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## DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

**Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC**


*4th April 2026*

### TOPICS:-

1. Raja Ravi Varma
2. Kar Saathi (AI Tax Assistant)
3. Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)
4. Rongali Bihu
5. Namu Drone Didi Yojana
6. Juang Tribe
7. Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)
8. Other Important News of the day
9. Uttar Pradesh in News

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## RAJA RAVI VARMA

Hindustan Times

### Rediscovering Raja Ravi Varma's art | Hindustan Times

Raja Ravi Varma, influenced both by the work of European Renaissance artists and Kerala mural traditions, drew his material mostly from...



- **Why in News:** A painting of **Raja Ravi Varma**, *Yashoda and Krishna*, was sold for ₹167.2 crore recently.

### Cultural Synthesis and Artistic Innovation

- He pioneered a fusion of **European realism and Indian mythological themes** in visual arts.
- He was among the first Indian artists to use **oil painting techniques** professionally.
- His works democratized art through **lithographic printing technology**, enhancing accessibility.

### Institutional and Technological Contributions

- He established a **lithographic press in Maharashtra (1894)** to mass-produce artworks.
- His prints contributed to **cultural nationalism by popularising Hindu iconography**.
- The press enabled **early visual standardisation of deities**, influencing popular culture.

### Notable Works and Recognition

- Famous works include **Shakuntala Writing a Love Letter** and **Shri Rama Vanquishing the Sea**.
- He received the **Kaiser-i-Hind Medal (1904)** for public service contributions.
- His painting *Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair* won awards in **Madras Presidency and Vienna Exhibition**.

## KAR SAATHI (AI TAX ASSISTANT)

DD News

### Income Tax Dept launches 'Kar Saathi' website to simplify tax filing, offer 24x7 AI help

The Income Tax Department on Thursday launched a new website called 'Kar Saathi', aimed at making tax-related processes simpler and more...



- **Why in News:** The **Income Tax Department** launched the AI chatbot **'Kar Saathi'** to simplify tax compliance.

### Governance and Digital Transformation

- It is an **AI-powered virtual assistant** integrated into the **Income Tax portal**.
- It supports compliance under the **Income Tax Act, 2025** through automation.

## Functional Capabilities

- It provides **24×7 real-time assistance** for return filing and tax-related queries.
- It offers **step-by-step procedural guidance** for forms, deductions, and provisions.
- It acts as a **single-window solution for direct tax compliance support**.

## Policy Significance

- It enhances **ease of doing business and taxpayer services** under digital governance.
- It reduces **human interface, thereby limiting errors and discretionary delays**.

## COMMISSION FOR AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (CAQM)

ET The Economic Times

### CAQM decides against imposing GRAP in Delhi despite air quality slipping to poor category



The Commission for Air Quality Management on Friday decided against invoking GRAP restrictions in Delhi-NCR at the moment despite the air...

- **Why in News:** The **128th Enforcement Task Force meeting** of CAQM was recently held.

## DStatutory and Institutional Framework

- Established under the **CAQM Act, 2021 for Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas**.
- It is directly **accountable to Parliament**, ensuring legislative oversight.

**DAYS NUMBERED FOR AGENTS OF POLLUTION**

<p><b>WITHIN 30 DAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Introduce intelligent traffic systems for lane-driving</li> <li>Introduce wet/mechanized vacuum sweeping of roads</li> <li>Ensure strict action against unauthorized brick kilns</li> <li>Evolve a system of reporting of garbage/municipal solid waste burning through mobile-based applications and other social media platform linked with central and state-level control rooms</li> <li>Ensure carriage of construction material in closed/covered vessels</li> </ul>	<p><b>IMMEDIATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strict action against visibly polluting vehicles</li> <li>Install weigh-in-motion bridges at Delhi borders to prevent overloading</li> <li>Take steps to prevent parking of vehicles in the non-designated areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>WITHIN 60 DAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps to expedite early completion of western and eastern peripheral expressways and submit completion schedule</li> <li>Maintain pothole-free roads for free-flow of traffic to reduce emissions and dust</li> </ul>	<p><b>WITHIN 90 DAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps for installation of remote sensor based PUC system</li> <li>Promote battery-operated vehicles</li> </ul>	<p><b>WITHIN 120 DAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch action plan for switching over to natural gas by industries, wherever feasible</li> </ul>	<p><b>WITHIN 180 DAYS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps for blacktopping/levelment of road shoulders to avoid dust</li> </ul>	<p><b>WITHIN A YEAR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take steps for retrofitting of diesel vehicles with particulate filters</li> <li>Set up helpline in states/UTs for taking action against reported non-compliance</li> </ul>
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## Mandate and Powers

- It coordinates with states like **Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi**.
- It has powers to **issue binding directions, restrict polluting activities, and conduct research**.
- It can enforce **compliance through inspections and penalties**.

