



**Sanskriti IAS**



## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**



*26th April 2026*

### TOPICS:-

1. Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH)
2. Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) – GEM Award
3. Wheat Crop
4. Mali
5. Olive Ridley Turtle
6. Bhoramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary
7. Gond Tribe
8. Artemis Accords
9. Other Important News of the day
10. Uttar Pradesh in News

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# HINDU KUSH HIMALAYA (HKH)

Down To Earth

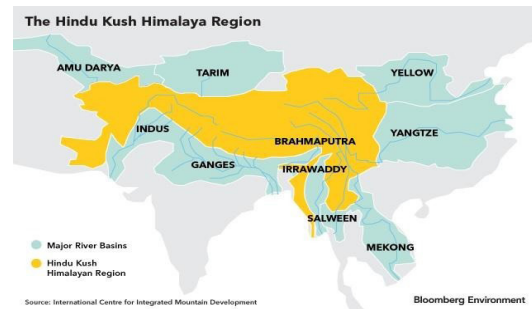
Hindu Kush Himalaya sees record 27% drop in snow persistence, fourth straight year of decline, ICIMOD warns

ICIMOD warns that snow persistence in the Hindu Kush Himalaya has plunged 27% below the long-term average in winter 2025–26,...



## Why in News

- A report by **International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)** reported **27% decline in snow persistence** in HKH region.



## Geographical Configuration

- The HKH spans **~3,500 km across 8 countries** including **India, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan**.
- It separates **Amu Darya basin (north)** from **Indus basin (south)** forming a major watershed.
- The highest peak is **Tirich Mir (7,708 m)** located in Pakistan.

## Hydrological Significance

- It is the source of **10 major Asian rivers** including **Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, Mekong, Yangtze**.
- These rivers support **~2 billion population**, making HKH a global water tower.

## Environmental Importance

- It is known as the **“Third Pole”** due to largest ice reserves outside polar regions.
- It hosts **4 global biodiversity hotspots** with diverse ecosystems like glaciers, forests, wetlands.

## Climate Concerns and Implications

- Declining snow persistence indicates **accelerated glacier retreat and climate vulnerability**.
- Reduced snow cover may impact **river flows, agriculture, and hydropower security**.

# GUNTUR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (GMC) – GEM AWARD

THE Hindu

## Guntur Municipal Corporation wins UNIDO's 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation Award in Vienna

The Guntur Municipal Corporation has won UNIDO's 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation Award for training 200 women as electric auto drivers for...



### Why in News

- Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) won the 4th Gender Equality Mobilisation (GEM) Award by UNIDO in Vienna.

### About GEM Award

- **GEM Award** stands for **Gender Equality Mobilisation Award**.
- It is conferred by **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**.
- It recognises **innovative practices promoting women's empowerment in development sectors**.

### About UNIDO

- **UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization)** is a specialised agency of the United Nations.
- Established in **1966** and became a specialised agency in **1985**.
- Headquarters located in **Vienna, Austria**.

### Women-Led Waste Management Model

- Over **200 women deployed as electric auto drivers** for door-to-door garbage collection.
- Beneficiaries were earlier **informal waste pickers**, now formally trained and employed.

### Sustainability and Climate Dimensions

- Use of **electric vehicles (EVs)** promotes **low-emission and eco-friendly waste management**.
- Contributes to **green jobs creation** and aligns with **SDG 5 and SDG 11**.

### Urban Governance and Fiscal Performance

- GMC received **state-level recognition for property tax collection (2025–26)**.
- Highlights **efficient municipal governance and revenue mobilisation capacity**.

## WHEAT CROP

bl. BusinessLine

### India's wheat production resilient despite setbacks: Agri ministry

India's agriculture ministry confirms stable wheat production for 2025-26 at 110.65 million tonnes, despite recent weather challenges.

