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**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

22nd April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Jute Crop**
- 2. Salween River**
- 3. Vishwa Sutra Initiative**
- 4. SMILE Scheme**
- 5. Market Intervention Scheme (MIS)**
- 6. International Air Transport Association (IATA)**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**
- 8. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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JUTE CROP

News On AIR

Govt reduces Jute Stock Limits for Raw Jute Traders, Balers to zero



The government has reduced Jute Stock Limits for Raw Jute Traders and Balers to zero. The stock limits have been revised to ensure fair distribution and...

Why in News

- The government reduced **jute stock limits to zero** for traders and balers to control supply distortions.

Agro-Climatic Requirements

- Jute requires **humid tropical climate** with **40–90% relative humidity** for optimal growth.
- It grows best in **fertile alluvial loamy soils**, though adaptable to varied soil types.
- Ideal temperature ranges between **17°C to 41°C** with **>1200 mm well-distributed rainfall**.
- The crop is generally **sown in February and harvested by October**, maturing in 8–10 months.

GOVERNMENT REDUCES JUTE STOCK LIMITS FOR JUTE TRADERS AND BALERS

Aimed to improve availability of raw jute and protect interests of workers

JUTE STOCK LIMITS

- Balers (with press): Max 1,200 quintals
- Other stockists: Max 25 quintals
- Unregistered traders: Max 5 quintals
- Jute mills: Stock up to 45 days' consumption

REGULATORY INSTRUCTIONS

- Fortnightly stock declaration mandatory on Jute SMART Portal
- Excess stock to be reduced within 10 days of order
- Compliance report to be submitted by 10 Feb 2026
- Total stock at one premises (even under multiple names) must stay within prescribed limits

ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE

- Inspection of premises and records authorized
- Excess stock liable for seizure
- State Governments to assist in enforcement
- Strict action under Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- Penalties for violation, confiscation & false declarations

Production Geography

- Over **99% of production** is concentrated in **West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Odisha, and Andhra Pradesh**.
- **West Bengal contributes ~81%**, making it the dominant producer.
- Delta regions with fertile alluvium provide favourable conditions for cultivation.

Economic and Institutional Dimensions

- Jute is the **second most important fibre crop after cotton** in India.
- It is called the **“Golden Fibre”** due to its economic value and sheen.
- The **Jute Corporation of India (JCI)** acts as the nodal agency for **MSP operations**.
- It is used in eco-friendly products like **gunny bags, ropes, carpets, and tarpaulins**.

Policy Relevance

- Reduction in stock limits aims to stabilize **prices and supply chains**.
- Promotion aligns with **sustainable and biodegradable fibre policies**.

SALWEEN RIVER

TOI The Times of India

Asia's longest uninterrupted river poisoned by arsenic –
What is the reason behind the contamination?

Trending News: Rivers have sustained civilizations for millennia, carving paths through mountains and valleys, while nurturing ecosystems...



Why in News

- Reports indicate **arsenic pollution** due to unregulated mining in **Myanmar's Shan State**.

Geographical Characteristics

- The river originates in the **Tibetan Plateau (~4000 m)** and flows **~2400 km**.
- It traverses **China (Yunnan), Myanmar, and Thailand**, draining into the **Gulf of Martaban (Andaman Sea)**.
- It flows parallel to **Mekong and Yangtze**, forming the **“Three Parallel Rivers” UNESCO World Heritage Site (2003)**.



Hydrological and Ecological Features

- It is the **longest free-flowing (undammed) river in Southeast Asia**.
- The basin hosts **200+ fish species**, with high endemism.
- It supports **over 25% of global species diversity** and **50% of China's fauna**.

Socio-Economic Importance

- Around **10 million people** depend on the basin.
- It supports diverse ethnic groups like **Shan, Karen, Wa, Lisu, and Hmong**.
- Key use includes **floating teak logs** in Myanmar.

Environmental Concerns

- Mining-induced pollution threatens **biodiversity and human health**.
- Limited navigability restricts economic development but preserves ecology.

VISHWA SUTRA INITIATIVE

Why in News

- Ministry of Textiles launched **“Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World”**.

