

01/04/2026 Daily current affairs

Prelims articles:

1. *Yard 1280 (Shachi):*

Context: Yard 1280 (Shachi), the first of eleven Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs), was launched at M/s GSL, Goa.

About Yard 1280 (Shachi):

- ❖ Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) are being built simultaneously at Goa Shipyard Limited and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers.
- ❖ These indigenous ships will strengthen the existing fleet of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs/NOPVs).
- ❖ NGOPVs are designed for multi-domain roles including defence, surveillance, search & rescue, HADR, anti-piracy, and protection of offshore assets.
- ❖ The ships are named after Indian mythological themes.
- ❖ The first NGOPV (ex-GSL) is named '**Shachi**', meaning "one who renders assistance."
- ❖ The crest of NGOPVs features the constellation **Ursa Major** and a red-white lighthouse symbolizing guidance and vigilance.

2. *Malwan:*

Context: 'Malwan', the second of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was delivered to the Indian Navy on 31 Mar 2026.

About Malwan:

- ❖ 'Malwan' is an indigenously designed and built naval vessel by Cochin Shipyard Limited at Kochi as per Indian Navy specifications.
- ❖ It complies with classification standards of DNV.
- ❖ The ship is named after Malwan, reflecting the maritime legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- ❖ It continues the legacy of the earlier INS Malwan, a naval minesweeper decommissioned in 2003.
- ❖ The vessel is designed for underwater surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), and mine warfare.
- ❖ It is about 80 metres long with a displacement of around 1,100 tonnes.
- ❖ Equipped with waterjet propulsion, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, advanced radars, and sonar systems.
- ❖ With over 80% indigenous content, it strengthens India's self-reliance under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

3. *Sanshodhak (Yard 3028):*

Context: Sanshodhak (Yard 3028), the last Survey Vessel (Large) ship steered by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau, being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 Mar 2026.

About Sanshodhak (Yard 3028):

- ❖ Contract for four Survey Vessel (Large) ships was signed on **30 October 2018**.
- ❖ Earlier ships of the class—INS Sandhayak, INS Nirdeshak, and INS Ikshak—were commissioned in 2024–2025.
- ❖ The vessels are designed as per rules of Indian Register of Shipping.
- ❖ Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata.
- ❖ The ships are capable of coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys, including port and harbour approaches.

- ❖ They help in determining navigational routes and channels.
- ❖ Also used for collecting oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civilian purposes.
- ❖ ‘Sanshodhak’ has a displacement of about **3400 tonnes** and length of **110 metres**.
- ❖ Equipped with advanced systems like AUV, ROV, DGPS, and Digital Side Scan Sonar.
- ❖ Powered by two diesel engines, capable of speeds exceeding **18 knots**.

4. **Dunagiri (Yard 3023):**

Context: Dunagiri (Yard 3023), the fifth ship of Nilgiri Class (Project 17A) and second of the class built at Garden Reach Shipbuilding and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 30 Mar 2026 at GRSE, Kolkata.

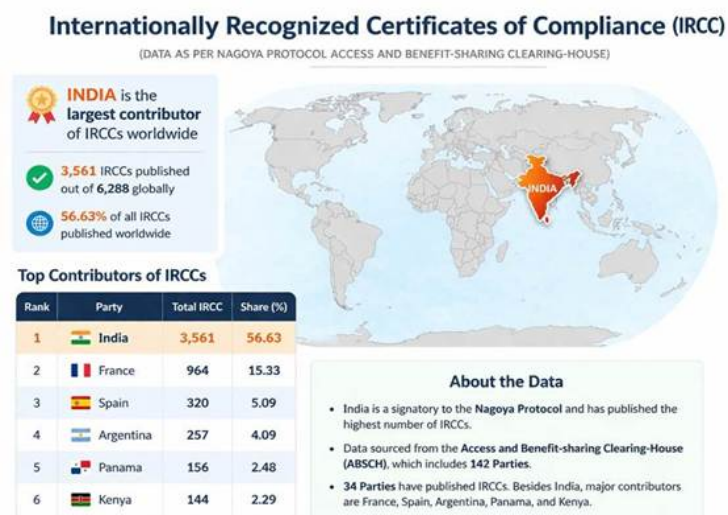
About Dunagiri (Yard 3023):