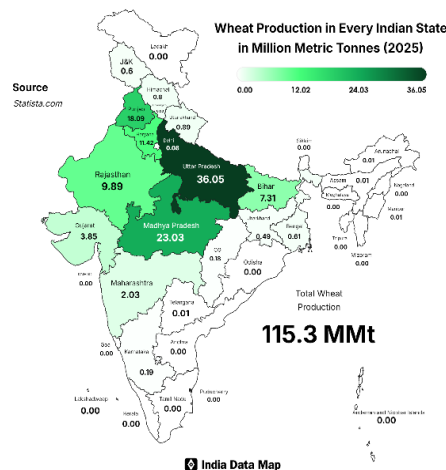


### Why in News

- Government stated **wheat production (2025–26)** remains stable despite climatic fluctuations.

### Agro-Climatic Requirements

- Wheat requires **10–15°C during sowing** and **21–26°C during ripening**.
- It needs **50–75 cm rainfall** with dry weather during harvesting stage.
- **Western Disturbances** improve yield through winter showers in north India.



### Cropping Pattern and Soil

- Wheat is a **Rabi crop** sown in winter and harvested in spring.
- It grows best in **well-drained loamy and clay loam soils**.

### Production Geography

- Major global producers include **China, India, Russia, USA**.
- In India, leading states are **Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar**.

### Agronomic Risks

- **Frost and hailstorms** during flowering stage severely damage crops.
- Excess humidity during ripening reduces **grain quality and yield**.

## MALI

### Why in News

TOI The Times of India

### Breaking News Live: India urges nationals in Mali to stay indoors amid militant, separatist attacks

Stay here for real-time updates on breaking news from India and across the world that you can't miss:



- India issued advisory urging nationals in **Mali** to remain cautious amid security concerns.

## Geopolitical Location

- Mali is a **landlocked country in West Africa** with capital **Bamako**.
- It borders **Algeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mauritania**.



## Physical Geography

- Around **65% area is desert/ semi-desert**, dominated by **Sahara Desert**.
- The terrain transitions from **Sahara → Sahel → Sudanian savanna**.

## Hydrological Features

- The **Niger River** is the principal river supporting agriculture and settlements.
- The highest point is **Hombori Tondo (1,155 m)**.

## Resource Base

- Mali is rich in **gold, uranium, diamonds, iron ore, bauxite**.
- Resource wealth contrasts with **economic underdevelopment and instability**.

## OLIVE RIDLEY TURTLE

 The Times of India

**Why are Chennai's turtles heading to Sri Lanka Dome? New tracking data reveals the answer**

Animals & Pets News: The Olive Ridley turtles that have been released into the ocean near Chennai are being monitored on their course as...



## Why in News

- Olive Ridley turtles from Tamil Nadu are migrating towards **Sri Lanka Dome region**.

## Biological Characteristics

- **Olive Ridley (Lepidochelys olivacea)** is the smallest and most abundant sea turtle.
- It is known for **mass nesting (Arribada)** behaviour on specific beaches.

## Distribution and Habitat

- Found in **Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans** in tropical waters.
- **Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary (Odisha)** hosts the largest rookery globally.

## Conservation Status

- Listed as **Vulnerable (IUCN Red List)**.
- Included in **CITES Appendix I** and **Schedule I of Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**.

## Oceanographic Linkage: Sri Lanka Dome

- It is a **seasonal upwelling zone** with nutrient-rich waters and plankton blooms.
- The dome enhances **marine productivity**, attracting turtles and marine fauna.

## BHORAMDEO WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

ETV Bharat

### Chhattisgarh To Launch Jungle Safari At Boramdeo Sanctuary From May 1

Chhattisgarh will launch a new jungle safari at Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary from May 1, offering tourists a mix of wildlife, adventure and...



## Why in News

- Chhattisgarh government plans to launch a **jungle safari** in the sanctuary.

## Geographical Context

- Located in **Kawardha district, Chhattisgarh**, within **Maikal Range (Satpura)**.
- It lies in **Kanha–Achanakmar Corridor**, enabling wildlife movement.

## Ecological Features

- It consists of **tropical moist and dry deciduous forests**.
- Major flora includes **Sal, Tendu, Saaj, Nilgiri** trees.

