

## Daily Current Affairs: 17th April Daily News And GK Updates

This report brings you the latest National and International news highlights for April 17, 2026. Tailored specifically for aspirants of competitive examinations, these updates aim to keep your general awareness sharp. Each segment is paired with essential Static GK facts for comprehensive learning.

### Nizar Mohammed Saeed Ahmed Elected as Iraq's 9th President

Iraq's political landscape has entered a new phase as Nizar Mohammed Saeed Ahmed was elected as the 9th President of the nation in April 2026. Following a vote in the Iraqi parliament, the former environment minister has taken charge as the head of state.

He succeeds Abdul Latif Rashid of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party. This transition marks the appointment of the sixth head of state in Iraq since the regime change in 2003.

- **Static GK:** Baghdad is the capital city of Iraq, and the Iraqi Dinar serves as the national currency. The country is geographically defined by its two major rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates.

### Forest Guard Anita Chowdhury Honored with Machali National Award 2026

Anita Chowdhury, a dedicated forest guard at the Shergarh Wildlife Sanctuary, has been conferred with the prestigious 'Machali National Award' for 2026. This recognition comes in light of her exceptional bravery and contribution to wildlife conservation.

Throughout her career, she has successfully rescued more than 500 wild animals. The award is named after 'Machali', the legendary tigress of Ranthambore National Park who became a global icon for wildlife enthusiasts.

- **Static GK:** The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) was established in 1961 and is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland. The Giant Panda is the official symbol of this organization.

### China Regains Spot as India's Largest Trading Partner

In a significant shift in trade dynamics, China has once again emerged as India's top trading partner for the 2025-26 fiscal year. The United States, which had dominated the top spot for the past four years, has now slipped to the second position.

Bilateral trade between India and China reached a staggering 151.1 billion USD. India's continued reliance on China for electronic components and industrial raw materials is cited as the primary driver behind this volume.

- **Static GK:** Beijing is China's capital, and the Renminbi is its official currency. The boundary line between India and China is known as the McMahon Line.

## Ranbir Kapoor Features in Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People List

The global stage welcomes another Indian talent as actor Ranbir Kapoor was named in Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people for 2026. The recognition celebrates his role in the international expansion and evolving narrative of Indian cinema.

Kapoor is joined on this prestigious list by global tech giant Sundar Pichai (CEO of Google and Alphabet) and renowned culinary expert Vikas Khanna.

- **Static GK:** Time Magazine, based in New York City, released its first issue in 1923.

## Anant Swarup Appointed Secretary General of FICCI

On April 14, 2026, Anant Swarup officially assumed the role of Secretary General at FICCI. As the spokesperson and administrative lead for India's oldest and largest apex business organization, his appointment is seen as a key move for the country's industrial policy advocacy.

- **Static GK:** FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) was established in 1927 in New Delhi. It was founded by GD Birla and Purshottam Das Thakurdas.

## India Targets Cocoa Self-Reliance by 2040

The Indian government has laid out a roadmap to achieve self-sufficiency in cocoa production by the year 2040. Currently, India spends approximately 866 million USD annually on cocoa imports to meet domestic demand.

To bridge this gap, the 'National Mission on Cocoa' will be operational between 2026 and 2028, focusing on expanding plantations and improving yield.

- **Static GK:** Within India, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu are the leading cocoa producers. On the global stage, Ivory Coast leads the world in cocoa production.

## R Vaishali Wins FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament

Indian chess prodigy R Vaishali has achieved a historic milestone by winning the 2026 FIDE Women's Candidates Tournament. The 24-year-old secured her title after a grueling final round victory against Russia's Kateryna Lagno.

- **Static GK:** The International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in 1924 in Paris, but its current headquarters is in Lausanne, Switzerland.

## India Slips to 6th Position in IMF GDP Rankings

According to the latest IMF estimates for 2025, India has moved down to become the world's 6th largest economy. While the nominal GDP has reached approximately 3.92 trillion USD, the drop from 5th to 6th place is largely attributed to the depreciation of the Indian Rupee against the US Dollar.

- **Static GK:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was founded in 1944. Based in Washington D.C., it is currently led by Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva.

## China Plans 120-km Undersea Rail Tunnel to Connect Dalian and Yantai

China has unveiled an ambitious plan to construct a 120-km-long high-speed undersea rail tunnel. Spanning the Bohai Strait, this infrastructure project will connect Dalian and Yantai and is set to become the longest tunnel of its kind in the world.

Once operational, the tunnel will slash travel time between the two points from several hours to a mere 40 minutes.

- **Static GK:** The Bohai Sea is located on China's eastern coastline. Japan's Seikan Tunnel is currently another of the world's longest undersea passages.

## Prime Minister Inaugurates Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor

Connectivity between the national capital and Uttarakhand received a major boost as Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor on April 14, 2026. The 213-km-long project was completed at a cost of approximately 12,000 crore INR.

A unique feature of this 6-lane corridor is a 12-km-long elevated section designed to facilitate the unhindered movement of wildlife in the region.

- **Static GK:** While Dehradun is the winter capital of Uttarakhand, Gairsain serves as the summer capital. The state is also home to the Rajaji National Park.

## Trishakti Corps Launches Sikkim's First Border Village Radio Station

The Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army launched a new community radio station (88.4 FM) in East Sikkim on April 12, 2026. This is the first border village community radio station in the state, aimed at fostering better communication and community engagement in remote areas.

- **Static GK:** Re-raised in 1960, the Trishakti Corps (XXXIII Corps) is headquartered in Sukna, West Bengal. Gangtok is the capital city of Sikkim.

## 9th Indian Ocean Conference Concludes in Mauritius

The 9th Indian Ocean Conference took place in Port Louis, Mauritius, from April 10 to 12, 2026. This year's theme was 'Collective Statecraft for Indian Ocean Governance'.

Organized by the India Foundation in collaboration with the Mauritian government, the Indian delegation was led by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

- **Static GK:** The inaugural Indian Ocean Conference was held in Singapore in 2016. Port Louis is the capital of Mauritius, where the Mauritian Rupee is used as currency.