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**DAILY
CURRENT AFFAIRS**

Important Current News for UPSC & UPPSC

21st April 2026

TOPICS:-

- 1. Yangtze River**
- 2. Col. Sher Jung National Park (Simbalbara National Park)**
- 3. Mansar Lake**
- 4. Amber Fort**
- 5. Pelusium**
- 6. Muthuvan Tribe**
- 7. Colorado River**
- 8. Other Important News of the day**
- 9. Uttar Pradesh in News**

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YANGTZE RIVER

 The Indian Express

China completes 11 km underwater tunnel beneath Yangtze river, bullet trains to run at 350 kmph speed

Bullet train in China: China has completed an 11.18-km-long high-speed underwater tunnel beneath the Yangtze River. The structure forms part...



Why in News

- China completed an **11.18 km high-speed underwater tunnel** enabling trains at **350 km/h**.

Geographical and Hydrological Profile

- The **Yangtze River (Chang Jiang)** is the longest river in **Asia (6300 km)**.
- It originates in the **Tibetan Plateau** and drains into the **East China Sea near Shanghai**.
- It has **eight major tributaries** including **Yalung, Han, Wu, and Gan rivers**.



Economic and Strategic Significance

- The basin contributes nearly **40% of China's GDP** and supports **400 million people**.
- It is a major **inland navigation route since the 13th century**.
- Nearly **50% of China's agricultural output** is produced in its basin.

Ecological and Resource Importance

- It supports about **half of China's fish consumption**.
- It drains a vast and fertile basin known as the **"granary of China"**.

Geopolitical and Infrastructure Relevance

- Large-scale infrastructure reflects China's **engineering capabilities and economic integration strategy**.

COL. SHER JUNG NATIONAL PARK (SIMBALBARA NATIONAL PARK)

Why in News

- **Himachal Pradesh High Court** quashed notification declaring surrounding areas as **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.

 The Indian Express

Big relief for Sirmour panchayats as Himachal HC quashes eco-sensitive zone around Simbalbara National Park

Himachal HC quashes ESZ notification around Simbalbara National Park, citing procedural lapses and lack of stakeholder consultation.



Geographical and Ecological Location

- Located in **Sirmaur district, Himachal Pradesh**, along Haryana border.
- Situated at the confluence of **Himalayan, Gangetic and semi-arid biogeographic regions**.
- Elevation ranges from **350 to 700 metres in Shivalik hills**.



Flora and Vegetation Characteristics

- Dominated by **Sal (Shorea robusta)** forests with grassy glades.
- Riverine vegetation includes **Syzygium cumini, Cassia siamea, and Eucalyptus**.

Faunal Diversity and Habitat Role

- Key species include **Nilgai, Sambar, Goral, Rhesus macaque, and wild boar**.
- Bird species include **Indian roller, hornbills, crested serpent eagle, Brahminy kite**.

MANSAR LAKE

ThePrint

Security arrangements reviewed at Mansar lake in J-K's Samba

Jammu, Apr 19 (PTI) A senior police officer on Sunday reviewed security measures at Mansar Lake, a prominent tourist destination in Samba...



Why in News

- Security review conducted at this major tourist site in **Jammu and Kashmir**.



Geographical and Hydrological Features

- Located in **Samba district**, in the foothills of **Shivalik Range**.
- It is a **freshwater oval-shaped lake** fed by **rainwater and underground springs**.


Ecological Significance

- It supports **207 species of algae and diverse aquatic fauna**.
- It is designated as a **Ramsar Site (2005)** along with **Surinsar Lake**.

Cultural and Religious Importance

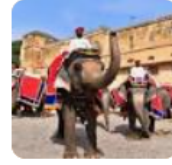
- Presence of **Sheshnag Temple**, along with **Durga and Umapati Mahadev temples**.
- It holds significance in **local religious practices and tourism economy**.

AMBER FORT

 The Times of India

HC issues notices over elephant rides near Amber Fort

Rajasthan HC issues notices to state govt over alleged illegal elephant rides near Amber Fort, orders wildlife authorities added;...



Why in News

- **Rajasthan High Court** issued notices regarding **elephant rides and animal welfare concerns**.



