



**Sanskriti IAS**



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CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**

**3rd April 2026**

**TOPICS:-**

- 1. Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System**
- 2. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)**
- 3. Earthquake Lights**
- 4. SAMPANN Platform**
- 5. Non-Deliverable Derivatives (NDDs)**
- 6. General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR)**
- 7. Trade Enablement and Marketing (TEAM) Initiative**
- 8. Other Important News of the day**
- 9. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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# MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM



PIB

<https://www.pib.gov.in> > PressNoteDetails

## India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System

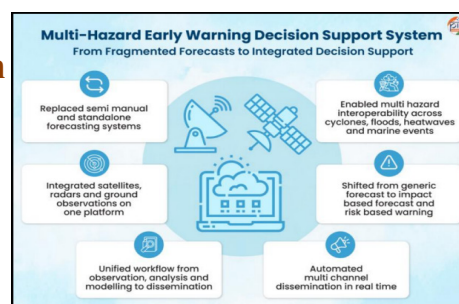
2 days ago — The primary objective of the MHEW-DSS is to build an integrated and indigenous forecasting system capable of delivering accurate, real-time, and ... [Read more](#)

### Why in News

- India has operationalised the **Multi-Hazard Early Warning Decision Support System** to enhance real-time disaster forecasting and preparedness.

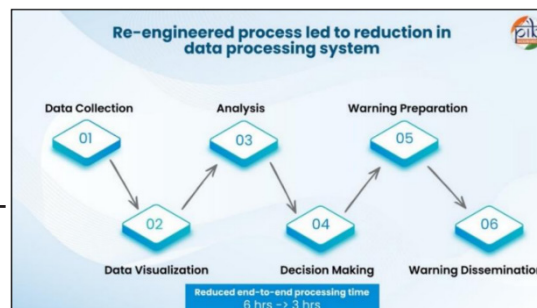
### Institutional Framework and Governance

- The system is developed by the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)**.
- It is implemented as part of the **Mission Mausam** programme for strengthening meteorological services.
- It represents a **digital transformation initiative using open-source and in-house technologies**.



### Technological Advancements

- The platform integrates **Geographic Information System (GIS)** tools for real-time weather monitoring and visualisation.
- Over **90% of weather data processing is automated**, enhancing forecasting efficiency.
- More than **95% of numerical weather prediction model inputs** are utilised for improved accuracy.
- The system enables **real-time alerts and faster dissemination of warnings**.



### Disaster Management Significance

- Forecast lead time has increased from **5 days to 7 days**, improving preparedness.
- Forecast preparation time has reduced by **3 hours**, enabling quicker response.
- It supports **multi-hazard forecasting** including cyclones, floods, and extreme weather events.
- It aligns with India's commitments under the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**.

## UNITED NATIONS INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON (UNIFIL)

III The Hindu

### Three peacekeepers wounded in Lebanon are Indonesian: U.N.



The three United Nations peacekeepers wounded in a blast in southern Lebanon on Friday (April 3, 2025) were from Indonesia, U.N. officials...

### Why in News

- India condemned the killing of peacekeepers deployed under **UNIFIL** in south Lebanon.

### Mandate Evolution and Legal Basis

- UNIFIL was established by the **United Nations Security Council in 1978**.
- Its mandate was expanded after conflicts in **1982, 2000, and significantly in 2006**.
- It operates under provisions of the **UN Charter (Chapter VI and elements of Chapter VII)**.

Basis	Chapter VI	Chapter VII
Nature	Pacific settlement of disputes	Action against threats to peace
Binding	Non-binding	Binding
Approach	Voluntary	Coercive
Force	Not allowed	Allowed
Stage	Preventive	Crisis/active conflict

### Operational Structure and Functions

- The mission comprises around **7,500 peacekeepers from 47 countries**.
- It ensures **Israeli withdrawal and monitors cessation of hostilities**.
- It assists the **Lebanese government in restoring authority in southern Lebanon**.
- It includes a **Maritime Task Force**, the only naval UN peacekeeping component.

