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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

25th April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Lower Lake (Bhopal)**
- 2. New Species of Dragonflies**
- 3. Lower Arun Hydropower Project**
- 4. Srivilliputhur–Meghamalai Tiger Reserve**
- 5. Kendu Leaf**
- 6. NAMASTE Scheme**
- 7. Other Important News of the day**

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**
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LOWER LAKE (BHOPAL)

 The Times of India

Lower Lake 'decline': NGT now asks MPPCB to submit report

Bhopal: After multiple orders and directions on Upper Lake encroachments and degradation, the NGT has now turned its attention to the Lower...



Why in News

- The **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** directed **MP Pollution Control Board (MPPCB)** to conduct inspection with **geo-tagged photographic evidence**.

Geographical Profile

- **Lower Lake (Chhota Talaab)** is a **man-made urban lake** located in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh**.
- It lies **east of Upper Lake (Bada Talaab)** and is separated by **Pul Pukhta bridge**.
- The lake covers **1.29 sq. km** area with a **catchment area of 9.6 sq. km**.



Hydrological Linkages

- It receives **subsurface seepage from Upper Lake**, lacking independent inflow channels.
- It drains into **Patra rivulet** → **Halali River** → **Betwa River (tributary of Yamuna basin)**.
- Along with Upper Lake, it forms **Bhoj Wetland**, designated a **Ramsar Site (2002)**.

Governance and Environmental Concerns

- Faces issues like **eutrophication, sewage inflow, and encroachment** due to urbanization.
- Falls under **Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017** for protection.
- Requires integrated **urban water management and pollution control mechanisms**.

Functional Significance

- Constructed in **1794** by **Chote Khan** during **Nawab rule of Bhopal**.
- Supplies **drinking water to ~40% of Bhopal's population**, indicating urban dependency.

NEW SPECIES OF DRAGONFLIES

EastMojo

Three dragonfly species discovered in Northeast

Scientists have discovered three new species of dragonflies in Northeast India, including one from a forest trail in Assam and two from a...



Why in News

- Discovery of **three new species of dragonflies in Northeast India**, indicating biodiversity richness.



Taxonomic and Morphological Features

- Dragonflies belong to **order Odonata**, suborder **Anisoptera**.
- They possess **compound eyes with ~30,000 ommatidia**, enabling **panoramic vision**.
- Their **elongated abdomen and strong thorax muscles** enable agile flight.

Newly Identified Species

- **Clouded Boghawker (Sarasaeschna nuboides)** found in **Siang Valley, Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Siang Boghawker (Sarasaeschna sigotaayo)** observed near **forest wetland habitats**.
- **Long-tailed Boghawker (Sarasaeschna dosdewaensis)** discovered in **Karimganj (Assam)**.

Ecological and Evolutionary Significance

- Dragonflies are **indicator species of freshwater ecosystem health**.
- They evolved **over 100 million years ago**, predating dinosaurs.
- Their larvae (nymphs) are **aquatic and crucial for aquatic food chains**.
- Northeast India is part of **Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot**.
- Habitat loss and pollution threaten **odonate diversity and freshwater ecosystems**.

LOWER ARUN HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Why in News

- Contract awarded to **Patel Engineering (₹1,593 crore)** for project execution.

BS Business Standard

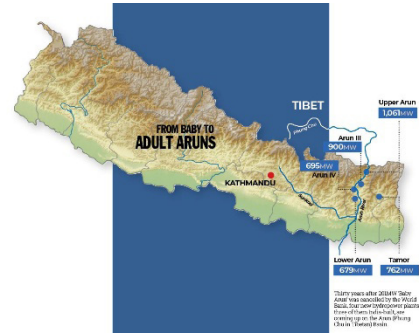
[Patel Engineering gains after emerging as L1 bidder for Rs 1,593-cr Nepal hydro project](#)

Patel Engineering gained 1.16% to Rs 28.70 after the company was declared the lowest bidder (L1) for a Rs 1593.08 crore contract for the...

BS

Project Specifications

- A **679 MW run-of-river hydropower project** on **Arun River (Koshi basin)**.
- Located in **Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur districts of Nepal**.
- Annual generation capacity: **~2970 million units (MU)**.



Institutional Framework

- Developed by **SJVN (Ministry of Power CPSU)** and **Investment Board Nepal**.
- Based on **BOOT model**, ensuring long-term operational control before transfer.

Strategic and Economic Significance

- Strengthens **India–Nepal hydropower cooperation and energy security**.
- Facilitates **cross-border electricity trade via Dhalkebar–Muzaffarpur transmission line**.
- Complements **Arun-3 (900 MW)**, enhancing cascade hydropower efficiency.