- ❖ INS Dunagiri is a modern reincarnation of the earlier INS Dunagiri, which served for 33 years.
- ❖ It is a Project 17A (P17A) stealth frigate, representing a major leap in indigenous warship design under India’s Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- ❖ Designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and overseen by the Warship Overseeing Team (Kolkata).
- ❖ Built using the philosophy of Integrated Construction, enabling faster and more efficient shipbuilding.
- ❖ It features advanced stealth, survivability, automation, and combat capabilities compared to the earlier Shivalik-class frigate.
- ❖ Propulsion system: Combined Diesel or Gas (CODOG) with controllable pitch propellers and Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS).
- ❖ Weapon systems include BrahMos anti-ship missiles, MFSTAR radar, MRSAM air defence system, 76 mm gun, CIWS (30 mm/12.7 mm), torpedoes, and ASW rockets.
- ❖ It is the fifth P17A ship delivered to the Indian Navy within 16 months, reflecting accelerated indigenous shipbuilding.

5. **Nagoya Protocol:**

Context: India has emerged as the global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ABS), accounting for over 56 per cent of all certificates issued worldwide.

More about:



- ❖ Out of 142 countries registered on the ABS Clearing-House, a global platform that promotes transparency and accountability, only 34 have issued IRCCs so far.
- ❖ Under the Nagoya Protocol, countries granting access to genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge are required to issue IRCCs.
- ❖ These certificates serve as official evidence that Prior Informed Consent has been obtained and that Mutually Agreed Terms have been established between users and providers of resources.
- ❖ IRCCs play a crucial role in tracking how genetic resources are used, from research and innovation to eventual commercial applications, ensuring that benefits are shared fairly with the provider country.

About Nagoya Protocol:

- ❖ Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ It was adopted on 29 October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan.
- ❖ The protocol entered into force on 12 October 2014, after the 50th instrument of ratification was deposited.
- ❖ It establishes a transparent legal framework for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.
- ❖ India ratified the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing in 2012.
- ❖ The protocol applies to genetic resources covered under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- ❖ It also covers benefits arising from the utilization of these genetic resources.
- ❖ The protocol includes traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources and ensures benefit sharing from their use.

About Convention on Biological Diversity:

- ❖ The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally binding international agreement that came into force in 1993.
- ❖ It was the first global treaty to recognize biodiversity conservation as essential for human welfare.
- ❖ The CBD covers ecosystems, species, and genetic resources comprehensively.
- ❖ It was opened for signature at the Earth Summit 1992.
- ❖ The CBD Secretariat is located in Montreal.
- ❖ It operates under the United Nations Environment Programme.
- ❖ Almost all UN member states have ratified it, except the United States.
- ❖ The Conference of the Parties (CoP) is the governing body and meets biennially to guide implementation.
- ❖ The CBD has three core objectives: conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit-sharing of biodiversity.

6. *Sādhana Saptah:*

Context: In a first of its kind national initiative, the Capacity Building Commission will launch *Sādhana Saptah*, 2026 from 2 to 8 April 2026, marking one of the largest collaborative capacity building efforts across India's civil services ecosystem.

About Sādhana Saptah:

- ❖ Sādhana Saptah stands for Strengthening Adaptive Development and Humane Aptitude for National Advancement.
- ❖ It is a national capacity-building initiative for civil servants.
- ❖ It brings together Central Ministries, Departments, Organisations (MDOs), States, Union Territories, and over 250 Civil Services Training Institutions (CSTIs).
- ❖ It aims to strengthen coordination in civil service training and development across India.
- ❖ It focuses on structured training programmes to build modern governance competencies.
- ❖ It is aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
- ❖ It seeks to enhance adaptive, humane, and development-oriented administrative capacity in civil servants.

About Capacity Building Commission:

- ❖ The **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)** was constituted through a Gazette notification of India in 2021 by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- ❖ It is an independent body with full executive and financial autonomy.
- ❖ CBC consists of three Members supported by an internal Secretariat headed by a Joint Secretary-level officer designated as Secretary to CBC.
- ❖ Its members are drawn from diverse backgrounds including government, states, PSUs, private sector, and academia.
- ❖ The core objective of CBC is to strengthen and standardise capacity building in civil services through a collaborative approach.
- ❖ It aims to build credibility and ensure a uniform, coordinated framework for capacity development across government institutions.
- ❖ It facilitates preparation of Annual Capacity Building Plans for ministries, departments, and agencies.
- ❖ It prepares the Annual State of Civil Services Report.
- ❖ It approves Knowledge Partners for national capacity-building missions.
- ❖ It promotes a de-siloed and integrated approach to capacity-building initiatives across government.