### India's Role and Strategic Relevance

- India is a **major troop-contributing country** in UN peacekeeping missions.
- Participation enhances India's **global diplomatic standing and soft power**.
- It reflects India's commitment to **international peace, security, and multilateralism**.

# EARTHQUAKE LIGHTS

TOI The Times of India

Turkey earthquake mystery: What were the glowing lights seen in the sky? Here's the truth



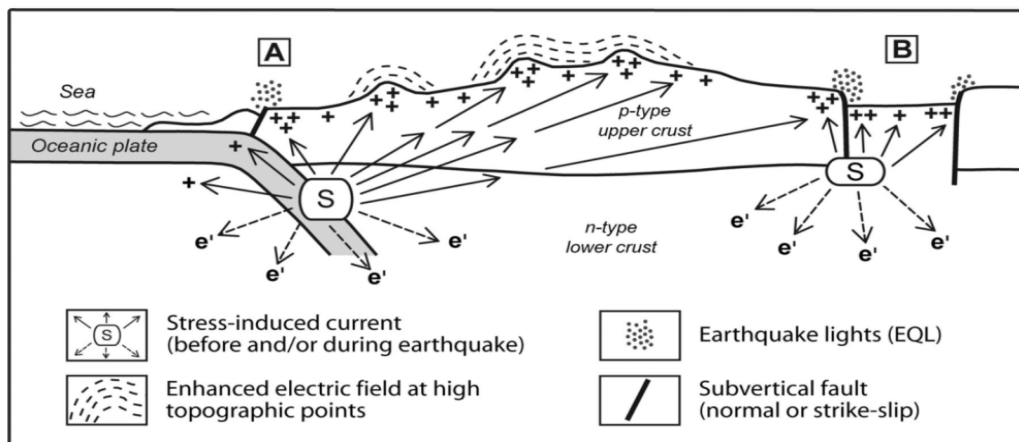
Science News: Since the April 2026 earthquake in Turkey, the world has watched in awe as floating lights have appeared following this...

## Why in News

- **Earthquake lights** were recently observed during seismic **activity near Turkey** and Greece.

## Scientific Mechanism

- Earthquake lights are visible flashes or glows occurring **before, during, or after earthquakes**.
- Stress in rocks containing **quartz and specific minerals generates electrical charges**.
- These charges travel through **faults and ionise air molecules**, producing plasma light.



## Geophysical Conditions

- The phenomenon is more frequent in areas with **vertical fault lines and rift zones**.
- It is associated with **tectonic plate movements and crustal stress accumulation**.

## Scientific Significance

- It provides insights into **geophysical processes during seismic activity**.
- It is not yet a **reliable earthquake prediction method** due to inconsistent occurrence.

## SAMPANN PLATFORM



Gol Signs Agreement to provide SAMPANN 'platform-as-a—service' to State Government of Goa and Cochin Port Authority



Gol Signs Agreement to provide SAMPANN 'platform-as-a—service' to State Government of Goa and Cochin Port Authority...

### Why in News

- Governments and institutions are onboarding the **SAMPANN platform** to modernise pension disbursement.

### Administrative Framework

- It is managed by the **Controller General of Communication Accounts (CGCA)** under the **Department of Telecommunications**.
- It was launched in **2018** as a unified pension management system.



### Digital Governance Features

- It is a **cloud-based end-to-end pension management platform**.
- It enables **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** of pensions to beneficiaries' bank accounts.
- It offers **online grievance redressal and real-time tracking of pension status**.

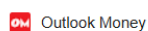
### Governance Significance

- It enhances **transparency, efficiency, and accountability in pension administration**.
- It reduces dependency on intermediaries and paperwork.
- It aligns with the objectives of **Digital India and e-governance reforms**.