Historical and Architectural Features

- Built in **1592** by **Raja Man Singh I**, a general of **Emperor Akbar**.
- Expanded by **Jai Singh I (1621–1667)** with structures like **Sheesh Mahal** and **Diwan-i-Khas**.


Strategic and Geographical Importance

- Located in **Amer** near **Jaipur** on the **Aravalli Range**, overlooking **Maota Lake**.
- It served as the capital of **Kachwaha Rajputs** before **Jaipur (1727)**.

Cultural Heritage and Recognition

- It is a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
- Architecture reflects **fusion of Rajput and Mughal styles** using sandstone.

PELUSIUM

 The Times of India

[2,000-year-old round temple discovered in Pelusium reveals how ancient Egyptians worshipped Nile water](#)

Rest of World News: The excavation at the Tell el-Farama site in northern Sinai by an Egyptian archaeological team has concluded and...



Why in News

- Excavation in **Sinai Peninsula (Egypt)** discovered a **rare round temple**.

Historical and Strategic Significance

- Located at the **eastern mouth of the Nile River**, acting as a **fortress and customs post**.
- Site of **Battle of Pelusium (525 BC)** where **Cambyses II** defeated Egypt.

Economic and Cultural Features

- Known for **flax production and trade activities**.
- Associated with worship of **Isis (goddess of sea voyages)**.
- Played roles under **Ptolemaic and Roman empires**, later part of **Augustamnica province**.

MUTHUVAN TRIBE

TH The Hindu

State Food Commission unearths large-scale irregularities in ration distribution in Edamalakkudy

The State Food Commission has unearthed large-scale irregularities in ration distribution in Edamalakkudy, the State's first tribal...



Why in News

- **Kerala Food Commission** flagged irregularities in ration distribution in **Edamalakkudy Panchayat**.

Geographical and Cultural Identity

- Inhabit the **Western Ghats of Kerala and Tamil Nadu**.
- Speak a **Dravidian language with dialect variations**.

Social Structure and Governance

- Organized into **Koottams (clans)** with **endogamy and clan exogamy** practices.
- Governed by the **Kani System**, led by a headman (**Kani**) and council of elders.

Economic Practices and Livelihood

- Practice **Virippukrishi (shifting cultivation)** for subsistence farming.
- Cultivate crops like **ragi, maize, millets, and vegetables**.

Cultural and Religious Beliefs

- Follow **animism and spirit worship**, with increasing influence of **Hindu practices**.

COLORADO RIVER

Why in News

- Study revealed reasons behind **declining water levels in American West**.

ecoportal.net

For decades they wondered why this Colorado river cut straight through a mountain until a hidden geological force finally gave it away

The now iconic Green River in Colorado has confounded geology for decades. Now we have come to learn that a geological force played a role...



Hydrological Characteristics

- Originates in **Rocky Mountains (USA)** and flows into **Gulf of California (Mexico)**.
- Covers **2330 km**, draining arid regions of North America.



Geographical and Ecological Importance

- Forms **Grand Canyon (UNESCO World Heritage Site)**.
- Creates reservoirs like **Lake Mead and Lake Powell**.

Strategic and Resource Significance

- Known as **“Lifeline of the Southwest”** supporting water needs of multiple states.
- Forms part of **international boundary between USA and Mexico**.

OTHER IMPORTANT NEWS OF THE DAY

Places in News

BULGARIA

THE Hindu

Tired of political turmoil, Bulgarians give ex-President a convincing mandate for change

The center-left coalition of ex-President Rumen Radev has emerged as the clear winner of Bulgaria's parliamentary election, the country's...



Why in News

- Political instability with **frequent elections (8 times in 5 years)**.

Geopolitical Location and Boundaries

- Located in **Southeastern Europe on the Balkan Peninsula**.
- Bordered by **Romania, Turkey, Greece, Serbia, and North Macedonia**.
- Has maritime boundary with the **Black Sea**.



Physical Geography and Resources

- Features **Balkan Mountains and Rhodope Mountains**.
- Highest peak is **Musala in Rila Mountains (9594 ft)**.
- Rich in **bauxite, copper, coal, lead, and zinc**.

Climatic and Hydrological Features

- Experiences **continental climate with Mediterranean influence**.
- Major rivers include **Danube, Maritsa, Iskur**.

