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CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

12th April 2026

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SHREE CHAMUNDESHWARI TEMPLE

 The Indian Express

Karnataka HC orders Govt to stop all construction activities at Mysuru's Chamundeshwari Temple

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar of the erstwhile Mysore royal family challenged the Shree Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act in the...

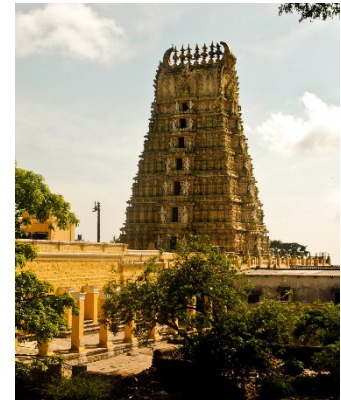


Why in News

- The **Karnataka High Court** raised concerns over violations of **judicial orders restricting construction**.

Cultural Significance

- It is located on **Chamundi Hills near Mysuru, Karnataka**.
- It is dedicated to **Goddess Chamundeshwari (form of Durga)**.
- It is one among the **18 Maha Shakti Peethas**.



Historical Evolution

- The original shrine was built by **Hoysala rulers (12th century)**.
- It was later expanded during the **Vijayanagara Empire (17th century)**.
- The stone stairway was constructed by **Dodda Devaraja Wodeyar**.

Architectural Features

- It follows **Dravidian style architecture** with quadrangular structure.
- It includes **Navaranga Hall, Antharala Mantapa, and Sanctum Sanctorum**.
- It features a **seven-tier Gopuram and Vimana above sanctum**.

Governance Dimensions

- It raises issues related to **heritage conservation and judicial compliance**.
- It reflects tensions between **religious development and environmental regulation**.

CANARY ISLANDS

Why in News

- A **bus accident involving tourists** occurred in Spain's Canary Islands.

Geographical Location

- It is an **archipelago in the North Atlantic Ocean off northwest Africa**.

- It is geographically part of **Africa** but **politically part of Spain (Europe)**.

Geological Characteristics

- It is of **volcanic origin** formed **millions of years ago**.
- It contains **active volcanoes**, making it geologically dynamic.
- Beaches often have **black sand due to volcanic composition**.



Key Islands and Features

- Major islands include **Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, and Fuerteventura**.
- **Tenerife** hosts **Mount Teide**, Spain’s highest peak.
- Capital: **Santa Cruz de Tenerife**.

HWASONG-11GA MISSILE

TOI The Times of India

[NEW WAR LOOMING? North Korea Tests Cluster Warheads From Nuclear-Capable Hwasong-11 Missile](#)

North Korea has escalated tensions by testing ballistic missiles armed with cluster-munition warheads, raising fresh concerns over regional...



Why in News

- **North Korea tested Hwasong-11Ga missile** with a **cluster munition warhead**.

Technical Specifications

- It is a **short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)** also called **KN-23**.
- It is a **single-stage solid-fuel missile** with **600–700 km range**.
- It has a **circular error probable (CEP) of 5–30 meters** indicating high accuracy.

Warhead Capabilities

- It can carry **nuclear, chemical, or conventional payload (~500 kg)**.
- It uses **cluster munitions**, dispersing multiple submunitions.


Ethical and Legal Concerns

- Cluster munitions are considered **indiscriminate weapons under international humanitarian law debates**.
- Unexploded ordnance poses **long-term civilian risks**.

Strategic Implications

- It enhances **North Korea's tactical strike capability**.
- It raises concerns for **regional security in East Asia**.

MORCHELLA (GUCCHI MUSHROOM)

 The New Indian Express

Scientists in Kashmir successfully cultivate world's costliest Gucchi mushroom

The breakthrough is expected to reduce dependence on wild harvesting and create opportunities for its cultivation as a commercial crop.



Why in News

- **SKUAST Srinagar** successfully cultivated **Morchella mushrooms in controlled conditions**.

Biological Features

- It belongs to **Ascomycota group, family Morchellaceae**.
- It is known locally as **Gucchi or Kangaech**.

Ecological Requirements

- It grows in **high-altitude conifer forests under specific climatic conditions**.
- Ideal conditions include **15–20°C daytime and 5–9°C nighttime temperatures**.



Economic Importance

- It is among the **most expensive edible mushrooms globally**.
- It has **high nutritional and medicinal value**.

Distribution

- Found in **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu & Kashmir**.

Policy Relevance

- Controlled cultivation can boost **rural livelihoods and agri-economy diversification**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

MAURITIUS

 CNBC TV18

India sends 100 electric buses to Mauritius in largest export deal

Switch Mobility has delivered 100 electric buses to Mauritius, marking India's largest such export. The government-backed initiative aims to...



Why in News

- India and Mauritius signed agreements under a **\$680 million assistance package**.

Geopolitical Location

- It is an **island nation in the Indian Ocean, southeast of Africa**.
- Capital: **Port Louis**.

Regional Groupings

- Member of **COMESA, SADC, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)**.
- Hosts headquarters of **Indian Ocean Commission**.

Physical Geography

- It is a **volcanic island formed ~8 million years ago**.
- Highest peak: **Mount Piton**.
- Major rivers include **Black River and Grand River South East**.