7. 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative:

Context: Varkala, a coastal town in Kerala, has been included in the inaugural “20 Cities Towards Zero Waste” initiative, highlighting India’s growing commitment to sustainable urban development.

About 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative:

- ❖ The “**20 Cities Towards Zero Waste**” initiative is led by the UN Secretary-General’s Advisory Board on Zero Waste.
- ❖ It is supported by **UN-Habitat** and the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**.
- ❖ The initiative aims to highlight cities demonstrating strong efforts in waste reduction and resource efficiency.
- ❖ It promotes sustainable urban systems through **zero-waste practices**.
- ❖ A key objective is to encourage global cooperation and knowledge-sharing among cities.
- ❖ It recognises innovation and leadership in urban waste management.
- ❖ It promotes adoption of **circular economy models** at the local level.
- ❖ It focuses on reducing, reusing, and recycling resources instead of discarding them.
- ❖ It seeks to inspire other cities to transition towards sustainable waste management systems.

Mains specific articles:

1. *Earth's orbits are filling up because governance hasn't kept pace: (GS paper 3)*

Context: The Hindu Explainer.

- ❖ **Changing Nature of Space:** Orbital space, once seen as free and open, is now crowded, fragile, and vulnerable due to governance failures rather than just technical limits
- ❖ **Gap Between Policy & Practice:** Growing space activity and private participation have widened the gap between commitments and actual implementation, leading to under-governed orbital use
- ❖ **Challenges in Debris Governance:** Space debris is hard to track and attribute; damage identification is often uncertain and occurs only after incidents
- ❖ **Information Asymmetry:** Unequal access to orbital data and restrictions due to commercial and security concerns hinder effective risk management
- ❖ **Weak Monitoring Mechanisms:** No robust system to verify whether satellite operators follow end-of-life safety and disposal commitments
- ❖ **Regulatory Limitations:** Regulators rely on pre-launch declarations rather than post-launch verification, leading to unclear accountability
- ❖ **Rising Risk of Collisions:** Even small debris can destroy satellites; collisions create cascading debris, increasing long-term risks
- ❖ **Legal Framework Gaps:** Existing treaties like the Outer Space Treaty assign responsibility and liability but fail to address cumulative harm and prevention effectively
- ❖ **Absence of Duty-of-Care Standards:** No global standard defining acceptable congestion levels or ethical limits in orbital use
- ❖ **Issues in Licensing Regimes:** Variations in national regulations allow operators to exploit lenient jurisdictions, weakening global governance
- ❖ **Need for Standardisation:** Calls for uniform licensing norms, measurable debris mitigation, mandatory data sharing, and verifiable disposal strategies
- ❖ **Ethical Concerns:** Increasing private and new national actors risk continuing permissive practices unless responsibility norms are redefined
- ❖ **Guiding Environmental Principles:** Concepts like precaution, proportionality, and intergenerational equity should guide space governance
- ❖ **India's Opportunity:** India can shape ethical space governance through strong national legislation and responsible licensing frameworks
- ❖ **Need for Enforceable Governance:** Voluntary guidelines are insufficient; binding rules, monitoring, and sanctions are necessary for sustainability
- ❖ **Core Questions:** Raises issues of responsibility, negligence, and obligations to future generations in managing orbital space
- ❖ **Conclusion:** Sustainable space use requires proactive ethical governance; delayed action will make damage irreversible