Environment in News

ANIMALAI TIGER RESERVE

TOI The Times of India

Elderly woman found dead in Anaimalai Tiger Reserve, wild animal attack suspected



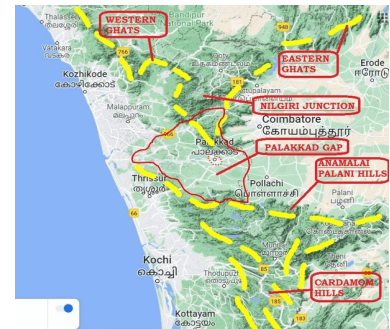
Coimbatore: An elderly woman who went missing from her home was found dead in the Manampally forest range of the Anaimalai Tiger Reserve,...

Why in News

- Incident reported in **Manampally forest range**.

Geographical Location and Connectivity

- Located in **Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu**, south of **Palakkad Gap**.
- Connected with **Parambikulam, Chinnar, and Eravikulam protected areas**.



Biodiversity and Habitat Diversity

- Contains **wet evergreen, deciduous, thorn forests, and grasslands**.
- Hosts species like **Tiger, Asiatic elephant, Leopard, Sambar deer**.

Floral Richness and Genetic Importance

- Contains wild relatives of crops like **mango, ginger (Zingiber officinale), pepper (Piper longum)**.

Tribal and Conservation Aspects

- Inhabited by tribes like **Kadar, Malasar, Pulayar**.
- Declared a Tiger Reserve in 2007 under Project Tiger.

Science and Technology

APIS MELLIFERA (WESTERN HONEY BEE)

TH The Hindu

In a first, migratory honey bees get 'warm womb' to stay back in winters in Kashmir

Kashmir's beekeepers can now winter their honey bees locally, reducing mortality and boosting honey production with innovative...



Why in News

- **The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Pulwama**, has been working on climate resilient honeybees to allow beekeepers to avoid having to transfer them to the plains to survive the winter

Biological and Taxonomic Features

- **Apis mellifera** is the most widely distributed domesticated insect species globally.
- It exhibits **eusocial behaviour** with a queen, workers, and drones in structured colonies.
- Workers possess **barbed stingers**, while queens have smooth stingers.

Economic and Agricultural Significance

- It is commercially used for **honey, wax, propolis production and crop pollination services**.
- It plays a critical role in enhancing **agricultural productivity through pollination**.

Habitat and Distribution Dynamics

- It is native to **Europe, Western Asia, and Africa**, later introduced globally since the **17th century**.
- It prefers habitats with **abundant flowering plants like meadows, woodlands, and gardens**.
- It requires **cavities such as hollow trees for nesting**.

UTTAR PRADESH IN NEWS

DAIRY SECTOR MODERNISATION IN UTTAR PRADESH

BS Business Standard

Uttar Pradesh attracts ₹7,200 crore investment in dairy, poultry sectors

Uttar Pradesh secures ₹7200 crore in dairy and poultry investments, aiming to boost rural incomes, jobs and its \$1 trillion economy target.



Why in News

- The **Uttar Pradesh Government** signed **59 MoUs worth over ₹3,000 crore** during the **“Dugdha Swarn Mahotsav”** in Lucknow.

Investment and Institutional Participation

- The MoUs involve major private players such as **Ananda Dairy, Gyan Dairy, and Param Dairy**.
- The initiative focuses on **public-private collaboration** to modernise the dairy value chain.

Infrastructure and Sectoral Focus

- Investments will be used for **dairy processing plants, milk chilling centres, and cattle feed units.**
- Emphasis is placed on **cold chain logistics and technological integration** in the dairy sector.

Economic and Employment Impact

- The agreements are expected to generate **over 13,000 jobs** in the state.
- The dairy sector contributes around **₹1.72 lakh crore to Uttar Pradesh's GSVA.**
- Overall, **796 MoUs worth ₹25,000 crore** have been signed, with potential to create **60,000 jobs.**

Farmer Welfare and Policy Support

- Under the **Nand Baba Dugdh Mission**, about **₹84 crore has been transferred via DBT to 10,000+ beneficiaries.**
- The initiative aims to strengthen **rural income and farmer participation in dairy economy.**

Significance

- It supports **rural economic growth, agro-processing, and value addition in livestock sector.**