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**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

1st April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Bhavasagara Referral Centre**
- 2. 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste Initiative**
- 3. Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)**
- 4. PM E-DRIVE Scheme**
- 5. Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme**
- 6. Jan Samarth Portal**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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BHAVASAGARA REFERRAL CENTRE



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Press Release Page | Press Information Bureau

3 days ago — The “Bhavasagara” Referral Centre currently serves as a vital scientific hub, housing an extensive collection of over 3,500 taxonomically ... [Read more](#)

Why in News

- The **MoEFCC** designated the **Bhavasagara Referral Centre** as a **National Repository for Deep-Sea Fauna**.



Legal and Institutional Framework

- It is recognized under the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002**.
- It functions under the **Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)**.
- It supports India’s commitments under the **UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021–2030)**.

Scientific and Ecological Significance

- It preserves **over 3,500 geo-referenced marine specimens** including **cnidarians, molluscs, arthropods, echinoderms**.
- It maintains **DNA data and voucher specimens** for scientific validation.
- It acts as the official custodian of **type specimens of newly discovered species**.

About Centre for Marine Living Resources & Ecology (CMLRE)

- It is a research institute under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**, established in **1998**, located in **Kochi**.
- It studies **marine biodiversity and resources in India’s EEZ**.
- It runs the **MLR Programme**, operates **FORV Sagar Sampada**, and maintains the **IndO-BIS database**.

Capacity Building and Governance

Dimensions

- It promotes expertise in **deep-sea taxonomy and marine biodiversity research**.
- It strengthens **evidence-based marine conservation policy making**.
- It supports India’s role in **deep-sea exploration and blue economy initiatives**.

20 CITIES TOWARDS ZERO WASTE INITIATIVE

UN Advisory Board names 20 city leaders in zero waste

Why in News

- **Varkala (Kerala)** was selected under the global **20 Cities Towards Zero Waste Initiative**.

Global Environmental Governance

- The initiative is led by the **UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste**.
- It is supported by **UN-Habitat** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- **UNEP (1972, HQ: Nairobi)** coordinates global environmental policies and treaties like **CBD, CITES, Minamata Convention**.


About International Day of Zero Waste

- It is observed annually on **30 March**, declared by the **UN General Assembly (2022)**.
- It is led by **UNEP** and **UN-Habitat** to promote **zero waste and circular economy practices**.
- It focuses on **waste reduction through reuse, recycling, and sustainable consumption**.
- It highlights impacts of waste on **climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss**.

Urban Sustainability and Circular Economy

- It promotes **waste reduction, recycling, and circular economy models** in cities.
- It supports development of **resilient and inclusive urban ecosystems**.

CONVENTION ON MIGRATORY SPECIES (CMS)

 Down To Earth

CMS COP15 ends in Brazil with 40 new species being accorded protection

CMS COP15 in Brazil ends with 40 new migratory species, including cheetah, striped hyena, snowy owl and giant otter, gaining protection amid...



Why in News

- At **COP15 of CMS**, around **40 new species** were added to protected lists.

International Legal Framework

- CMS is also known as the **Bonn Convention (1979)** under **UNEP**.

- It is the only global treaty focusing exclusively on **migratory species conservation**.
- The **Conference of Parties (COP)** is its decision-making body.

Conservation Mechanisms

- **Appendix I** includes endangered species with strict protection obligations.
- **Appendix II** includes species requiring **international cooperative agreements**.
- It enables **legally binding Agreements and non-binding MoUs** among countries.

Ecological and Strategic Importance

- It ensures conservation of **transboundary species across terrestrial, aquatic, and avian ecosystems**.
- It highlights need for **international cooperation in biodiversity governance**.

PM E-DRIVE SCHEME

TH The Hindu

Government revises PM e-DRIVE scheme, sets new deadlines for e-scooters, e-rickshaws

Government updates PM e-DRIVE scheme with new deadlines and caps for e-scooters and e-rickshaws to enhance electric vehicle adoption.



Why in News

- Subsidies for **electric vehicles (EVs)** were extended under the **PM E-DRIVE Scheme**.

Policy Design and Institutional Mechanism

- Launched in **October 2024** by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**.
- It is monitored by the **Project Implementation and Sanctioning Committee (PISC)**.
- It mandates compliance with **Central Motor Vehicle Rules (CMVR)** for eligibility.

