

06/04/2026 Daily Current Affairs

1. *Babu Jagjivan Ram:*

Context: Prime Minister pays tribute to Babu Jagjivan Ram on his Birth Anniversary.

About Babu Jagjivan Ram:

- ❖ Born on 5 April 1908 at Chandwa, Bihar, in a Dalit family.
- ❖ Faced untouchability in school; protested by breaking the separate water pot.
- ❖ Inspired by Madan Mohan Malaviya and joined Banaras Hindu University.
- ❖ Continued anti-caste protests during his education, later graduated from University of Calcutta (B.Sc., 1931).
- ❖ Organised Ravidas Sammelans and celebrated Guru Ravidas Jayanti in Calcutta.
- ❖ Joined Indian National Congress in 1931.
- ❖ Founded the All India Depressed Classes League (1934–35) for Dalit rights.
- ❖ Advocated opening of wells and temples to untouchables (1935).
- ❖ Demanded voting rights for Dalits before the Hammond Commission (1935).
- ❖ Imprisoned during the Quit India Movement.
- ❖ Became the youngest minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's interim government.
- ❖ Served as Labour Minister till 1952; later held key portfolios (communications, railways, agriculture, defence).
- ❖ Was Defence Minister during the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.
- ❖ Left Congress in 1977; joined Janata Party and became Deputy Prime Minister (1977–79).
- ❖ Member of Parliament continuously for about 40 years (1936–1986).
- ❖ Longest-serving Union Cabinet Minister (~30 years) in India.
- ❖ Died on 6 July 1986 in New Delhi.
- ❖ Memorial named Samta Sthal (Place of Equality).

2. *Pneumonia:*

Context: Researchers at the BITS Pilani-Hyderabad campus claim to have developed and tested a new experimental vaccine against *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, the bacterium responsible for some of the world's deadliest infections, raising hopes for more effective protection against pneumonia and related diseases.

More about:

- ❖ *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is a major cause of pneumonia, meningitis, and sepsis, responsible for ~740,000 child deaths (2019).
- ❖ Existing vaccines like PPV23 and PCVs target limited serotypes, allowing other strains to spread.
- ❖ BITS Pilani Hyderabad Campus researchers developed a synthetic multiepitope vaccine targeting multiple strains.
- ❖ The vaccine uses AI-based immunoinformatics, combining epitopes from proteins (Ply, PspA, PsaA) for broader and safer protection.

About Pneumonia:

- ❖ Pneumonia is an acute respiratory infection affecting the lungs, often caused by *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.
- ❖ Pneumonia can be caused by bacteria, viruses, or fungi present in the air.
- ❖ Newborns, undernourished children, and those with weak immunity (e.g., HIV) are more vulnerable.
- ❖ It spreads through coughing, sneezing, bodily fluids, and contaminated surfaces.
- ❖ Bacterial pneumonia is preventable with the Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, given in 3 doses.
- ❖ A new vaccine for viral pneumonia is currently under development.
- ❖ India has included PCV in the Universal Immunisation Programme for nationwide coverage.

3. ***Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS):***

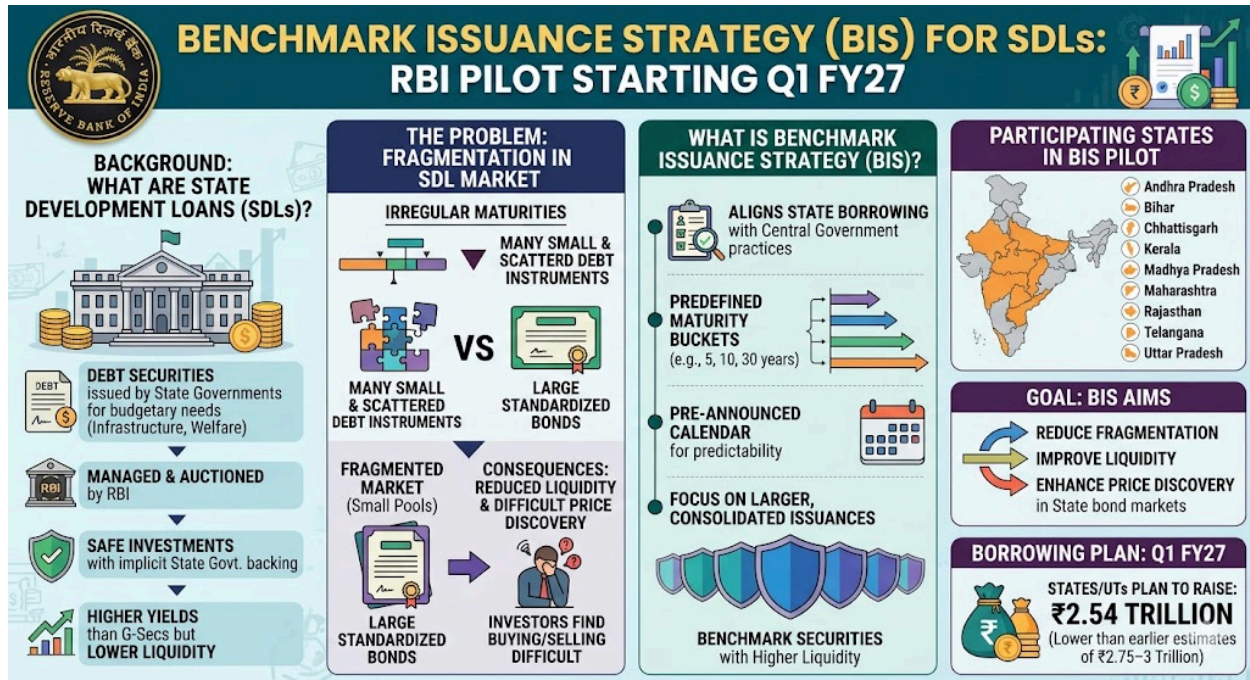
Context: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a pilot Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) for State Development Loans (SDLs) starting in Q1 FY27.

