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**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

14th April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Sentinel Species**
- 2. Sagarmala Programme**
- 3. South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA)**
- 4. Kali Tiger Reserve**
- 5. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL)**
- 6. Other Important News of the day**
- 7. Uttar Pradesh in News**

DELHI CENTRE:
636, Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi-110009

PRAYAGRAJ CENTRE:
1/1/8A, Stanley Rd,
Maharana Pratap Chauraha,
Civil Lines, Prayagraj, UP - 211002

☎ 9555-124-124
🌐 sanskritiiias.com

SENTINEL SPECIES

M Mongabay

Giant otters, river sentinels, now listed as threatened migratory species

Environmental science and conservation news.



Why in News

- The **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)** declared the **Emperor Penguin** an endangered sentinel species.

Ecological Significance

- Sentinel species indicate the **health status of ecosystems** through observable biological responses.
- They act as **early warning indicators of environmental degradation and pollution.**

Key Characteristics

- They show **high sensitivity to environmental stressors** such as toxins and pathogens.
- They usually have **long lifespans and fixed habitats**, enabling accumulation of pollutants.
- Their physiological traits **amplify ecosystem changes**, making impacts visible earlier.

Examples and Applications

- **Frogs** indicate water quality due to their **permeable skin.**
- **Honeybees** help monitor **agrochemical exposure and biodiversity loss.**
- **Polar bears** reflect **Arctic ecosystem contamination and climate change impacts.**

SAGARMALA PROGRAMME

DD News

Sagarmala: 315 projects worth Rs 1.57 lakh crore completed to boost maritime sector

India's maritime sector has seen significant expansion in capacity, connectivity, and operational efficiency over the past decade and the...



Why in News

- **845 projects worth ₹6.06 lakh crore** are under implementation, with significant progress achieved.

Economic and Infrastructure Vision

- Launched in **March 2015** for **port-led development and logistics optimisation**.
- Aims to reduce **logistics costs and enhance export competitiveness**.

Core Components

- Focuses on **port modernization and new port development** to increase capacity.
- Enhances **port connectivity with hinterland through multimodal transport**.
- Promotes **port-led industrialization and coastal economic zones**.
- Encourages **coastal shipping and inland waterways transport systems**.



Institutional Mechanism

- Guided by **National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC)** for policy direction.
- Supported by **Maritime States Development Council (MSDC)** for coordination.
- Implemented at state level through **State Sagarmala Committees (SSCs)**.
- Financing support through **Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL)**.

SOUTH ATLANTIC ANOMALY (SAA)

TOI The Times of India

Bermuda Triangle of Space: The hidden radiation zone causing satellite failures

Science News: The Bermuda Triangle of space, also known as the South Atlantic Anomaly (SAA), is a geomagnetic intensity minimum where the...

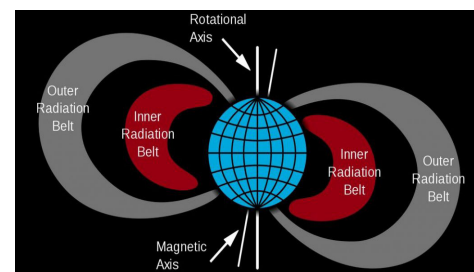


Why in News

- The anomaly is **splitting into two zones**, increasing risks for satellites.

Scientific Concept

- It is a **region of weakened Earth's magnetic field** allowing charged particles to penetrate deeper.
- Located between **South America and Africa** in the South Atlantic Ocean.



Cause and Mechanism

- Caused by the **inner Van Allen radiation belt approaching Earth's surface**.

- Leads to **high radiation exposure from solar and cosmic particles.**

Implications

- Affects **satellite electronics, GPS systems, and spacecraft operations.**
- Poses challenges for **aviation navigation and space missions.**

- The **inner Van Allen radiation belt** is a intense, stable zone of high-energy protons and electrons trapped by Earth's magnetic field, located roughly 1,000 to 12,000 km above the surface.

KALI TIGER RESERVE

DH Deccan Herald

Kaiga project 2026: Quarry plan raises alarm over Kali Tiger Reserve

Kali Tiger Reserve: Proposal to restart quarrying for Kaiga project sparks concern over wildlife corridors, landslides and water systems in...



Why in News

- Proposal to notify a **663.32 sq km Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** around the reserve.