2. *On global tensions and India's economy: (GS paper 3)*

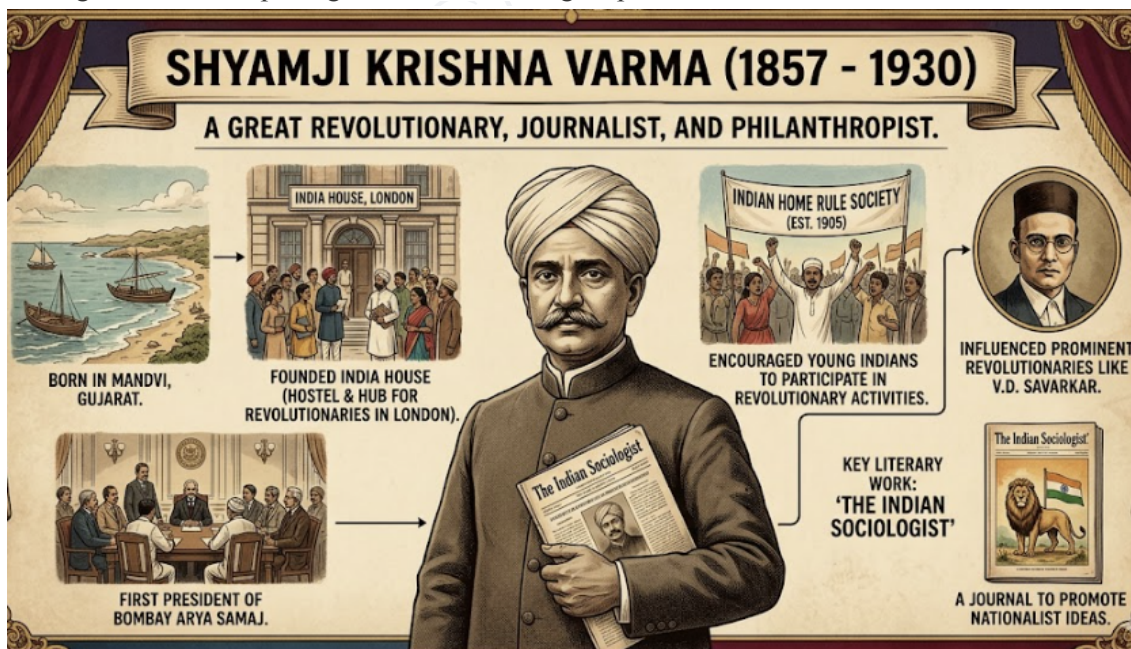
Context: The Hindu Explainer.

- ❖ **Context – Geopolitical Shock:** Rising instability in West Asia is creating macroeconomic stress for India, exposing vulnerabilities beyond GDP growth
- ❖ **Current Macroeconomic Stress:** Rupee at ₹95/\$, crude at \$156/barrel, and Reserve Bank of India using forex reserves to stabilise markets
- ❖ **Growth vs Vulnerability Paradox:** Strong GDP (~8.1%), high public capex (~4% of GDP), and fiscal consolidation coexist with weakening external buffers
- ❖ **External Sector Pressure:** Forex reserves decline (~\$709.76 billion) and FPI outflows (> \$8 billion) increasing currency volatility
- ❖ **Weak Income Dynamics:** Subdued real wages, rising household debt (~41% of GDP), and slow private investment despite state-led capex
- ❖ **Shift in Fiscal Structure:** Revenue growth driven by transaction-based taxes (GST, financial transactions) rather than income expansion
- ❖ **Revenue Vulnerability:** GST dependence makes revenues sensitive to shocks affecting consumption and economic activity
- ❖ **Past Evidence of Stress:** During COVID-19, GST shortfalls forced borrowing (~₹2.69 lakh crore) to compensate states
- ❖ **Oil Dependency Risk:** India imports 85–87% of crude oil, making economy highly exposed to global price fluctuations
- ❖ **Impact of Oil Price Rise:** \$10/barrel increase → higher inflation, wider CAD (~0.4% GDP), and reduced growth (~0.5%)
- ❖ **Fiscal Impact of Oil Shock:** Higher subsidies (fertiliser, LPG), reduced fuel taxes, and increased expenditure burden
- ❖ **Ukraine War Example:** Oil >\$120 led to excise duty cuts (₹2.2 lakh crore loss) and subsidies rising to ~₹3.2 lakh crore
- ❖ **Current Risk Estimates:** At \$100 oil, CAD may rise to ~1% GDP and expenditure increase by ₹3.6 trillion
- ❖ **Fiscal Squeeze Mechanism:** Oil shocks reduce consumption, weaken GST, and increase subsidies simultaneously
- ❖ **Household Sector Stress:** High consumption share (61.4% of GDP) but rising debt and volatile savings increase vulnerability
- ❖ **Energy Inflation Impact:** LPG import dependence (>60%) leading to shortages, higher costs, and pressure on household budgets
- ❖ **Capex-Led Growth Strategy:** ₹17.15 lakh crore capital expenditure boosts long-term growth but limits welfare spending
- ❖ **Decline in Welfare Buffer:** Reduced allocation to Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act weakens income support during shocks
- ❖ **Industrial Sector Trends:** Growth led by capital-intensive sectors; high-tech industries contribute ~46% of manufacturing
- ❖ **Weak Labour-Intensive Sectors:** Informal and service sectors remain vulnerable to demand shocks and energy disruptions
- ❖ **Private Investment Concern:** Low project completion (~9%) despite high announcements indicates cautious investment climate