## NON-DELIVERABLE DERIVATIVES (NDDS)

### Why in News

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has



RBI Bars Non-Deliverable INR Derivatives, Tightens Forex Regulations

RBI restricts non-deliverable INR derivatives, bans rebooking of cancelled forex contracts, and limits related party deals under revised...



restricted banks from participating in rupee NDD markets.

## Financial Mechanism and Structure

- NDDs are contracts where exchange rate differences are settled **in cash (usually US dollars)**.
- They exist due **to capital account restrictions on the Indian rupee**.

## Market Dynamics

- These trades occur **in offshore markets outside RBI's direct control**.
- Participants include **foreign investors, hedge funds, and global banks**.
- They influence **rupee price discovery before domestic markets open**.

## Regulatory Concerns

- NDDs may **distort exchange rate discovery and increase volatility**.
- They are sometimes used for **speculative trading instead of hedging purposes**.

# GENERAL ANTI-AVOIDANCE RULES (GAAR)

ET The Economic Times

## GAAR shadow over payments abroad worries India Inc

India Inc seeks clarity on General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) for payments to foreign entities after a Supreme Court ruling.



## Why in News

- The government clarified exemption of pre-2017 assets from **GAAR provisions**.

## Legal and Policy Framework

- GAAR is incorporated under the **Income Tax Act, 1961** to curb tax avoidance.

- It was recommended by the **Parthasarathi Shome Committee**.

## Operational Mechanism

- It allows authorities to classify transactions as **Impermissible Avoidance Arrangements (IAA)**.
- It applies when tax benefit exceeds **₹3 crore in a financial year**.

## Economic Significance

- It targets **aggressive tax planning while safeguarding legitimate transactions**.
- It strengthens **tax compliance and revenue mobilisation**.

### Gaar Is Here

Rules to prevent tax avoidance will be rolled out as planned from **APRIL 1**

<b>ON TARGET</b> Gaar not to be invoked if tax treaty with a country has anti-avoidance rule Taxpayer free to select method of implementation	Gaar not to be invoked just because investor located in tax efficient jurisdiction Gaar not to apply if investor is not located in place just for tax reasons	Rules will not apply to investment before April 1, 2017 Gaar not to apply in court-sanctioned arrangements	<b>ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS</b> Gaar proposals to be vetted by commissioner/principal commissioner In second stage, it will go to approving panel headed by a high court judge
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### Governance Implications

- It balances **anti-evasion measures with ease of doing business.**
- It enhances **predictability and transparency in tax administration.**

## TRADE ENABLEMENT AND MARKETING (TEAM) INITIATIVE

SMEStreet

### MSME Registrations Cross 7.83 Crore On Udyam Portal

Government supplements the efforts of the State/UT Governments through various schemes, programmes and policy initiatives for development...



### Why in News

- The government highlighted progress of the **TEAM initiative** for MSMEs.

### Policy Framework and Implementation

- It is a **Central Sector Scheme under RAMP Programme** implemented by the **Ministry of MSME.**
- It is executed through the **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).**

### Digital Economy Integration

- It facilitates onboarding of MSMEs onto the **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).**
- It supports **digital cataloguing, branding, packaging, and logistics integration.**

### Socio-Economic Impact

- It targets **5 lakh MSMEs, with 50% women-owned enterprises.**
- It promotes **inclusive growth, entrepreneurship, and employment generation.**

### Capacity Building

- It provides training in **e-commerce operations, digital marketing, and online payments systems.**

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

<p><b>Places in News</b></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>BURKINA FASO</u></b></p> <p><b>Why in News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ India provided humanitarian rice assistance to <b>Burkina Faso.</b></li> </ul>	
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### Geopolitical Location

- It is a **landlocked country in West Africa** with capital **Ouagadougou**.
- It shares borders with **Mali, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana, and Ivory Coast**.

### Physical Geography

- The terrain consists of **savannahs, plateaus, and arid Sahel region in the north**.
- Major rivers include **Black, Red, and White Volta**, forming the Volta basin.

