total — 717 decriminalised; 67 for ease of living
- Approach: criminal → civil/administrative penalties with graded enforcement
- Introduced: March 27, 2026 (Lok Sabha); MoS Commerce Jitin Prasada
- Follows: Jan Vishwas Act, 2023 (Phase 1 — 183 provisions, 42 Acts)
- Objective: Ease of Doing Business + Ease of Living; trust-based governance

2. World Bank South Asia Economic Update (April 2026) — India GDP 7.6% FY26

The **World Bank's South Asia Economic Update (April 2026)**, themed “*Working with Industrial Policy*”, projects India's GDP growth at **7.6% for FY2025-26** — moderating to **6.6% in FY2026-27** due to Middle East conflict-driven energy price pressures. South Asia remains the **fastest-growing EMDE** (Emerging Market and Developing Economy) region globally, driven almost entirely by India. Key risks: geopolitical energy price shocks, weaker external demand, constrained fiscal space.

Key Facts:

- India GDP (FY26 estimate): 7.6% (fastest among major economies)
- India GDP (FY27 projection): 6.6% (moderation due to global headwinds)
- South Asia growth: 6.3% in 2026, down from 7% in 2025
- Report theme: *Working with Industrial Policy*

- Published: April 8, 2026
- Risk: Middle East conflict → higher energy prices → inflation pressure

3. India Welcomes Japan's Defence Export Policy Shift — Mogami-Class Frigates Offered

India's MEA welcomed Japan's **April 21 amendment** to its *Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology* — effectively lifting blanket restrictions on defence exports. Japan has also offered India co-production of **Mogami-class stealth frigates** — advanced multi-role warships that could be built in Indian shipyards under a joint framework. Both countries also held the **8th India-Japan Army-to-Army Staff Talks** in Tokyo (April 22–24).

Key Facts:

- Japan's policy: Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology (amended April 21, 2026)
- Change: All defence equipment transfers now possible in principle
- Offer: Mogami-class stealth frigates — co-production in India
- Staff Talks: 8th India-Japan Army-to-Army Staff Talks, Tokyo, April 22–24
- Context: India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership
- Significance: Opens co-development, supply chain integration, tech transfer

4. India's Landfills Among World's Top Methane Emitters — Hyderabad 4th, Mumbai 12th

A **UCLA study** using data from **Planet Labs' Tanager-1 satellite** and **NASA's EMIT instrument** (on the International Space Station) found that India has two landfills among the **world's 25 highest methane-emitting waste sites in 2025**:

- **Jawaharnagar landfill (Secunderabad/Hyderabad): 4th globally** — emitting **5.9 tonnes/hour**; operator: **Ramky Enviro Engineers**
- **Mumbai landfill: 12th globally** — emitting **4.9 tonnes/hour**; operator: **Antony Waste Handling Cell Ltd** A source emitting 5 t/hr of methane is equivalent to 1 million large SUVs or a 500 MW coal plant.

Key Facts:

- Study: UCLA; Report — *Spotlight on the Top 25 Methane Plumes in 2025: Landfills*
- Data sources: Tanager-1 (Planet Labs) + EMIT (NASA, aboard ISS)
- Hyderabad (Jawaharnagar): 4th globally — 5.9 t/hr; operator: Ramky Enviro Engineers
- Mumbai: 12th globally — 4.9 t/hr; operator: Antony Waste Handling Cell Ltd
- Equivalent warming: ~1 million SUVs or a 500 MW coal plant

- India in global top 25: 2 sites

5. SHANTI Act + India's 100 GW Nuclear Target by 2047

CEA Chairperson **Ghanshyam Prasad** announced India's target to expand nuclear power capacity from **8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047** (over 11x increase). The legal foundation — the **SHANTI Act** (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India), passed in Parliament in late 2025 — replaces the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act (CLNDA), 2010, and opens the nuclear sector to **private sector participation** for the first time. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is not permitted.