News On AIR

Textiles Ministry launches 'Vishwa Sutra' to promote Indian handlooms globally

The Ministry of Textiles has launched an initiative called 'Vishwa Sutra – Weaves of India for the World'. A designer collection based on...



Institutional Framework

- Implemented by **Development Commissioner (Handlooms)** with NIFT.
- Covers **30 handloom weaves representing different states.**

Design and Innovation Aspects

- Integrates Indian weaves with **global design inspirations from 30 countries.**
- Examples include **Odisha Ikat–Greek, Kanchipuram–Norwegian, Patola–Spanish.**

Economic and Cultural Significance

- Promotes **“Vocal for Local to Global”** strategy.
- Supports **5F Framework: Farm → Fibre → Factory → Fashion → Foreign.**

Policy Relevance

- Enhances **export competitiveness of handlooms.**
- Preserves **traditional craftsmanship with modern adaptation.**

SMILE SCHEME



From Margins to Mainstream

Key Takeaways. For 2021-2026, ₹390 crore was allotted by the government for the SMILE scheme. 31,055 individuals identified and 9,935...



Why in News

- **₹390 crore allocated for 2021–26 period** under the scheme.

Scheme Architecture

- Full form: **Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise.**
- Launched in **2022 by Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**
- Includes sub-schemes for **Transgender persons** and **beggars' rehabilitation.**



Key Features

- Provides **scholarships from Class IX to postgraduate level.**
- Ensures **skill development via PM-DAKSH scheme.**
- Offers **medical support under PM-JAY including gender-affirmation surgery.**

Institutional Support Mechanisms

- Establishes **Garima Greh (shelter homes)** for transgender persons.
- Creates **Transgender Protection Cells** in states.
- Provides **National Portal and Helpline** services.

Governance Significance

- Promotes **inclusive welfare and social justice** under **Article 14 and 21** principles.

MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME (MIS)

TH The Hindu

Centre's potato procurement price is just half of input cost, allege farmers' bodies

Farmers protest Centre's potato procurement price of ₹6.5/kg, claiming it's below their input cost of ₹12/kg.



Why in News

- Government approved procurement of **20 LMT potatoes under MIS**.

Scheme Framework

- Part of **PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan)**.
- Targets **perishable crops without MSP** like tomato, onion, potato.

Operational Conditions

- Activated when **prices fall $\geq 10\%$ below normal levels**.
- Procurement limited to **25% of total production**.

Financial Mechanism

- Loss sharing: **50:50 Centre-State, 75:25 for NE states**.
- Implemented by **Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare**.

Economic Significance

- Prevents **distress sale by farmers**.
- Stabilizes **agricultural markets during glut situations**.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND FARMERS WELFARE

MARKET INTERVENTION SCHEME (MIS)

Making Procurement System for Farmers Easier

- Procurement of Agricultural and Horticultural Commodities which are Perishable in nature & not covered under Price Support System (PSS)
- Protecting the growers of these commodities in the event of a bumper crop during the peak arrival period

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INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION (IATA)

TH The Hindu

Need to prioritise biofuels for aviation: IATA

Indian aviation's clean fuel transition must hinge on treating mobility as one integrated system and allocating limited feedstocks more...



Why in News

- IATA report highlights **India's role in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)** supply.

Institutional Profile

- Founded in **1945 (Havana, Cuba)**.
- Headquarters: **Montreal, Canada**.
- Represents **350 airlines across 126 countries (~82% global traffic)**.



Functional Domains

- Develops **global aviation standards and procedures**.
- Regulates **transport of dangerous and perishable goods**.
- Provides **financial settlement systems for airlines**.

Global Governance Context

- Works alongside **ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization)**.
- Acts as **industry standard-setting body**, not regulator.

Strategic Relevance

- Facilitates **safe, efficient, and sustainable air transport**.
- Supports transition to **SAF and decarbonization goals**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in
News

UMIAM LAKE

NENow.in

Umiam Lake

The agreement with Umiam Hotel Pvt Ltd, associated with the Taj group, will be revised to reflect the change, officials said. (File Photo/Umiam Lake).



Why in News

- Meghalaya excluded **Lumpondeng Island** from tourism project after protests.

Geographical Profile

- Located **15 km north of Shillong** in **East Khasi Hills**.
- It is a **man-made reservoir (1965)**.

