

THE DAILY GK DOSE

HARIVANSH NARAYAN SINGH GETS RE-ELECTED AS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF RAJYA SABHA

- **Third Consecutive Term:** A veteran journalist and politician, Harivansh Narayan Singh has served in this role since 2018. His re-election for a third term is a testament to the consensus and trust he has built across the Upper House.
- **Historic First for Nominated Members:** He has made history by becoming the first nominated member to be elected as the Deputy Chairman. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Droupadi Murmu earlier in April 2026, following the end of his previous term as a JD(U) representative.
- **Unopposed Election:** His candidacy was supported by a motion moved by the Leader of the House, J.P. Nadda. Despite recent political debates regarding parliamentary vacancies, the opposition did not field a candidate, leading to his unopposed victory during the special session of Parliament.

PUNJAB ASSEMBLY PASSES GURU GRANTH SAHIB SATKAR BILL

- **Stringent Penalties:** The Bill introduces life imprisonment as the maximum punishment for sacrilege (beadbi). It mandates a minimum of 10 years imprisonment (extendable to life) and a fine ranging from ₹5 lakh to ₹25 lakh for those convicted of criminal conspiracy to commit sacrilege with the intent to disturb communal harmony.
- **Administrative Safeguards:** The Bill mandates that investigations be conducted by an

officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP). It also grants the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) exclusive control over the printing and distribution of Saroops (copies of the scripture), requiring a centralized register with unique identification numbers for each copy.

Footnotes: Punjab's Governor: Gulab Chand Kataria, CM: Bhagwant Mann, Capital: Chandigarh

UK OVERTAKES INDIA AS THE WORLD'S FIFTH-LARGEST ECONOMY



- **Ranking Shift:** The United Kingdom (\$4.26 trillion) has officially overtaken India (\$4.15 trillion) to reclaim the spot of the world's 5th largest economy in nominal GDP terms. India currently sits in 6th place globally.
- **Primary Drivers:** This "demotion" is attributed to two key factors: a significant statistical revision of India's GDP base year which lowered nominal estimates by about 4%, and a roughly 11% depreciation of the Rupee against the US Dollar in FY26.
- **Outlook for Recovery:** Economists view this setback as temporary; India remains the fastest-growing major economy to overtake both the UK and Japan to reach the 4th spot by 2027 and the 3rd spot by 2031.

Footnotes: UK's Prime Minister: Keir Starmer, Capital: London

IMPORTANT FACTS

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS & THEIR HQ'S

- **WHO:** Geneva
- **UN:** New York
- **NATO & EU:** Brussels
- **IMF:** Washington
- **Amnesty International:** London
- **FAO:** Rome
- **ICC:** The Hague
- **UNESCO:** Paris
- **AIIB:** Beijing
- **AU:** Addis Ababa

CHINA EMERGED INDIA'S TOP TRADE PARTNER IN FY26

- **Total Trade Volume:** Bilateral trade between India and China reached a record \$124.5 billion in FY26, edging past the \$119.8 billion recorded with the United States. This shift is primarily driven by India's massive demand for industrial inputs and electronic components.
- **Widening Trade Deficit:** While trade volume increased, India's trade deficit with China remains a concern, crossing \$90 billion this year. India's imports from China grew by 9%, largely consisting of telecom equipment, machinery, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).
- **Strategic Import Dependency:** Despite the "China Plus One" strategy and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" initiatives, India's manufacturing sector continues to rely heavily on Chinese intermediate goods.

Footnotes: China's President: Xi Jinping, Capital: Beijing

LIC LAUNCHES 'MYLIC' & 'SUPER SALES SAATHI' MOBILE APP

- **Dual-Targeted Solutions:** The apps create a "dual-engine" digital model; MyLIC is designed for the 260 million policyholders for self-service, while Super Sales Saathi is a dedicated tool for agents and intermediaries to enhance their sales productivity and customer engagement.
- **Powered by DIVE:** Both applications are delivered through LIC's DIVE (Digital Innovation & Value Enhancement) platform, which aims to transform the insurer from a service utility into a strategic, technology-first distribution ecosystem.
- **Advanced Features:** Key capabilities include real-time benefit tracking, paperless policy loans, and online policy revival for customers, alongside AI-driven nudges, digital sales kits, and performance dashboards for agents.

Footnotes: LIC's MD & CEO: R. Doraiswamy, HQ: Mumbai, Estd: 1956

INDIA'S SONAM MASKAR FINISHES FIFTH IN 10M AIR RIFLE AT ISSF WORLD CUP

- **Final Standings:** Sonam Maskar finished in 5th place in the Women's 10m Air Rifle event, demonstrating her consistency among the world's elite shooters.
- **Qualification Prowess:** She entered the final in a strong

position after shooting a score of 631.2 in the qualification round, which placed her 4th among a field of over 60 international competitors.

- **Rising Star:** This performance follows her breakthrough silver medal at the Cairo World Cup earlier in her career, solidifying her status as a key medal prospect for India leading up to the 2026 Asian Games.

BANK OF BARODA LAUNCHES FEATURE PHONE BANKING SERVICE VIA JIOPHONE DEVICES



- **Launch of "bob World Lite":** Bank of Baroda introduced "bob World Lite", a lightweight, low-bandwidth version of its mobile banking app. It is specifically designed to work on the JioPhone Prima 4G and other JioPhone devices, utilizing physical keypad navigation.
- **Inclusive Interoperability:** Unlike standard banking apps, this service is open to everyone. Users who are not Bank of Baroda customers can also use the app via a simple self-onboarding process to perform digital transactions, making it an "industry-first" in terms of accessibility.
- **Key Digital Features:** Despite being on a feature phone, the app supports high-end functions

including UPI-enabled Scan & Pay, money transfers, mobile recharges, and bill payments. It aims to reduce reliance on physical branches for the millions of users in rural and semi-urban India.

Footnotes: BOB's MD & CEO: Debadatta Chand, HQ: Alkapuri, Estd: 1908

INFOSYS APPOINTS TENNIS STAR CARLOS ALCARAZ AS GLOBAL BRAND AMBASSADOR

- **Elite Athlete Partnership:** Carlos Alcaraz, a seven-time Grand Slam champion and the youngest athlete to ever reach World No. 1, joins Infosys as its newest global face, joining other tennis legends like Rafael Nadal and Iga Świątek on the brand's roster.
- **AI-Powered Performance:** As part of this "AI-first" collaboration, Infosys will leverage its Topaz platform (generative AI) to create a personalized performance application for Alcaraz and his team, providing data-driven match analytics and strategic insights to enhance his game.
- **Social Impact Focus:** Beyond the court, the partnership includes a "tech-for-good" initiative where Infosys will collaborate with the Carlos Alcaraz Foundation to use technology to improve social equity and accessibility in communities worldwide.

Footnotes: Infosys's MD & CEO: Salil Parekh, HQ: Bengaluru, Estd: 1981

WHAT HAPPENED TODAY?

17.04.2026 / FRIDAY

- **17th April: World Hemophilia Day**
- **Theme 2026: "Diagnosis: First Step to Care"**
- **Without diagnosis, there is no treatment—and without treatment, there is no progress.**