Economic and Industrial Impact

- It provides **demand incentives for e-2W, e-3W, e-trucks, e-ambulances**.
- It promotes **domestic EV manufacturing and integration with global supply chains**.
- It generates **employment through EV ecosystem development**.

Cabinet Decision: 11th September, 2024

PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)

Cabinet approves PM E-DRIVE Scheme' for promotion of electric mobility in the country with outlay of Rs 10,900 crore for 2 years

Components of the scheme:

- Subsidies/Demand incentives worth Rs.3,679 crore to incentivize e-2Ws, e-3Ws, e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs
- E-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme
- Allocation of Rs.500 crore for the deployment of e-ambulances
- Provision of Rs.4,391 crore for procurement of 14,028 e-buses by STUs/public transport agencies

Infrastructure and Governance Dimensions

- It funds **charging infrastructure and electric bus procurement**.
- States are encouraged to offer **tax waivers, toll reductions, and permit relaxations**.
- It enhances **ease of adoption through fiscal and non-fiscal incentives**.

Environmental Significance and Way Forward

- It reduces carbon emissions and urban air pollution.
- Long-term success **requires battery recycling ecosystem and renewable energy integration**.

ELECTRONICS COMPONENT MANUFACTURING SCHEME



Government approves 29 more proposals under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS)

Government approves 29 more proposals under the Electronics Component Manufacturing Scheme (ECMS). With projected investment of Rs 7,104...



Why in News

- Government approved applications under the **fourth tranche of the scheme**.

Industrial Policy Framework

- It is a **Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme** for **passive electronic components**.
- It complements the **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** for active components.

Economic and Strategic Importance

- It aims to integrate India into **Global Value Chains (GVCs)**.
- It supports sectors like **automobiles, consumer electronics, and telecom**.
- It reduces dependence on **imports of critical electronic components**.

Incentive Structure and Implementation

- It offers **turnover-linked, capex-linked, and hybrid incentives (1–10%)**.
- It mandates **employment generation for eligibility**.
- The scheme has a **6-year tenure with 1-year gestation period**.

ELECTRONICS MANUFACTURING COMPONENT SCHEME

- Developing a robust component manufacturing ecosystem in India
- Inviting global & domestic investments
- Integrating domestic electronic industry with Global Value Chains
- Offering differentiated fiscal incentives

Scheme to generate direct employment of 91,600 during scheme tenure

Scan to know more

JAN SAMARTH PORTAL

DD News

Jan Samarth Portal Processes Over ₹1 Lakh Crore in Loan Applications

The government's Jan Samarth portal has processed more than 41 lakh loan applications amounting to ₹1,06,306 crore since its launch,...



Why in News

- Over **41 lakh applications worth ₹1.06 lakh crore** processed through the portal.

Governance and Digital Infrastructure

- Launched on **6 June 2022** as a **single-window digital platform**.
- It integrates **15 credit-linked government schemes** and **254 lending institutions**.
- It aligns with **Digital India and financial inclusion goals**.

Functional Features

- It provides **24/7 loan application and tracking facility**.
- It uses **automated rule-based approval systems** for in-principle sanction.
- It offers **multilingual support and grievance redressal mechanisms**.

Economic and Social Impact

- It improves **credit accessibility for MSMEs, students, and entrepreneurs**.
- It reduces **transaction costs and physical interface with banks**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

KARIBA DAM

Down To Earth

500 MW Floating Solar Plant Project at Kariba Dam to boost power supply for Zimbabwe

Discover how a 500MW floating solar plant at Kariba Dam will boost Zimbabwe's power supply, support mining and industry, cut emissions,...



Why in News

- A **500 MW floating solar project** is planned at **Kariba Dam (Zimbabwe-Zambia)**.

Geographical and Hydrological Features

- Built on the **Zambezi River**, Africa's **4th longest river**.
- Completed in **1959**, forming **Lake Kariba**, the largest man-made lake by volume.
- It is a **double-curvature concrete arch dam (128 m high)**.

Strategic and Energy Significance

- It provides **hydroelectric power to Zambia and Zimbabwe**.
- It supports regional energy security and **cross-border cooperation**.

Environ-
ment

NAVEGAON-NAGZIRA TIGER RESERVE (NNTR)

ThePrint

Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve to get control of buffer notified area from Apr 1

Gondia, Mar 30 (PTI) Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra's Gondia will get control of the buffer notified area in its...



Why in News

- The reserve will gain control over its **buffer notified area** from April 2026.