## Organisational Composition

- Headed by a **Chairperson of Secretary/Chief Secretary rank**.
- Includes members from **CPCB, ISRO, NITI Aayog, NGOs, and state governments**.

## Governance Significance

- Represents a **centralised approach to inter-state air pollution management**.
- Addresses limitations of **fragmented federal environmental governance**.

## RONGALI BIHU

ANI News

Assam gears up for its largest cultural festival, Rongali Bihu, ahead of Assam polls

Rongali Bihu festive fervour grips different parts of Assam. People of Assam are waiting to celebrate and participate in 2 biggest festivals...



- **Why in News:** Celebrations of **Rongali Bihu** have begun across Assam.

## Cultural and Seasonal Significance

- Marks the **Assamese New Year and onset of spring (April)**.
- Derived from 'Rong' meaning **joy and celebration**.

## Socio-Cultural Features

- Celebrated across **communities irrespective of caste or religion**.
- Traditional attire includes **Mekhela Chador and Gamocha (Bihuwaan)**.

## Festival Cycle

- **Rongali/Bohag Bihu (April)** marks spring and prosperity.
- **Kati/Kongali Bihu (October)** reflects austerity.
- **Magh Bihu (January)** celebrates harvest.

## NAMO DRONE DIDI YOJANA

The Hindu

Karnataka tops under 'Namo Drone Didi Yojana'

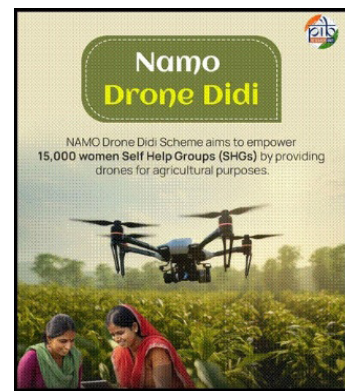
Karnataka, which is one of the leading aviation hubs in the country, also has the most number of women self-help groups (SHGs) to have...



- **Why in News:** Karnataka leads in **training women SHGs as drone pilots** under the scheme.

## Scheme Design and Objectives

- A **Central Sector Scheme** targeting women SHGs under **DAY-NRLM**.
- It aims to provide **drones for agricultural services like spraying fertilizers**.



## Financial and Institutional Framework

- Provides **80% subsidy (up to ₹8 lakh)** for drone procurement.
- Remaining 20% financed via **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)** with **3% interest subvention**.

## Capacity Building

- Includes **15-day training for drone piloting and agri-application skills**.
- Implemented by **DA&FW, DoRD, Department of Fertilizers, and LFCs**.

## Economic and Social Impact

- Promotes **women empowerment and rural entrepreneurship**.
- Enhances **precision agriculture and input efficiency**.

## JUANG TRIBE

 The Times of India

How a 16-year-old tribal girl in changed the entire mindset of a village: A lesser-known story of resilie

In Talabaruda, a forested Juang village in Odisha, the turning point did not arrive with a grand announcement. It began with questions.



- **Why in News:** A Juang tribal girl influenced **child health and social reform** in Odisha.

## Demographic and Legal Status

- Recognised as a **Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG)** in Odisha.
- Found mainly in **Keonjhar and Dhenkanal districts**.



## Socio-Cultural Characteristics

- Speak **Juang language (Austroasiatic family)**.
- Practice **animism with influence of Hindu deities**.

## Economic Adaptation

- Transitioned from **hunter-gatherers to basket-weaving and barter economy**.
- Colonial forest policies led to **livelihood transformation**.

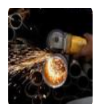
## PURCHASING MANAGERS' INDEX (PMI)

- **Why in News:** India's **Manufacturing PMI fell to 53.9**, indicating slowdown.

 The Hindu

West Asia war: Manufacturing PMI drops sharply to near 4-year low of 53.9 in March 2026

Manufacturing activity in India hits a near four-year low in March 2026, impacted by the West Asia crisis and rising costs.



## Economic Indicator Framework

- PMI is a **survey-based index measuring business activity**.
- It is calculated for **manufacturing, services, and composite sectors**.

## Methodology

- Based on five variables: **new orders, output, employment, delivery time, inventories**.
- Conducted through **monthly surveys of firms**.

## Interpretation

- PMI > 50 indicates **expansion**, while < 50 indicates **contraction**.

## Policy Relevance

- Acts as a **leading indicator for economic growth and industrial trends**.

## OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

### Places in News

## AZERBAIJAN

- **Why in News:** India and **Azerbaijan** reviewed bilateral relations in **Baku** recently.

### Geostrategic Location

- Located at the junction of **Eastern Europe and Western Asia (South Caucasus region)**.
- Bordered by **Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iran**, and the **Caspian Sea**.

### Physical Geography

- Features **nine climatic zones**, indicating high ecological diversity.
- Major rivers include **Kura, Aras, and Alazani**.
- Highest peak is **Mount Bazardüzü** in the Greater Caucasus.

### Resource and Economic Relevance

- Rich in **minerals like oil, gold, copper, and manganese**.
- Strategic for **energy security and connectivity corridors** (e.g., INSTC relevance).



Environ-  
ment

## SUKHNA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

- **Why in News:** The sanctuary has emerged as a model of **ecological restoration in Shivalik Hills**.

**Geographical and Ecological Features**

- Located in **Chandigarh near Sukhna Lake**, at the foothills of **Shivalik Range**.
- It has **fragile sandy soils prone to erosion** due to heavy runoff.
- The sanctuary includes **150+ water bodies forming a catchment ecosystem**.

**Biodiversity Profile**

- Flora includes **Khair, Shisham, Amaltas, Amla, Vasaka** and grass species.
- Fauna includes **Jungle Cat, Jackal, Wild Boar, Porcupine, Indian Hare**.

**Environmental Significance**

- It was developed through **afforestation for soil conservation**.
- It represents a successful **urban ecological restoration model**.

Defence

## INS ARIDHAMAN

ThePrint

India commissions its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine—INS Aridhaman

New Delhi: India Friday commissioned its third nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN) Aridhaman (S4).



- **Why in News:** India inducted **INS Aridhaman**, its third nuclear-powered SSBN.

### Strategic and Defence Significance

- Part of India's **nuclear triad**, strengthening second-strike capability.
- Built under **Advanced Technology Vessel**

### Technical Features

- Powered by **83 MW pressurised water reactor (BARC)**.
- Displacement: **7,000 tonnes submerged**.

### Weapon Systems

- Equipped with **K-15 (750 km) and K-4 (3,500 km) nuclear missiles**.
- Features **anechoic tiles and advanced sonar for stealth capability**.

### Geopolitical Implications

- Enhances India's **credible minimum deterrence doctrine**.
- Strengthens maritime security in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

**INS Aridhaman** DEFENCEHQ  
Bigger, quieter and deadlier

INS Aridhaman is India's third indigenously developed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine

It features an upgraded design compared to INS Arihant and INS Arighaat

The submarine is built with a larger hull, enhancing endurance and stealth

It can carry a greater number of long-range nuclear-capable K-4 missiles, along with 24 K-15 Sagatika missiles and K-5 missiles

## UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

### Vande Bharat Train Production – Modern Coach Factory (MCF)

The Indian Express

After RCF, UP's Modern Coach Factory manufactures its 1st Vande Bharat train, trial run to begin soon

Vande Bharat train latest update: Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly-based Modern Coach Factory (MCF) has manufactured its first Vande Bharat...



- **Why in News:** Uttar Pradesh's **Modern Coach Factory (MCF), Rae Bareilly** has manufactured its first **Vande Bharat Express**, with trial runs to begin soon.

## Industrial Expansion and Manufacturing Ecosystem

- **MCF, Rae Bareli** has joined **ICF Chennai** and **RCF Kapurthala** in producing Vande Bharat trains.
- The move reflects **decentralisation of railway production capacity** to meet rising demand.
- It strengthens **domestic manufacturing under 'Make in India' in railways sector**.

## Technological Features and Performance Metrics

- The train has **16 coaches with distributed power system (no locomotive required)**.
- It achieves **0.7 m/s<sup>2</sup> acceleration and reaches 160 km/h in 140 seconds**.
- It has a **maximum operational speed of 160 km/h and test speed of 180 km/h**.
- It includes **fully suspended traction motors and 50% powered axles** for efficiency.
- It ensures **no reversal at terminals**, improving turnaround time.

## Design and Operational Efficiency

- The train is **indigenously designed by Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Chennai**.
- It uses **self-propelled trainset technology**, reducing dependence on locomotives.
- The **deceleration rate of 0.8 m/s<sup>2</sup>** enhances braking efficiency and safety.

## Railway Modernisation and Economic Impact

- It promotes **high-speed rail infrastructure and passenger comfort**.
- It contributes to **reduced travel time and improved logistics efficiency**.
- Expansion of production units supports **regional industrial growth and employment**.