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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**



*11th April 2026*

### TOPICS:-

1. National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC)
2. Skills Outcomes Fund
3. Indrāvati Tiger Reserve
4. Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA)
5. Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
6. WAVES OTT Platform
7. Other Important News of the day
8. Uttar Pradesh in News

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# NATIONAL SCHEDULED TRIBES FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (NSTFDC)

The Hawk

## Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram to lead NSTFDC's 25th Foundation Day celebrations



Celebrating 25 years of tribal empowerment: NSTFDC hosts event with Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, highlighting livelihood promotion and...

### Why in News

- The NSTFDC is celebrating its **25th Foundation Day on 10 April in New Delhi.**

### Institutional Profile

- It was established in **2001 as a Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.**
- It aims to promote **socio-economic and educational upliftment of Scheduled Tribes (STs).**



### Functional Architecture

- It provides **concessional finance for income generation schemes through State Channelizing Agencies (SCAs).**
- It supports **skill development and capacity building of beneficiaries and officials.**
- It facilitates **market linkage for tribal produce to enhance income opportunities.**

### Governance Structure

- It is governed by a **Board of Directors including representatives from Government, NABARD, IDBI, TRIFED, and ST members.**
- It ensures **multi-stakeholder coordination for inclusive tribal development financing.**

## SKILLS OUTCOMES FUND

### Why in News

- The Government has launched a **national campaign to operationalise the Skills Outcomes Fund.**

Entrepreneur India

### Big Initiative for Youth: Skills Outcomes Fund Campaign Launched

The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Jayant Chaudhary, has launched a campaign to create a...



### Policy Innovation Framework

- It is an **outcomes-based financing (OBF) initiative linking funding to verified employment outcomes.**

- It aims to **mobilise public and private capital for skilling youth** from low-income backgrounds.

### Institutional Mechanism

- It is anchored by the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** under the **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship**.
- It builds upon the **Skill Impact Bond (2021)** as India's first OBF experiment.

### Sectoral Focus Areas

- It targets **high-growth sectors like IT-ITeS, BFSI, manufacturing, healthcare, logistics, electronics, and green jobs**.

### Governance Significance

- It promotes an **employer-led, demand-driven skilling model aligned with industry requirements**.

## INDRĀVATI TIGER RESERVE

 The Times of India

**From red corridor to green trails: Bastar's Indravati Tiger Reserve set to reopen after yrs**

Raipur: With Maoist activity declining in Bastar, Indravati Tiger Reserve is set to reopen to tourists, marking a shift from years of...



### Why in News

- The **Indrāvati Tiger Reserve** is reopening for tourism, signalling **improved security and conservation conditions**.

### Geographical Linkages

- It is located in **Chhattisgarh** and connected to **Kawal, Tadoba, and Kanha tiger reserves**.
- The **Indravati River** forms its northern and western boundary and interstate boundary with Maharashtra.

### Ecological Characteristics

- It features **Southern Moist and Dry Mixed Deciduous Forest ecosystems**.
- Dominant flora includes **teak, arjun, shisham, semal, and jamun species**.


### Biodiversity Significance

- It hosts the **rare wild buffalo (state animal of Chhattisgarh)**.
- It supports fauna such as **tiger, leopard, gaur, sloth bear, chital, and black buck**.

## Conservation Dimensions

- It forms part of a **larger landscape-based conservation corridor for tiger movement.**

## COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION (CPA)

 News On AIR

### Commonwealth Parliamentary Association India Region Zone VII Conference concludes in Goa

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region Zone VII Conference concluded in Goa today. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla called...



## Why in News

- The **CPA India Region Zone VII Conference was inaugurated in Goa.**

## Institutional Background

- The **CPA was established in 1911 and headquartered in London.**
- It comprises **over 180 legislatures across nine regions of the Commonwealth.**



## Democratic Objectives

- It promotes **parliamentary democracy, rule of law, gender equality, and youth participation.**

## India-Specific Structure

- The **CPA India Region consists of 32 legislatures divided into 9 zones.**
- The **Lok Sabha Speaker serves as the Regional Chairperson.**

## Governance Relevance

- It strengthens **legislative capacity-building and inter-parliamentary cooperation.**

## INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR)

 News On AIR

### Doordarshan signs MoU with Indian Council for Cultural Relations in New Delhi

Doordarshan has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) in New Delhi.



## Why in News

- The role of **ICCR in strengthening India's cultural diplomacy was highlighted during an event in Myanmar.**

## Institutional Framework

- It is an **autonomous body under the Ministry of External Affairs**, established in **1950**.
- It was founded by **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.

## Functional Mandate

- It promotes **India's cultural relations through exchanges and cultural centres abroad**.
- It administers **3000+ scholarships annually across 180 countries under 21 schemes**.

## Strategic Role

- It acts as a **soft power instrument in India's foreign policy**.

## WAVES OTT PLATFORM

DD News

Yojana, Kurukshetra and Employment News now available free on WAVES OTT; 227 e-books released

In a push to expand digital access to government publications, the Publications Division has made its flagship journals — Yojana,...



## Why in News

- **Yojana and Kurukshetra magazines** are now available free on the WAVES OTT platform.

## Digital Governance Initiative

- WAVES is developed by **Prasar Bharati as a digital public broadcasting platform**.
- It integrates **live TV, video-on-demand, radio, gaming, and ONDC-based e-commerce**.

## Content Ecosystem

- It provides **65+ live channels including private broadcasters**.
- It hosts **educational, cultural, entertainment, and archival content**.

## Institutional Linkages

- **Prasar Bharati is a statutory autonomous body established under the Prasar Bharati Act, 1997**.
- It comprises **Doordarshan and All India Radio as public service broadcasters**.