Sustainability Aspects

- Being **run-of-river**, it avoids large reservoirs and reduces displacement.
- Supports **renewable energy targets and low-carbon development pathway**.

SRIVILLIPUTHUR–MEGHAMALAI TIGER RESERVE

ETV Bharat

Tamil Nadu Elections 2026: Special Polling Booth Set Up For Five Voters In Meghamalai Tiger Reserve, Four Cast Votes

The polling station was established in the remote Vellimalai area, part of the Srivilliputhur-Meghamalai Tiger Reserve.



Why in News

- Election Commission established a **polling station within the reserve**, ensuring democratic access.

Ecological and Strategic Location

- Located in **Western Ghats (UNESCO World Heritage Site)** in **Tamil Nadu**.
- Created in **2021 by merging two wildlife sanctuaries**.
- Acts as a **wildlife corridor between Periyar TR and Kalakkad-Mundanthurai TR**.



Hydrology and Vegetation Diversity

- Fed by rivers **Vaigai, Suruliyaru, Shanmuganathi.**
- Vegetation includes **evergreen, semi-evergreen, moist deciduous and grasslands.**

Biodiversity Significance

- Hosts flagship species like **Tiger, Elephant, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque.**
- Presence of **endemic and endangered Western Ghats fauna** enhances conservation value.

Governance and Conservation

- Falls under **Project Tiger (NTCA)** framework.
- Enhances **landscape-level conservation and genetic connectivity.**

KENDU LEAF

Down To Earth

'Green Gold' denied: Tribal communities in Odisha's Koraput fight for their legal rights over kendu leaves for a third consecutive year

Tribal Gram Sabhas in Odisha's Koraput are fighting for a third year to exercise their legal rights over kendu leaves, or 'Green Gold'.



Why in News

- Tribal protests in **Odisha** over rights and procurement policies.

Botanical and Economic Profile

- Scientific name: **Diospyros melanoxylon.**
- Known as **"Green Gold of Odisha"** due to high revenue generation.
- Used mainly in **bidi manufacturing industry.**

Production and Trade Dynamics

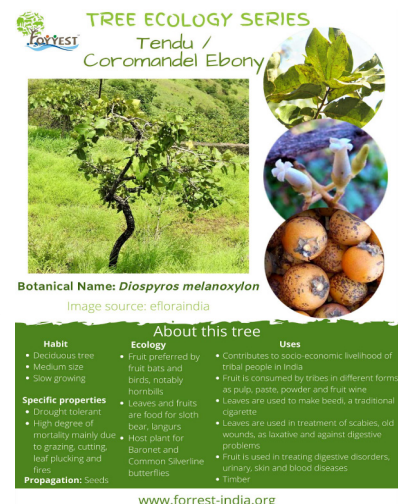
- Major producers: **MP (largest), Chhattisgarh, Odisha.**
- Odisha is unique in **processing kendu leaves before sale.**

Legal and Institutional Framework

- Classified as **Minor Forest Produce (MFP)** under **Forest Rights Act, 2006.**
- Linked with **PESA Act, 1996**, empowering **Gram Sabhas in tribal areas.**

Socio-Economic Importance

- Provides **seasonal livelihood to tribal communities.**
- Revenue contributes significantly to **state forest economy.**



NAMASTE SCHEME

News On AIR

NAMASTE Scheme achieves milestone in advancing dignity and safety of sanitation workers

The National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem Scheme has marked a significant milestone in advancing dignity, safety and...



Why in News

- Scheme showing measurable success in **eliminating manual scavenging hazards**.

Institutional Architecture

- **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)**.
- Jointly implemented by **MoSJE and MoHUA via NSKFDC**.

Core Objectives

- Achieve **zero fatalities in sanitation work**.
- Eliminate **manual scavenging (prohibited under Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers Act, 2013)**.
- Promote **mechanisation and skill development**.

Social Justice Dimensions

- Ensures **dignity and occupational safety** of sanitation workers.
- Encourages **SHGs, entrepreneurship, and financial inclusion**.

Governance Impact

- Strengthens **urban sanitation systems under Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**.
- Improves **municipal service delivery and worker welfare**.