## Faunal Diversity

- It hosts **tigers, leopards, sloth bears, deer species, birds**.
- Acts as an important **biodiversity corridor for central India**.

## Cultural Linkages

- Named after **Bhoramdeo Temple**, built by **Nagvanshi dynasty (7th–11th century)**.
- Local tribes include **Baiga, Gond, Kanwar**, reflecting socio-ecological integration.

## GOND TRIBE

 Down To Earth

### From Bastar to Delhi: Gond Adivasis mark Earth Day

Around 80 members of the Gond tribe travelled from Bastar, Chhattisgarh to the heart of Delhi with one message: protect the earth,...



### Why in News

- Gond tribe members highlighted environmental concerns through a public campaign.

### Ethnographic Profile

- Gonds are a **Dravidian ethno-linguistic group** also called **Koitur**.
- They are one of the largest tribal groups in **Central India**.



### Distribution Pattern

- Concentrated in **Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha**.
- Present across multiple states including **Telangana, Jharkhand, Gujarat**.


### Socio-Cultural Traits

- Religion is based on **clan gods and ancestor worship traditions**.
- Major festivals include **Madai and Keslapur Jathra**.

### Economic Practices

- Economy is based on **agriculture, animal husbandry, forest produce collection**.
- The language **Gondi** belongs to **Dravidian family** but is largely unwritten.

## ARTEMIS ACCORDS

 NASA (.gov)

### NASA Welcomes Jordan as 63rd Artemis Accords Signatory

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan signed the Artemis Accords Thursday during a ceremony hosted by NASA at the agency's headquarters in...



### Why in News

- **Jordan** recently signed the **Artemis Accords** expanding global participation.

### Institutional Framework

- Launched in **2020** by **NASA and U.S. Department of State**.

- It is a **non-binding agreement** for civil space exploration cooperation.

### Core Principles

- It promotes peaceful use of outer space and transparency in activities.
- It mandates **interoperability, emergency assistance, and debris mitigation.**

### Legal Mandates

- It operates in alignment with the **Outer Space Treaty, 1967.**
- Encourages responsible **space resource utilisation.**

### India's Participation

- India is a **signatory**, enhancing its role **in global space governance.**

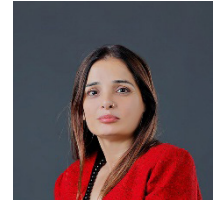
## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### Persons in News

### NITU SARMA

#### Why in News

- Nitu Sarma appointed as **interim CEO of Noida International Airport** following **BCAS directive.**



#### Regulatory and Institutional Framework

- **Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS)** mandates that **airport CEOs must be Indian citizens.**
- BCAS operates under the **Ministry of Civil Aviation** ensuring aviation security compliance.

#### Leadership Transition

- **Nitu Sarma (CFO since October 2021)** assumed charge as interim CEO.
- Former CEO **Christoph Schnellmann (Swiss national)** shifted to **Executive Vice Chairman** role.
- Interim arrangement will continue until **permanent CEO selection by Board.**

#### About Noida Airport

- **Noida International Airport** is located at **Jewar, Uttar Pradesh.**
- It is among the **largest upcoming international airports in India.**
- Inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March 2026.**

Places in  
News

## LUZON ISLAND

ThePrint

### China holds live-fire drills in waters near Philippines' Luzon Island

BEIJING, April 24 (Reuters) - China's military said on Friday it conducted military drills including live-fire exercises in waters east of...



### Why in News

- China conducted military drills near **Luzon Island (Philippines)**.

### Strategic Geography

- Luzon is the **largest island of the Philippines** hosting **capital Manila**.
- It is bounded by **Philippine Sea (east)** and **South China Sea (west)**.



### Physical Features

- Major mountain ranges include **Cordillera Central, Sierra Madre, Zambales**.
- Highest peak is **Mount Pulog (2,930 m)**.