## Strategic Significance

- It enhances **digital accessibility of government publications and public broadcasting services**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

**Places in News**

### TÜRKIYE

#### Why in News

- India and **Türkiye** held the 12th round of **Foreign Office Consultations** to restore bilateral relations.

#### Geostrategic Location

- Türkiye is a **transcontinental country** spanning **Asia (Anatolia)** and **Europe (Balkan Peninsula)**.
- It is bordered by **Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Iran, Iraq, and Syria**.



#### Physical Geography

- It is surrounded by the **Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, and Aegean Sea**.
- Major rivers include **Tigris, Euphrates, Kizilirmak, and Sakarya**.

#### Key Features


- The **Bosporus and Dardanelles straits** are crucial maritime **chokepoints**.
- **Mt. Ararat (16,948 ft)** is the highest peak and **Lake Van is the largest alkaline lake**.

#### Resource Profile

- It possesses **chromite, bauxite, coal, lignite, and copper reserves**.

**Environment**

### FIMBRISTYLIS WAYANADENSIS

 Research Matters

Botanists discover a new grass-like sedge in Kerala's Wayanad

Researchers have discovered a new plant species in the high mountains of the Western Ghats in India. Named *Fimbristylis wayanadensis*...



#### Why in News

- A new plant species **Fimbristylis wayanadensis** has been discovered in the **Western Ghats**.

### Taxonomical Classification

- It is a **grass-like sedge belonging to a diverse botanical family.**
- Sedges are characterized by **triangular stems and grass-like morphology.**

### Geographical Ecology

- It was discovered in **Wayanad district of Kerala in high-altitude zones (~1900 m).**
- It grows in **transitional habitats between rocky terrains and grasslands.**

### Distinctive Features

- It has **long leaves exceeding hairy stems in height.**
- It produces **fewer chestnut-brown spikelets instead of yellowish ones.**
- Its seeds show **smooth surfaces with microscopic rectangular patterns.**

## EMPEROR PENGUIN (APTENODYTES FORSTERI)

### Why in News

- The **IUCN Red List has uplisted Emperor Penguin to Endangered category.**

### Ecological Distribution

- It is found across the **Antarctic continent and sub-Antarctic islands.**
- It inhabits **pack ice and marine environments throughout its lifecycle.**

### Biological Features

- It is **the tallest and heaviest** penguin species with streamlined, flightless body.
- It can **dive up to 550 meters**, making it the deepest-diving bird.



### Adaptations

- It has **two layers of feathers and fat reserves to prevent heat loss.**
- It exhibits **huddling behaviour to survive extreme cold conditions.**

### Conservation Concerns

- Climate change threatens **sea ice habitat critical for breeding (April–November).**

## Science and Technology

### ALUMINIUM

TH The Hindu

In breakthrough, cheap aluminium may replace costly catalysts in pharma

New research suggests aluminium could replace costly transition metals as catalysts in pharmaceuticals, benefiting India's abundant...



### Why in News

- New research indicates **aluminium can exhibit properties similar to transition metals like palladium and platinum.**

### Scientific Classification

- Aluminium is a **post-transition metal with atomic number 13 and symbol Al.**
- It is derived primarily from **bauxite ore**, one of the most abundant minerals.

### Industrial Processing

- The **Bayer Process converts bauxite into alumina (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) using sodium hydroxide.**
- The **Hall-Héroult Process extracts aluminium via electrolytic reduction requiring high energy.**

### Material Properties

- It is **lightweight, corrosion-resistant, and highly conductive of heat and electricity.**
- It is **highly recyclable, requiring only 5% energy compared to primary production.**

### Strategic Applications

- It is used in **transport, infrastructure, electrical transmission, defence, aerospace, and nuclear sectors.**

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

# SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION (SIR) OF ELECTORAL ROLLS IN UTTAR PRADESH

📰 The Indian Express

Exclusive | Before Bengal's SIR row, Maharashtra CEO red-flagged to ECI: Need more time



It was on October 27 last year that the Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls...

### Why in News

- The **final electoral roll of Uttar Pradesh** recorded deletion of **2.04 crore voters (13.21%) after SIR (2025–26)**.

### Electoral Changes

- Total voters declined from **15.44 crore to 13.39 crore after revision**.
- Draft roll had **12.55 crore electors after deletion of 2.88 crore names**.
- During claims process, **84.28 lakh names added and 8.15 lakh deleted further**.

**THE VOTER LIST CLEAN-UP**  
THERE ARE FOUR KINDS OF ELECTORAL ROLL REVISIONS

<b>INTENSIVE REVISION</b> Fresh electoral rolls prepared from scratch with 100 per cent door-to-door verification	<b>SUMMARY REVISION</b> Annual process; updates made based on claims and objections without field verification	<b>PARTLY INTENSIVE AND SUMMARY</b> Mixed approach. Existing rolls published in draft while officers conduct household verification	<b>SPECIAL REVISION</b> Done when routine updates are deemed insufficient. Can be attached to other methods

**SPECIAL INTENSIVE REVISION:** Current Bihar exercise. Not defined in electoral rules; a discretionary method created by the ECI in 2025 to validate voter citizenship

### Demographic Profile

- Male voters: **7.3 crore (54.54%)**, Female voters: **6.09 crore (45.46%)**.
- **Gender ratio improved to 834 from 824**, indicating better inclusion.
- **4,206 third-gender electors and 17.63 lakh voters in 18–19 age group**.

### Constitutional & Legal Basis

- Conducted by **Election Commission of India under Article 324**.
- Based on **Representation of the People Act, 1950** and **Article 326 (adult suffrage)**.

### Significance & Concerns

- Ensures **removal of duplicate and ineligible voters for electoral integrity**.
- Raises concerns of **possible exclusion and need for robust grievance redressal**.