Geographical Setting

- Located in **Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka**, within the **Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot.**
- Formed by **Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anshi National Park.**

Ecological Features

- Dominated by **semi-evergreen and moist deciduous forests with bamboo patches.**
- The **Kali River** flows through the reserve, supporting ecosystem diversity.

Biodiversity Significance

- Habitat for **tiger, elephant, leopard, black panther, and Great Indian Hornbill.**
- Represents one of the **richest faunal assemblages in the Western Ghats.**

KHANIJ BIDESH INDIA LIMITED (KABIL)

Why in News

- Received approval for **lithium exploration projects in Argentina.**

The Times of India

Khanij Bidesh gets environmental clearance from Argentine govt for deep exploration of five lithium

India News: NEW DELHI: State-owned Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has received environmental clearance from the Argentine govt for deep...



Institutional Profile

- Established in 2019 under Companies Act, 2013.
- Joint venture of NALCO (40%), HCL (30%), and MECL (30%).

Strategic Objective

- To secure **critical minerals like lithium and cobalt for India.**
- Functions under the **Ministry of Mines.**

Economic Relevance

- Supports **energy transition, battery manufacturing, and EV ecosystem.**
- Enhances **resource security and reduces import dependence.**



INDIA'S LITHIUM EXPEDITION

- India is dependent on China for lithium imports, total imports in FY23 were roughly **\$3 bn**
- Imports incurred costs of **₹25,000 crore** in FY23
- Agreement signed with Australia for exploring two lithium and three cobalt blocks in 2022
- Started bidding on November 29 for two blocks, including a **5.9 million** block in J&K
- In talks with Bolivia, Chile, and other nations for critical mineral extraction, development

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

WULAR LAKE

Hindustan Times

Restoration push: Silt, willow clearance breathes new life into Wular Lake | Hindustan Times



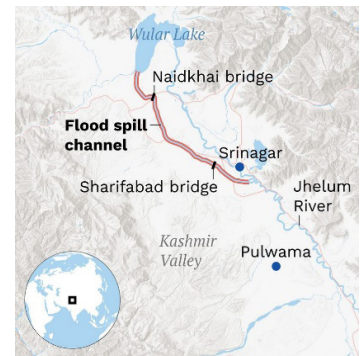
To revive the ecological health of Wular Lake—a Ramsar site and Asia's second-largest freshwater lake—authorities have successfully cleared...

Why in News

- Conservation efforts have improved **flood resilience and ecological health.**

Geographical Importance

- Located in **Bandipore district, Jammu & Kashmir.**
- It is the **largest freshwater lake in India.**



Hydrological Role


- Regulates flow of the **Jhelum River**, reducing flood risks.
- Area varies between **30–260 sq km depending on season.**

Environmental Status

- Designated as a **Ramsar Wetland (1990).**
- Supports **fisheries contributing ~60% of Kashmir Valley's fish production.**

Environ-
ment

NAGARJUNASAGAR–SRISAILAM TIGER RESERVE

 The New Indian Express

[Andhra Pradesh: Tiger enclosure project to resume in Nallamala](#)

Officials said the project, proposed two years ago, had stalled after initial work but will now restart with an estimated cost of Rs 80...



Why in News

- Plans to revive **tiger enclosure project for orphaned and injured cubs.**

Geographical Features

- Located in **Nallamala Hills of Andhra Pradesh.**
- River **Krishna** flows through the reserve.

Ecological Profile

- One of the **largest tiger reserves in India.**
- Comprises **Rajiv Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and Gundla Brahmeswaram Wildlife Sanctuary.**

Biodiversity

- Supports species like **tiger, leopard, wolf, wild dog, and chinkara.**
- Vegetation includes **tropical dry deciduous forests with bamboo undergrowth.**

Conservation Relevance

- Strengthens **tiger conservation and habitat management strategies in India.**

DIBRU-SAIKHOWA NATIONAL PARK

 The Times of India

[Forest guards make sure democracy roars louder than tigers in Dibru Saikhowa National Park](#)

Guwahati: As polling ended at the remote Laika and Dodhia polling stations inside Dibru Saikhowa National Park in upper Assam, armed forest...



Why in News

- Election teams were escorted through the park highlighting its remote location.

Geographical Features

- Located in **Dibrugarh and Tinsukia districts of Assam.**
- Bounded by **Brahmaputra and Lohit rivers in the north and Dibru River in the south.**

Ecological Importance

- It is both a **Biosphere Reserve and an Important Bird Area (IBA).**
- Hosts more than **382 bird species**, indicating high avian diversity.

