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CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

***19th April 2026***

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Hussain Sagar Lake**
- 2. Borrowers' Platform**
- 3. River Basin Management Scheme**
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## HUSSAIN SAGAR LAKE

Telangana Today

### Hyderabad: Rising temperatures worsen stench around Hussain Sagar lake

Hussain Sagar lake is emitting a strong foul odour as rising summer temperatures trigger heavy algal bloom.



### Why in News

- Rising summer temperatures have triggered **algal bloom**, causing foul odour in the lake.

### Geographical and Historical Profile

- It is an **artificial lake in Hyderabad (Telangana)** located on a tributary of the **Musi River**.
- It was constructed in **1562 AD** during the reign of **Ibrahim Quli Qutb Shah**.
- It is named after **Hussain Shah Wali**, the chief engineer of the project.
- It spreads over **5.7 sq km**, making it one of Asia's largest man-made lakes.

### UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization)

- It is a specialized agency of the **United Nations** promoting **sustainable and responsible tourism**.
- Established in **1975** with headquarters in **Madrid, Spain**.
- It develops **global tourism policies, data, and standards**.
- It supports countries in achieving **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through tourism.

### Unique Features and Cultural Significance

- It is recognised as the **largest heart-shaped lake formation globally**.
- The **UNWTO** has termed it the **“Heart of the World”**.
- A **16 m high Buddha statue (350 tonnes)** is located at its centre.

### Environmental Concerns

- Untreated **sewage and industrial effluents** enter through nalas, causing pollution.
- **Eutrophication and algal blooms** indicate ecological degradation.

## BORROWERS' PLATFORM

### Why in News

- Developing countries launched the **Borrowers' Platform** at **IMF–World Bank Spring Meetings 2026**.

Down To Earth

Developing countries launch first-ever Borrowers' Platform in push to rebalance global finance

Developing countries have launched the first-ever Borrowers' Platform at the IMF–World Bank Spring Meetings 2026, creating a UNCTAD-backed...



## Institutional Framework

- It is a platform for **developing countries to coordinate on debt issues**.
- It includes **30 member countries including India**.
- The secretariat is supported by **UNCTAD**.

## Functional Features

- It enables **knowledge sharing and collective representation** in debt discussions.
- It is **not meant for debt restructuring negotiations**.

## Economic Significance

- It addresses rising global debt of **\$11.7 trillion (2024)** in developing countries.
- It strengthens **debt management capacity and negotiation power**.

# RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SCHEME



## Press Note Details

The RBM Scheme promotes basin-level planning to ensure sustainable use, protection, and development of surface and groundwater resources.



## Why in News

- The scheme has improved **water resource planning across river basins**.



## Institutional Structure

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme under Ministry of Jal Shakti**.
- It is implemented through **CWC (Central Water Commission), NWDA, and Brahmaputra Board**.

## Functional Objectives

- It promotes **integrated basin-level planning of water resources**.
- It supports **survey, investigation, and multipurpose project planning**.



## Financial and Policy Aspects

- It has an outlay of **₹2183 crore (2026–31)** under **16th Finance Commission**.
- It ensures **sustainable use of surface and groundwater resources**.
- It aligns with **Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)** approach.

## CHENCHU TRIBE

THE Hindu

### Relocation fear returns to haunt Amrabad's particularly vulnerable Chenchu tribe

Amrabad's Chenchu tribe faces forced relocation amid rising tiger populations, threatening their traditional lifestyle and survival.



## Why in News

- Chenchu tribals opposed relocation from **Amrabad Tiger Reserve** citing livelihood concerns.

## Tribal Classification and Location

- It is a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)**.
- Found mainly in **Nallamalai forests (Andhra Pradesh)**.

## Socio-Cultural Structure

- Their village is called **"Penta"**.
- The village head is known as **"Peddamanishi"**.
- They follow **egalitarian gender roles** compared to other tribal groups.

## Livelihood Patterns

- They depend on **forest produce like honey, tamarind, and tubers**.
- Their economy is largely **subsistence-based**.

## Governance Issues

- The issue relates to **Forest Conservation vs Tribal Rights conflict** under **FRA 2006**.

## PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REGULATORY BOARD (PNGRB)

## Why in News

THE Hindu

### PNGRB nears concluding of bids for four LPG pipelines

Seeking to further strengthen the infrastructure of liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and imbibe a provision of their storage through pipeline...



- PNGRB initiated bidding for **LPG pipeline infrastructure expansion**.