Geographical and Ecological Features

- Located in **Maharashtra**, part of the **Central Indian Tiger Landscape**.
- Declared a tiger reserve in **2013 (5th in Maharashtra)**.
- Vegetation type is **Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest**.

NEED FOR UNIFIED CONTROL

- Buffer acts as a cushion for the core of tiger reserves. **Human settlements in buffer leads to man-animal conflict** and overuse of resources
- The 1,241 sq.km. buffer of NNTR was notified on September 7, 2016. It includes 648 sq.km. of forests, 593 sq.km. of revenue area and 186 villages
- Unified control of buffer with tiger reserve is **mandatory as per the amended Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**



No unified control means losing NTCA grants

Biodiversity Significance

- It hosts species like **Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Gaur, Pangolin.**
- It has **364 plant species** including **Terminalia tomentosa** and **Pterocarpus marsupium.**
- It acts as a corridor linking **Kanha, Pench, and Tadoba reserves.**

Governance and Conservation Implications

- Buffer control improves **human-wildlife conflict management.**
- It strengthens implementation of the **Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.**

Defence

AGRAY – ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT (ASW SWC)



DELIVERY OF AGRAY – THE FOURTH ANTI-SUBMARINE WARFARE SHALLOW WATER CRAFT BUILT BY GRSE, KOLKATA



'Agray', the fourth of eight ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach...

Why in News

- The indigenously built **Agray ASW SWC** was recently delivered to the **Indian Navy.**

Strategic Defence Significance

- The vessel enhances **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** and **mine warfare capabilities** in coastal areas.
- It strengthens **maritime security** amid increasing submarine presence in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**
- It contributes to **coastal surveillance** and **low-intensity maritime conflict preparedness.**

Design and Built by -

- It is designed and built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata.**
- It complies with standards of the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).**
- It aligns with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.**

Technological Features

- It is the **largest Indian naval warship using waterjet propulsion technology.**
- It is equipped with **lightweight torpedoes and indigenous rocket launchers** for underwater combat.
- It has advanced **shallow water SONAR systems** for detection of submarines in littoral zones.

INS DUNAGIRI

PIB

INDIGENOUS STEALTH FRIGATE 'DUNAGIRI' DELIVERED TO INDIAN NAVY – A MAJOR BOOST TO AATMANIRBHARTA IN WARSHIP BUILDING

Dunagiri (Yard 3023), the fifth ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A) and second of the class built at Garden Reach Shipbuilding and Engineers...



Why in News

- **INS Dunagiri**, a stealth frigate, was delivered to the **Indian Navy.**

Defence Modernisation and Design

- It is the **5th ship of Nilgiri-class (Project 17A).**
- It is designed by the **Warship Design Bureau (WDB).**
- Built by **GRSE**, reflecting **indigenous shipbuilding capability.**



Combat and Technological Features

- It uses **CODOG propulsion (diesel + gas turbine)** with **Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP).**
- It is equipped with **BrahMos SSM, MRSAM, MFSTAR radar, torpedoes.**
- It includes **Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS)** for automation.

Strategic Significance

- It enhances **blue-water naval capability and maritime dominance.**
- It strengthens India's position in **Indo-Pacific strategic architecture.**

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

NOIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JEWAR AIRPORT) – PHASE I

 News On AIR

PM Modi inaugurates Noida International Airport Phase I at Jewar



Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated the first phase of Noida International Airport at Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of...

Why in News

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **Phase-I of Noida International Airport (Jewar)** in **Uttar Pradesh**.

Strategic and Connectivity Significance

- It is a **greenfield airport** at **Jewar (Gautam Buddha Nagar)** to boost **North India connectivity**.
- It will reduce congestion at **Delhi-NCR airports** and strengthen **multi-modal transport integration**.

Economic and Logistics Impact

- Developed with an investment of about **₹11,200 crore**.
- Located near **Dadri freight hub**, linking **EDFC and WDFC corridors**.
- It will enhance **exports, logistics efficiency, and integration with GVCs**.

Governance and Institutional Framework

- Developed by **Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (YIAPL)** under **PPP model**.
- YIAPL is a subsidiary of **Zurich Airport International AG**, reflecting **FDI in infrastructure**.

Aviation Ecosystem and Regional Growth

- Planned **MRO facility** will reduce dependence on foreign maintenance services.
- Uttar Pradesh now has multiple international airports like **Lucknow, Varanasi, Kushinagar, Ayodhya, and Jewar**.
- Improve **last-mile connectivity** and adopt **green airport standards** for sustainability.