Key Facts:

- SHANTI: Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India
- Passed: late 2025; replaces Atomic Energy Act 1962 + CLNDA 2010
- Key change: Private Indian companies can now build, own, operate nuclear plants (no FDI)
- Target: 8.8 GW → 100 GW by 2047 (CEA Chairman Ghanshyam Prasad)
- Bharat Small Reactors (BSR): 220 MW units; RFP from private sector issued
- Regulator: Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) continues oversight

6. Thrissur Pooram Fireworks Tragedy — 15 Dead, Festival Goes Fireworks-Free

A fireworks assembly unit at **Mundathikode**, Thrissur district (Kerala), exploded on **April 21, 2026** killing **15 people** and injuring 40+, as workers assembled crackers for the **Thrissur Pooram** festival — one of India's grandest temple festivals, organised by **Thiruvambady Devaswom**. Safety violations included: overcrowded unlicensed sheds, explosives exceeding permitted limits, no fire safety clearance, no access road for fire engines. Authorities decided to conduct **Thrissur Pooram 2026 without fireworks** and restricted public entry.

Key Facts:

- Incident: April 21, 2026; Mundathikode, Thrissur, Kerala
- Killed: 15; Injured: 40+ (5 critical)
- Purpose: Assembling fireworks for Thiruvambady Devaswom (Thrissur Pooram)
- Violations: No proper license, no fire safety clearance, overcrowded sheds, excess explosives
- Festival decision: Thrissur Pooram 2026 without fireworks; restricted public entry
- Regulator: PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation)

7. Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) — Rules Notified, Operational May 1

MeitY notified the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Rules, 2026** on April 22, establishing the **Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)** — operational from **May 1, 2026**. Under the **Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROGA) Act, 2025**, OGAI will be chaired by the Additional Secretary, MeitY, and include officials from MHA, Finance, I&B, Sports, and Law ministries. OGAI will register and monitor online games, oversee e-sports, and issue directions on user safety, data retention, grievance redressal, and financial transactions.

Key Facts:

- Authority: Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI)
- Parent Act: Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROGA) Act, 2025
- Rules notified: April 22, 2026; operational: May 1, 2026
- Ministry: MeitY (Electronics and Information Technology)
- Chair: Additional Secretary, MeitY
- Functions: Registration, monitoring, user safety, e-sports oversight, grievance redressal
- Registration: Mandatory for e-sports; optional for non-monetary social games

QUICK BITES

- **SCO Defence Ministers Meeting:** Rajnath Singh to visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (April 28) for SCO Defence Ministers' meeting — Pakistan's Gen. Asim Munir also expected; India to raise cross-border terrorism
- **Operation Sindoor Anniversary:** On Pahalgam attack's first anniversary (April 22), Indian Army reaffirmed "for acts against India, response is assured"; Operation Sindoor struck 9 terror camps in Pakistan/PoK on May 7–10, 2025 — killed 100+ terrorists
- **Calamaria garoensis:** New snake species discovered in Garo Hills, Meghalaya — a reed snake of the genus Calamaria, adding to NE India's herpetofaunal diversity

FACTS CORNER

FACT	DETAIL
Jan Vishwas Act 2026	79 Acts, 784 provisions (717 decriminalised); MoS Jitin Prasada
World Bank India GDP	7.6% FY26; 6.6% FY27 (South Asia Update, April 2026)
Japan defence export	Three Principles amended (April 21); Mogami-class frigate offer
Hyderabad landfill methane	Jawaharnagar: 4th globally – 5.9 t/hr; operator: Ramky Enviro
Mumbai landfill methane	12th globally – 4.9 t/hr; operator: Antony Waste Handling
UCLA study satellite	Tanager-1 (Planet Labs) + EMIT (NASA/ISS)
SHANTI Act	Replaces Atomic Energy Act 1962 + CLNDA 2010; private nuclear entry
Nuclear target	8.8 GW → 100 GW by 2047 (CEA: Ghanshyam Prasad)
Thrissur tragedy	April 21; Mundathikode; 15 dead; Thiruvambady Devaswom; no fireworks
OGAI	MeitY; under PROGA Act 2025; operational May 1, 2026
SCO meeting	Rajnath Singh, Bishkek, April 28, 2026
Calamaria garoensis	New snake, Garo Hills, Meghalaya

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**Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act,
2026 —...**

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