Strategic Importance for India

- It is crucial for **India's maritime diplomacy and SAGAR policy**.
- It strengthens **India's presence in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Environment

CARIBOU (RANGIFER TARANDUS)

Why in News

- Declining **lichen availability due to climate change** threatens **Caribou survival in Arctic regions**.



Biological Classification

- It belongs to the **Cervidae (deer family)** with scientific name **Rangifer tarandus**.
- It inhabits **Arctic, subarctic, tundra, boreal, and mountainous ecosystems**.

Adaptive Features

- It has **nasal turbinate bones** to warm cold air before entering lungs.
- Both males and females **grow antlers annually**, an unusual trait among deer.
- It can **see ultraviolet light**, aiding predator detection and foraging.

Ecological Behaviour

- It feeds primarily on **lichens and mosses**, unique among large mammals.
- It exhibits **long-distance migration**, among the longest in terrestrial animals.
- It digs snow through **“cratering” behavior** to access food.

Conservation Concerns

- It is listed as **Vulnerable in the IUCN Red List**.
- Major threats include **climate change and habitat degradation**.

Space

PACE SATELLITE

Why in News

- NASA’s **PACE** satellite can detect **nitrogen dioxide emissions at micro-scale levels**.



Mission Overview

- Full form: **Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, and ocean Ecosystem (PACE)**.
- It was launched in **February 2024 into Sun-synchronous orbit**.

Technological Features

- It uses **Ocean Color Instrument (OCI)** for hyperspectral imaging.
- It includes **SPEXone and HARP2 polarimeters** to study light polarization.

Scientific Significance

- It provides **global hyperspectral data every 1–2 days**.
- It helps monitor **ocean biology, aerosols, clouds, and pollution**.

Environmental Applications

- It aids in studying **climate change, fisheries health, and algal blooms**.
- It enhances tracking of **air pollution sources and wildfire smoke**.

Defence

ALH MK-III HELICOPTER

The Hindu

HAL hands over ALH Mk III (MR) helicopters to Indian Coast Guard

HAL hands over ALH Mk III (MR) helicopters to Indian Coast Guard.



Why in News

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** handed over four **ALH Mk III (MR)** helicopters to the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**.

Strategic Capabilities

- It is a **maritime variant of Dhruv helicopter**, indigenously developed by **HAL**.
 - It is a **multi-role twin-engine helicopter** designed for complex maritime operations.
 - It is equipped with **advanced avionics, glass cockpit, and night operation capability**.

About ICG -

- The **Indian Coast Guard** operates under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- It was established under the **Coast Guard Act, 1978** as an independent armed force.
- Its headquarters is in **New Delhi**, headed by the **Director General, ICG**.

Operational Applications

- It performs **maritime surveillance, search and rescue, and casualty evacuation missions**.
- It supports **coastal security, anti-piracy operations, and law enforcement roles**.
- It is also used for **troop transport, logistics support, and VIP movement**.

Strategic Significance

- It enhances **maritime domain awareness and coastal surveillance capability**.
- It strengthens **India's maritime security architecture in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Science and Technology

METHANOL (CH₃OH)

'A key step to net-zero maritime future', says Sonowal as Kandla Port advances methanol bunkering

The move aligns with the maritime sector's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 through the adoption of low-carbon alternative fuels such as e-methanol and e-ammonia.



ET Infra Desk · ETInfra
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Why in News

- Deendayal Port Authority (Kandla) expanded methanol bunkering infrastructure.

Chemical Properties

- It is the simplest alcohol (CH₃OH) also called wood alcohol.
- It is a colorless, volatile, and water-miscible liquid.

Production Process

- It is produced via steam reforming of natural gas to form syngas.
- Syngas is converted into methanol using catalytic processes.

Applications

- It is used as fuel, solvent, and industrial chemical feedstock.
- It is used in automotive fuels and chemical manufacturing.

Strategic Advantages

- It is a clean-burning and high-octane fuel alternative.
- It enhances energy security through diverse feedstock sources.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

VIKRAMADITYA VEDIC CLOCK

The Times of India

Time travel to Vedic era: 'Vikramaditya clock' blends tradition with tech at KVT

Varanasi: Kashi Vishwanath Dham now boasts the 'Vikramaditya Vedic Clock', a 700-kg marvel blending tradition and tech.



Why in News

- A Vikramaditya Vedic Clock has been installed at Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Varanasi to revive the traditional Vedic time-keeping system.

Cultural-Scientific Basis

- It is based on the ancient concept of “**Kaal Ganana**” rooted in **Vedic astronomy and Panchang system**.
- It highlights India’s tradition of **integrating astronomy with religious and daily life practices**.

Time Calculation Mechanism

- It measures time from **sunrise to next sunrise**, unlike the modern 24-hour system.
- A day is divided into **30 muhurtas**, each of about **48 minutes duration**.

Astronomical Display Features

- It shows key **Panchang elements** like **tithi, nakshatra, and moon phases**.
- It also indicates **eclipses, festivals, and other celestial events**.
- It displays **Vedic time along with IST and GMT simultaneously**.
- It represents a fusion of **traditional knowledge with modern timekeeping systems**.