### Economic Profile

- It is rich in **gold, zinc, manganese, phosphate, and limestone resources**.
- The economy faces challenges due to **climate stress and political instability**.

### Strategic Relevance for India

- It strengthens India’s engagement with **Africa and South-South cooperation frameworks**.

### Environment

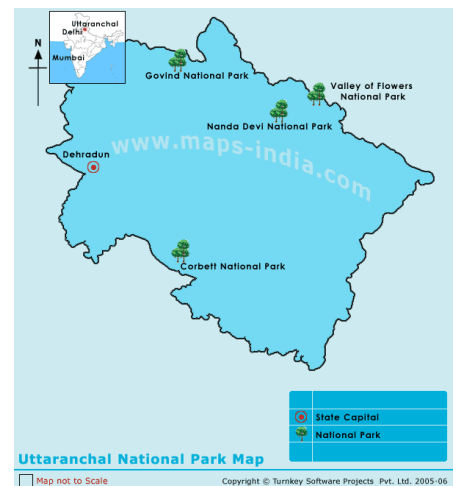
## GANGOTRI NATIONAL PARK

### Why in News

- **Gangotri National Park** has reopened after its winter closure for the tourism season.

### Geographical and Strategic Location

- It is located in **Uttarakhand** along the upper catchment of the **Bhagirathi River**.
- Its northeastern boundary touches **Tibet (China)**, giving it strategic importance.
- It is part of the **Garhwal Himalayas** and adjoins **Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary**.



### Ecological and Hydrological Importance

- It contains the **Gangotri Glacier**, a primary source of the **Ganga River**.
- Vegetation includes **Western Himalayan subalpine conifer forests and alpine ecosystems**.

### Biodiversity Profile

- It hosts species such as **snow leopard, musk deer, Himalayan tahr, and brown bear**.
- It forms part of a **fragile Himalayan biodiversity hotspot** vulnerable to climate change.

### Environmental Concerns

- Retreat of glaciers due to **global warming** threatens long-term water security.

## Health

### NEWCASTLE DISEASE

**P** Poultry World

#### Newcastle disease spread in Europe puts poultry industry on alert

With reports of Newcastle disease circulating across Europe, poultry producers across the UK are being urged to step up vigilance as the virus continues.



### Why in News

- Rising cases of **Newcastle disease** in Europe have raised concerns about its spread.

### Virological Characteristics

- It is caused by **Avian Paramyxovirus serotype 1** affecting birds globally.
- It exists **in lentogenic, mesogenic, and velogenic strains** of varying severity.

### Transmission and Persistence

- The virus spreads through **respiratory discharge, faeces, and contaminated surfaces**.
- It can survive up to **2 months in manure and 12 months in carcasses**.

**Economic and Agricultural Impact**

- It causes **high mortality and decline in poultry productivity.**
- It impacts **livelihoods, poultry trade, and food security.**

**Clinical Features**

- Symptoms include **respiratory distress, neurological signs, and reduced egg production.**

**UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS****PLATINUM JUBILEE OF POSTAL TRAINING CENTRE (PTC), SAHARANPUR****Why in News?**

- Department of Posts celebrated **75 years of PTC Saharanpur** with release of a commemorative stamp.

*PTC Saharanpur is among the oldest postal training institutions in India (est. 1951).*

**Key Highlights**

- Occasion:
  - **Platinum Jubilee (75 years)** of PTC, Saharanpur
  - **Special postage stamp** released at Akashwani Bhawan, New Delhi
- Establishment:
  - Founded on **2 April 1951**
  - Set up for **structured training of postal personnel**
- Institutional Role:
  - Premier training centre for **8 States & UTs in Northern India**
  - Enhances **efficiency, professionalism, and service delivery** in postal system
- Significance:
  - Contributes to **nation-building and logistics infrastructure**
  - Supports India's vision of becoming a **global logistics hub by 2030**