Legal and Institutional Basis	Regulatory Functions	Powers and Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It is a <b>statutory body under PNGRB Act, 2006.</b></li> <li>➤ It functions under the <b>Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It regulates <b>refining, storage, transport, distribution, and marketing</b> of petroleum products.</li> <li>➤ It excludes <b>exploration and production of crude oil and gas.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ It has <b>quasi-judicial powers</b> under Section 12 of the Act.</li> <li>➤ It can <b>adjudicate disputes and conduct investigations.</b></li> </ul>

### Sectoral Significance

- It promotes **competitive markets and consumer protection** in energy sector.

## WORLD ANTI-DOPING AGENCY (WADA)



["Government to Introduce Criminal Provisions Against People Involved in Trafficking and Administration of Prohibited Substances": Union Sports Minister, Dr. Mansukh...](#)



"Government to Introduce Criminal Provisions Against People Involved in Trafficking and Administration of Prohibited Substances": Union...

### Why in News

- India participated in **WADA's Global Anti-Doping Intelligence Network Conference.**



**world anti-doping agency**

### Institutional Overview

- It was established in **1999** with headquarters in **Montreal, Canada.**

### Core Functions

- It develops and enforces **global anti-doping standards.**
- It conducts **research, education, and compliance monitoring.**

### Governance Structure

- The **Foundation Board (42 members)** is the highest policy body.
- The **Executive Committee (16 members)** handles operations.

### Global Relevance

- It ensures **fair play and integrity in international sports.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News	AUSTRIA
	<p> News On AIR</p> <p><b>PM Modi, Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker hold delegation-level talks, sign key agreements</b></p> <p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi today held talks with Austrian Chancellor Dr Christian Stocker in New Delhi today. During the meeting, India...</p>

## WHY IN NEWS

- **India and Austria** signed agreements to deepen cooperation across sectors.

### Geographical Profile

- It is a **landlocked country in Central Europe** with capital **Vienna**.
- Around **70% of its area is covered by the Alps**.
- The **Danube River** is its most significant river system.



### Political and Social Structure

- It follows a **federal parliamentary republic system**.
- The **Chancellor** is the head of government and the **President** is head of state.
- German is the **official language**, with recognized minorities.

### Historical Significance

- It was part of the **Austro-Hungarian Empire (1867–1918)**.
- Vienna emerged as a hub of **classical music and European culture**.

### Strategic Relevance for India

- Austria offers cooperation in **technology, defence, and education sectors**.

## ZAMBIA

### Why in News

- India's talks with Zambia on **critical minerals mining** have stalled.

### Geographical Profile

- It is a **landlocked country in South-Central Africa** with capital **Lusaka**.
- Major river is the **Zambezi River**.



### Natural Resource Endowment

- It is rich in **copper, cobalt, uranium, gold, and emeralds**.

### Strategic Importance

- It is significant for **India's critical mineral security**.

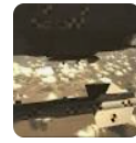
Defence

## ASTRA MK-2 MISSILE

Defence.in

[DRDO Validates Longer-Ranged Astra Mk2 as Su-30MKI Fighter Integration Approaches Final Completion Stages](#)

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has achieved a major breakthrough with its next-generation Astra Mk2...



### Why in News

- India plans to integrate **Astra Mk-2** with **Mirage 2000 jets** for enhanced air combat capability.

### Technological Characteristics

- It is a **Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile** developed by **DRDO**.
- It uses a **dual-pulse solid rocket motor** for extended strike capability.
- It has a range of **200–240 km (high altitude conditions)**.



### Advanced Systems Integration

- It is equipped with an **indigenous seeker by BEL with ECCM capability**.
- It includes a **two-way datalink** for mid-course guidance updates.

### Strategic Significance

- It enhances **India’s aerial superiority and deterrence capacity**.
- It reduces dependence on foreign missile systems, supporting **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- It has potential as an **export defence product** to friendly countries.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### THARU TRIBE

#### Why in News

- **Allahabad High Court** set aside rejection of **community forest rights claims** of Tharu tribe.

LawTrend

[Allahabad High Court Quashes Order Rejecting Tharu Tribe's Forest Rights, Directs Fresh Hearing in Lakhimpur Kheri Case](#)

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court has set aside a district-level committee's decision to reject the community forest rights...



## Demographic and Legal Status

- It is a **Scheduled Tribe (since 1967)** residing in the **Terai region**.
- Found mainly in **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Bihar**.



## Socio-Cultural Features

- They speak **Tharu/Tharuhati (Indo-Aryan language)**.
- Their traditional houses are called **“Badaghar”**.
- They follow a **joint family system and strong Panchayat structure**.

## Economic Practices

- Their livelihood includes **agriculture, fishing, forest produce collection**.
- Their diet mainly includes **rice, lentils, and vegetables**.

## Governance Linkages

- The case relates to implementation of **Forest Rights Act, 2006** ensuring tribal rights.