

## Daily Current Affairs: 21 April 2026 Important Current Affairs

**Daily Current Affairs:** Staying ahead in the competitive landscape of job exams requires consistent tracking of national and international developments. Here is a curated wrap-up of today's essential news for candidates preparing for UPSC, WBCS, Railways, and SSC.

### Awards and Recognition

#### 01 61st Femina Miss India World 2026

Goa's **Sadvhi Satish Sale** has been crowned the 61st Femina Miss India World 2026. This is a historic moment as she becomes the first woman from Goa to hold this prestigious title. The gala event was hosted at the Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Sadvhi, who was crowned by her predecessor Nikita Porwal, is now set to represent India on the global stage at the Miss World pageant in Tanzania in 2027.

#### Static GK at a Glance:

- Reita Faria was the first Indian to clinch the Miss World title back in 1966.
- Other iconic winners include Aishwarya Rai (1994), Priyanka Chopra (2000), and Manushi Chhillar (2017).

#### 02 9th Professor M.S. Swaminathan Award

Dr. C.H. Srinivasa Rao has been conferred with the 9th Professor M.S. Swaminathan Award for the 2024-25 cycle. This honor recognizes his groundbreaking work in Climate Resilient Agriculture and natural resource management. Dr. Rao currently leads IARI, Hyderabad as its Director. The award, established in 2004, carries a cash prize of 2 lakh rupees and a gold medal.

#### Quick Facts:

- Dr. M.S. Swaminathan is celebrated as the "Father of the Green Revolution in India".
- The Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is based in New Delhi.

### National News

### 03 National Public Service Day

India observes National Public Service Day every year on **April 21**. It was on this day in 1947 that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel delivered his landmark speech to the first batch of civil servants at Metcalf House, Delhi, calling them the “Steel Frame of India.” The tradition of celebrating this day formally began in 2006.

#### Essential Context:

- Lord Cornwallis is regarded as the Father of Civil Service in India.
- Satyendranath Tagore became the first Indian to clear the ICS exam in 1863.
- Article 312 of the Constitution discusses the All India Services.

### 04 India's First Private Sector Gold Mine

Breaking new ground since independence, the ‘Jonagiri Gold Project’ in Andhra Pradesh’s Kurnool district has commenced operations as India’s first private gold mine. The project targets an annual production of 750 kg. While Karnataka leads in current production, Bihar is home to the country’s largest untapped gold reserves.

#### Mining Trivia:

- The Hutti Gold Mine in Karnataka remains the largest government-run gold mine.
- Before independence, the Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) were the primary source of Indian gold.

### 05 PM Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) Extension

The Union Cabinet has given its nod to extend Phase III of the PMGSY until **March 2028**. Along with the extension, the budget has been hiked to 83,977 crore rupees. This scheme was launched on December 25, 2000, by the then-Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee to ensure all-weather road access to rural India.

## Science and Infrastructure

### 06 Milestone for Western Railway

The **Kankaria Railway Depot** in Ahmedabad has earned the distinction of being India’s first water-neutral railway depot. By recycling 100% of its wastewater and saving roughly 1.6 lakh liters of fresh water daily, it is setting a

benchmark under the 'Mission Zero Waste' initiative.

## 07 Advanced Semiconductor Unit in Odisha

Odisha is making headlines in the tech sector by hosting India's first glass substrate-based 3D semiconductor packaging unit. Located near Bhubaneswar, the project involves an investment of 1,943 crore rupees. This facility makes Odisha the first state to house both 3D packaging and compound semiconductor units.

## Sports and International Affairs

### 08 India Welcomes its 95th Grandmaster

West Bengal continues its dominance in the world of chess as **Aronyak Ghosh** becomes India's 95th Grandmaster. He follows in the footsteps of Mayank Chakraborty (the 94th). To earn this elite title, a player must cross the 2500 FIDE rating mark and secure three GM norms.

### 09 Leadership Change in Benin

In a landslide victory, Romuald Wadagni has been elected as the President of Benin, securing 94% of the total votes. He takes over the role from Patrice Talon. Benin is a West African nation with its capital at Porto-Novo.

## Quick Recap of Recent Events

- **WWF National Award 2026:** N. Alim Yusuf.
- **Rajya Sabha:** Harivansh Narayan Singh has been re-elected as Deputy Chairman for a third term.
- **Meghalaya:** Granted administrative recognition to Khasi and Garo languages.
- **Water Forward Initiative:** A new project spearheaded by the World Bank.
- **World Liver Day:** Observed annually on April 19.
- **Cricket Milestone:** Smriti Mandhana now holds the record for the most runs in Women's T20 Internationals.

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