Flora and Fauna

- Vegetation includes **semi-evergreen forests, deciduous forests, canebrakes, and grasslands.**
- Known for **salix swamp forests**, the largest in Northeast India.
- Habitat for species like **White-winged wood duck, Hoolock gibbon, and Gangetic dolphin.**

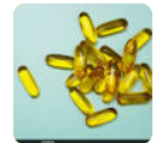
Health

VITAMIN D



Vitamin D Supplements: Who Really Needs Them?

New research and updated medical guidelines suggest most healthy adults do not need vitamin D supplements, with high doses carrying genuine...

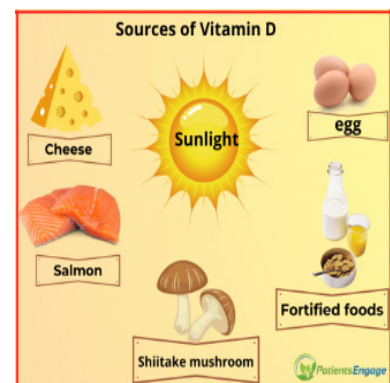


Why in News

- New research links **Vitamin D levels with long-term brain health.**



Biological Role

- It is a **fat-soluble vitamin (calciferol)** synthesized via **UV radiation exposure.**
- Stored in **body fat and released when sunlight is insufficient.**



Health Significance

- Essential for **calcium and phosphorus metabolism and bone health.**
- Supports **immune regulation, cell growth, and neuromuscular function.**

	<p>Deficiency and Risks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Causes rickets in children and osteomalacia in adults. ➤ Excess intake can lead to toxicity, kidney stones, and cardiac issues.
<p>Defence</p>	<p>EXERCISE DUSTLIK</p> <p> News On AIR</p> <p>Indian Army contingent departs for India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise</p> <p>An Indian Army contingent comprising 60 personnel departed today for the 7th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise,...</p>  <p>Why in News</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Indian Army contingent departed for the 7th edition of the exercise. <p>Strategic Dimensions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is a bilateral joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan. ➤ It strengthens defence cooperation, interoperability, and regional security engagement. <p>Operational Features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Conducted annually on a rotational basis between the two countries. ➤ Focuses on joint operations in semi-mountainous terrain conditions. ➤ Includes drills such as land navigation, strike operations, and area domination. <p>Institutional Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Involves troops from the MAHAR Regiment of Indian Army and personnel from the Indian Air Force. ➤ Enhances joint command and control coordination mechanisms.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

INDO-GANGETIC PLAIN HEAT CRISIS

Why in News

- **Record-breaking heatwaves in Uttar Pradesh and northern plains highlight a governance failure beyond climate change.**

 Down To Earth

The Indo-Gangetic Plain's heat crisis is a governance failure, not just a climate one

India's Indo-Gangetic Plain is facing a deadly heat crisis driven less by climate and more by governance failure. Explore how weak Heat...



Governance and Institutional Gaps

- Heatwaves persist despite existence of **Heat Action Plans (HAPs)** and scientific data.
- Lack of **vulnerability mapping** prevents targeted protection of high-risk groups.
- Absence of **last-mile implementation and accountability mechanisms** weakens response.

Disaster Management and Legal Constraints

- Heatwaves are not classified as a **notified disaster under the Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- States can use only **10% of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)** for heat-related events.
- **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)** support is unavailable for heatwaves.
- The **15th Finance Commission** did not include heatwaves despite rising mortality and risk.

Early Warning and Communication Failure

- **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** provides colour-coded alerts and **Heat Index** data.
- Alerts often fail to reach **informal workers and rural populations** in time.
- Lack of dissemination through **ASHA workers, ANMs, and Panchayati Raj institutions** reduces effectiveness.

Socio-Economic Impact

- Over **44,000 heatstroke cases** reported during extreme events.
- Informal workers face **income losses up to 40% during peak heatwaves**.
- Increasing **humidity levels** in Indo-Gangetic Plain intensify thermal stress beyond temperature readings.

Way Forward

- Integrate heat alerts into **local governance networks (ASHA, Panchayats)** for last-mile delivery.
- Notify heatwaves under **Disaster Management Act, 2005** to enable full financial support.
- Standardise public use of **Heat Index** alongside temperature for better risk communication.