Key Components of **NAMASTE Scheme**

- Profiling of Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs)
- Occupational Safety Training and PPE Kits Distribution
- Support for safety devices to Emergency Response Sanitation Units (ERSUs)
- Health Insurance Coverage under Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY
- Livelihood Support and Enterprise Development
- Convergence of MoSJE and MoHUA Programs
- Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Campaign
- MIS and Dedicated Website

Source: Press Information Bureau

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

TUVALU

UN News

Earth Day: The battle to save a drowning Pacific island nation

As the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu battles rising sea levels that threaten to put large parts of the island entirely underwater by the...



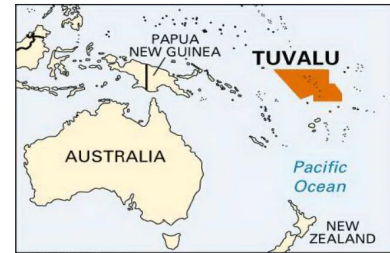
Why in News

- **Sea level rise and climate change** threaten **existential survival of Tuvalu**.

Geographical Vulnerability

- A **Polynesian island country** in **west-central Pacific Ocean** with **9 coral islands**.
- Maximum elevation is **4.5 m above sea level**, making it one of the **most vulnerable nations**.
- Capital: **Funafuti Atoll**, which is also the **most populated island**.

Map of Tuvalu



Political and Governance Structure

- Became independent in **1978 from United Kingdom**.
- Operates as a **constitutional monarchy under Commonwealth Realm**.
- **King Charles III** is head of state, represented by a **Governor-General**.
- Absence of **formal political parties** reflects a consensus-based system.

Economic and Social Constraints

- Economy depends on **remittances, foreign aid, and subsistence agriculture**.
- Revenue from **fishing licenses, copra exports, and domain (.tv) leasing**.
- Faces **freshwater scarcity and food import dependency**.

EGYPT

Why in News

- India–Egypt defence cooperation strengthened during **11th Joint Defence Committee meeting**.

Strategic Geography

- A **transcontinental country linking Africa and Asia via Sinai Peninsula**.
- Borders **Sudan, Libya, Israel, Gaza Strip**.
- Strategic waterways include **Suez Canal (global trade chokepoint)**.



Physical and Resource Profile

- Dominated by **Western Desert (~66% area)**.
- Fertile land concentrated along **Nile River valley**.
- Resources include **oil, natural gas, phosphates, iron ore**.

Geopolitical Importance

- Controls **Suez Canal**, handling **~12% of global trade**.
- Key player in **West Asia–North Africa (WANA) geopolitics**.

**Environ-
ment**

HONEY BADGER

Why in News

- Confirmed sighting in **Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary, Madhya Pradesh**.



Taxonomy and Identification

- Scientific name: **Mellivora capensis**.
- Belongs to **family Mustelidae (weasels, otters, etc.)**.

Adaptations and Behaviour

- Has **thick, loose skin** enabling escape from predators.
- Equipped with **strong claws (~4 cm) and powerful jaws**.
- Known for **fearless and aggressive hunting behaviour**.

Habitat and Distribution

- Distributed across **Africa, Middle East, and Indian subcontinent**.
- Found in **arid regions, forests, and grasslands**.

Conservation and Ecology

- Listed as **Least Concern (IUCN Red List)**.
- Plays role in **ecosystem balance as omnivorous predator**.

Protected Area Context

- **Kheoni Wildlife Sanctuary (MP)** connected to **Ratapani Tiger Reserve corridor**.
- Vegetation includes **dry deciduous forests with teak and bamboo**.

**Science and
Technology****SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL (SAF)**

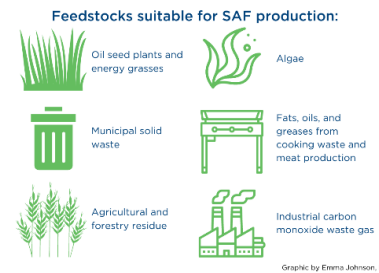
TH The Hindu

How is ethanol used in Sustainable Aviation Fuel?

Explore how ethanol is transformed into Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) through the alcohol-to-jet process for aviation decarbonization.

**Why in News**

- Amendment to **ATF (Regulation of Marketing) Order, 2001** to include SAF blends.

**Technical Composition**

- SAF is a **bio-based aviation fuel** chemically similar to **conventional ATF**.
- Compatible with existing **jet engines without modification**.

Production Pathways

- Derived from **used cooking oil, agricultural residues, algae, municipal waste**.
- Advanced methods include **Power-to-Liquid (PtL) and carbon capture-based synthesis**.

Environmental and Policy Relevance

- Can reduce **lifecycle carbon emissions by up to 80%**.
- Aligns with **ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA)**.
- Supports India's **Net Zero by 2070 target**.