### Volcanic and Coastal Features

- It includes active volcanoes like **Mount Mayon** and **Mount Pinatubo**.
- Coastline exceeds **5,000 km** with major bays like **Manila Bay**.

### Economic Importance

- It is the **industrial and agricultural hub** producing rice, sugarcane, fruits.
- Houses majority of the **Philippines population**.

Environ-  
ment

## KANHA TIGER RESERVE

### Why in News

- Recent **tiger cub deaths** raised concerns over monitoring mechanisms.

### Geographical Setting

- Located in **Madhya Pradesh** within **Satpura–Maikal landscape**.
- It is connected with **Pench and Achanakmar Tiger Reserves**.

### Ecological Characteristics

- Dominated by **moist Sal and mixed deciduous forests**.
- Terrain includes **plateaus, valleys, and undulating hills**.



### Biodiversity Profile

- Home to **Royal Bengal Tiger, leopard, wild dog, sloth bear**.
- Known for conservation of **Barasingha (Swamp deer)**.

### Institutional Innovation

- First reserve to introduce mascot **“Bhoorsingh the Barasingha”**.
- Supports tribal communities like **Gond and Baiga** integrating conservation and livelihood.

## Science and Technology

### MALARIA

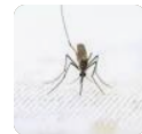
TH The Hindu

WHO approves first malaria treatment for infants



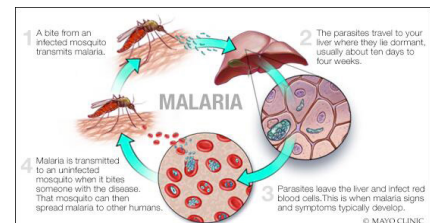
TOI The Times of India

World Malaria Day-- WHO clears first malaria drug for newborns, flags new tests a...



### Why in News

- **WHO** approved a **new malaria treatment for infants and newborns**.



### Disease Profile

- Malaria is caused by **Plasmodium parasites (protozoa)**.
- It spreads through **female Anopheles mosquito bites**.

### Clinical Features

- Symptoms include **fever, chills, headache within 10–15 days of infection**.
- Severe cases involve **jaundice, seizures, respiratory distress**.

### Vulnerable Groups

- High-risk groups include **children under 5, pregnant women, HIV patients**.
- It remains a major **public health concern in tropical regions**.

### Treatment Protocols

- ACTs are used for **Plasmodium falciparum infections**.
- **Chloroquine and Primaquine** are used for **P. vivax and relapse prevention**.

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### GANGA EXPRESSWAY

📌 The Indian Express

Ganga Expressway opening: PM Modi to inaugurate UP's longest expressway on April 29

Ganga Expressway Inauguration: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate Ganga Expressway on April 29. Developed by the Uttar...



#### Why in News

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **Ganga Expressway** on 29 April 2026.

#### Infrastructure and Route Profile

- It is the **longest expressway in Uttar Pradesh** with a length of **594 km**.
- Developed by **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA)**.
- It connects **Meerut to Prayagraj**, covering **12 districts** including **Hapur, Hardoi, Unnao, Rae Bareli**.
- Built as a **six-lane, access-controlled greenfield expressway** with expansion provision to **8 lanes**.



#### Economic and Strategic Significance

- It will reduce travel time from **12 hours to 6–8 hours**, enhancing logistics efficiency.
- Strengthens **east–west connectivity** and integrates **National Capital Region (NCR)** with eastern UP.
- Expected to boost **industrial growth, agriculture supply chains, and trade**.

#### Network Integration and Connectivity

- It will connect with key corridors like **Agra–Lucknow Expressway, Jewar Link Expressway, and Farrukhabad Link Expressway**.
- Acts as a **backbone of Uttar Pradesh's expressway network expansion strategy**.

#### Technical and Security Features

- Designed as a **fully access-controlled corridor with closed toll system**.
- Includes a **3.5 km airstrip at Shahjahanpur** for IAF emergency operations.
- Equipped with **~250 surveillance cameras** ensuring security and monitoring.