- ❖ **Impact on Informal Economy:** LPG shortages hit small businesses; food delivery demand fell 50–60%, affecting gig workers
- ❖ **Structural Challenge:** Fiscal space constrained due to capex focus and reliance on transaction-based revenues
- ❖ **Way Forward:** Need for income-led demand, diversified energy sources, and resilient revenue systems to manage external shocks

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Kaynes Technology semiconductor plant in Sanand, Gujarat, marking the commencement of production at the facility.
- ☐ The Prime Minister inaugurated the Samrat Samprati Sangrahalay, Jain Heritage Museum at Koba Tirth in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on the auspicious occasion of Bhagwan Mahavir Jayanti.
- ☐ The Nyaya Setu AI Chatbot, along with its official mascot “Dishika”, was unveiled at the DISHA programme organised by the Department of Justice. Nyaya Setu is a voice-first, multimodal, multilingual AI-powered legal assistant designed to democratise access to justice by helping citizens understand legal processes, rights, and next steps through simple voice and text interactions across multiple Indian languages.
- ☐ The 4th edition of the India Sporting Goods Fair (ISGF) 2026 opened in Yashobhoomi is a convention center located in Sector 25, Dwarka, Delhi with a strong focus on transforming India into a global hub for sports goods manufacturing, exports and trade.



- ☐
- ☐ More than 200 global business organisations have jointly urged the extension of the World Trade Organization (WTO) E-commerce Moratorium, as its expiry approaches at the upcoming 14th Ministerial Conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon. The E-commerce Moratorium is a longstanding

WTO agreement that prohibits member countries from imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions.

- ☐ India recently conducted Exercise Dweep Shakti, a high-intensity Tri-Service drill from 24 to 28 March 2026 aimed at strengthening coastal and island defence capabilities.
- ☐ At least nine people have lost their lives in a stampede at the Sheetla Mata Temple in Bihar's Nalanda district on March 31, 2026.
- ☐ Andhra Pradesh is set to achieve a major technological milestone with the launch of India's first quantum computer on April 14, 2026, in Amaravati.
- ☐ Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve is located in Maharashtra and forms a crucial part of the central Indian Tiger Landscape, which supports nearly one-sixth of India's tiger population. Declared a tiger reserve in 2013, it is the fifth such reserve in the state. Its strategic location allows ecological connectivity with major reserves like Kanha, Pench, and Tadoba, facilitating wildlife movement and genetic diversity.
- ☐ A newly observed COVID-19 variant, BA.3.2—commonly referred to as “Cicada”—is gradually increasing in detection across several regions worldwide.

Practice questions:

Objective questions:

Which of the following naval ships and their utility is correctly matched?

- (a) Shachi – Survey Vessel
- (b) Malwan – ASW Shallow Water Craft
- (c) Sanshodhak – Stealth Frigate
- (d) Dunagiri – Patrol Vessel

With reference to the “20 Cities Towards Zero Waste” initiative, consider the following statements:

1. It is led by the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste.
2. Kochi from Kerala was included in the list as the first city from India.
3. It aims to promote solar-fuel-based urban industrial systems.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

With reference to the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), consider the following statements:

1. It was constituted in 2021 through a Gazette notification by the Department of Personnel and Training.
2. It functions as an independent body with executive and financial autonomy.
3. It prepares the Annual State of Civil Services Report.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Mains practice question:

“Earth’s orbital space is increasingly becoming congested due to governance gaps rather than technological limitations.” Examine the challenges associated with space debris and orbital congestion. Suggest measures to ensure sustainable and ethical governance of outer space, with special reference to India. (250 words)

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