Hydrological Features

- Created under **Umiam Umtru Hydroelectric Project**.
- Formed by damming **Umiam River (tributary of Brahmaputra)**.
- Catchment area spans ~220 sq km.

<p style="text-align: center;">Infrastructure Details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dam length: 2200 ft, height: 95 ft. ➤ Installed capacity: 60 MW (4 turbines). 	<p style="text-align: center;">Economic and Environmental Relevance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Key site for hydropower and water supply. ➤ Important for tourism and water sports.
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Health

SCARLET FEVER

 India Today

700-year-old mummy's tooth reveals ancient disease that killed thousands

A single tooth from a mummified skull found in Bolivia is forcing scientists to rethink one of history's most enduring medical assumptions.



Why in News

- DNA evidence shows **Group A Streptococcus** existed in **pre-colonial Americas**.

Etiology and Transmission

- It is caused by **Group A Streptococci bacteria**, same as **strep throat**.
- It spreads via **respiratory droplets (coughing/sneezing)**.

Clinical Features

- Characterized by **bright red rash**, **high fever**, and **sore throat**.
- Additional symptoms include **“strawberry tongue”**, nausea, and swollen glands.

Risk and Complications

- Common in **children aged 5–15 years**.
- Untreated infection may affect **heart (rheumatic fever) and kidneys**.

Treatment and Prevention

- Treated with **antibiotics (Penicillin)**; symptoms reduce within 24 hours.
- **No vaccine** is available; reinfection is possible.

HSC Public Health Agency

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet fever is a contagious infection that mostly affects young children, and is easily treated with antibiotics.

Call your GP practice if you or your child has the following symptoms:



Defence

R-37M MISSILE

R Republic World

Russia Approves R-37 Missile For India: IAF Sukhoi 30 MKI Upgrades

The Indian Air Force (IAF) may soon equip its Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter jets with Russia's most advanced R-37M (RVV-BD) missile, a game-changing...

**Why in News**

- Russia approved sale of **R-37M long-range air-to-air missile** to India.

Technical Specifications

- Known as **NATO: AA-13 Axehead**, designed for **BVR (Beyond Visual Range)** combat.
- Range: **300–400 km**, making it one of the longest-range AAMs.
- Speed reaches **Mach 6 (hypersonic)**.
- Equipped with **60 kg high-explosive fragmentation warhead**.

Guidance and Operation

- Uses **inertial navigation + mid-course datalink + active radar homing**.
- Employs **lofted trajectory** to maximize range and efficiency.

Strategic Significance

- Called "**AWACS Killer**" as it targets high-value assets like **radar aircraft and tankers**.
- Compatible with **Su-30MKI**, enhancing **IAF air superiority**.

Defence Implications

- Strengthens India's **BVR combat capability**.
- Enhances deterrence in **modern aerial warfare ecosystems**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS**NAVAYUG PALIKA YOJANA**

Jagran

योगी सरकार की 'नवयुग पालिका योजना' से 58 नगरीय निकाय होंगे स्मार्ट, इन निकायों का हुआ चयन

मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ की अध्यक्षता में कैबिनेट ने 'नवयुग पालिका योजना' को मंजूरी दी है। इसके तहत 17 नगर निगमों को छोड़कर 58 जिला मुख्यालयों के नगरीय निकायों को स्मार्ट बनाया जाएगा।

**Why in News**

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** launched the **₹2,915 crore Navayug Palika Yojana** to strengthen infrastructure in smaller urban centres.

Financial and Institutional Framework

- The scheme involves **₹2,915 crore investment over five years (till 2029–30)**.
- Around **₹583 crore will be spent annually** for planned development.
- It is **fully state-funded**, with no **Central government contribution**.

Coverage and Focus Areas

- It targets **58 district headquarters** outside major municipal corporations.
- It focuses on **nagar palikas and nagar panchayats** for urban upgradation.

Infrastructure and Governance Measures

- It includes **roads, drainage, smart lighting, water supply, and waste management**.
- It promotes **digital governance and e-services** for better service delivery.

Strategic Significance

- It supports **balanced urbanisation and reduces migration pressure on metros**.
- It contributes to the goal of making UP a **\$1 trillion economy**.