Background:

- ❖ State Development Loans (SDLs) are debt securities issued by State Governments to meet budgetary needs like infrastructure and welfare spending.
- ❖ SDLs are managed and auctioned by the Reserve Bank of India.
- ❖ They are considered safe investments due to implicit backing by State Governments.
- ❖ SDLs generally offer higher yields than G-Secs to compensate for lower liquidity.
- ❖ Compared to Government Securities, SDLs are less liquid in secondary markets.
- ❖ States issue bonds with irregular maturities, creating multiple small and scattered debt instruments.
- ❖ This leads to fragmentation in the State Development Loan (SDL) market.
- ❖ Fragmentation results in many small pools instead of large, standardised bonds.
- ❖ Investors find it difficult to buy and sell these bonds easily.
- ❖ It reduces liquidity and efficient price discovery in the bond market.

What is Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) ?

- ❖ The Benchmark Issuance Strategy (BIS) aligns State borrowing with Central Government practices.
- ❖ States will issue bonds in predefined maturity buckets (e.g., 5, 10, 30 years).
- ❖ Borrowing will follow a pre-announced calendar for better predictability.
- ❖ Focus is on larger, consolidated bond issuances instead of fragmented ones.
- ❖ This creates benchmark securities with higher liquidity and easier tradability.
- ❖ Participating States: Nine States—Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh—will take part in the BIS pilot.
- ❖ Goal: BIS aims to reduce fragmentation, improve liquidity, and enhance price discovery in State bond markets.
- ❖ Borrowing Plan: States/UTs plan to raise ₹2.54 trillion in Q1 FY27, lower than earlier estimates of ₹2.75–3 trillion.



4. Measles:

Context: Bangladesh said it suspected measles killed at least 98 children in the past three weeks, official data showed on Sunday, with Dhaka ramping up vaccination efforts in the worst-affected areas.

About Measles:

- ❖ Measles virus is an enveloped, RNA virus of the genus Morbillivirus.
- ❖ Measles is highly contagious, and an infected person will often transmit the virus to over 90% of unprotected close contacts.
- ❖ The virus infects the respiratory tract, then spreads throughout the body.
- ❖ Measles is a human disease and is not known to occur in animals.
- ❖ Measles can be entirely prevented through a two-dose vaccine and has been officially eliminated in many countries with advanced healthcare systems.

5. Tenure of executive:

Context: Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 8,931 days in elected office, surpassing Pawan Kumar Chamling.

More about:

- ❖ Core Issue: Raises question of absence of term limits for executive leadership in India.
- ❖ Global Comparison: Countries like the United States, Brazil, and Indonesia impose presidential term limits, unlike India.
- ❖ Constitutional Logic: B. R. Ambedkar argued parliamentary accountability (daily checks) makes term limits unnecessary.

- ❖ Accountability Tools: Mechanisms include questions, adjournment motions, and no-confidence motions.
- ❖ Anti-Defection Impact: Tenth Schedule of Indian Constitution restricts legislators from voting against party, weakening accountability.
- ❖ Judicial Backing: Kihoto Hollohan vs Zachillhu upheld anti-defection law.
- ❖ Systemic Effect: No-confidence motions become ineffective when ruling party has majority.
- ❖ Party Structure Issue: Lack of intra-party democracy reinforces leadership dominance.
- ❖ Comparative Research: Scholars highlight term-limit evasion and gradual democratic decline globally.
- ❖ Presidential Contrast: Indian Presidents follow informal two-term convention despite limited powers.
- ❖ Democratic Concern: Long incumbency may give institutional and electoral advantages to leaders.
- ❖ Counter Argument: Repeated electoral victories reflect popular mandate and democratic choice.
- ❖ Reform Suggestion 1: Exempt confidence votes from anti-defection law to restore legislative control.
- ❖ Reform Suggestion 2: Consider constitutional term limits for PM/CM with possible gap-based return.
- ❖ Conclusion: Debate centres on whether India's system retains effective checks on executive power.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Observed on April 5, National Maritime Day highlights India's maritime heritage and the role of shipping in trade and security. It traces its origin to the 1919 voyage of SS Loyalty and recognises seafarers and port workers. The 63rd National Maritime Day in India on April 5, 2026, is celebrated under the theme "Maritime India – Empowering Progress".
- ☐ INS Trikand, frontline guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, arrived at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 03 Apr 2026, as part of its ongoing deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region. The visit aims to strengthen maritime cooperation and enhance bilateral ties between India and Tanzania.
- ☐ Bharat Tribes Fest 2026, a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs organised in association with TRIFED, concluded today with a grand closing ceremony at Sunder Nursery, New Delhi, marking the culmination of a 19-day celebration of tribal culture, craftsmanship, and enterprise.
- ☐ The vibrant festival of Rongali Bihu has recently brought festive enthusiasm across Assam, marking the beginning of the Assamese New Year and the arrival of spring.
- ☐ Explosives of “devastating power” were found near the Turkstream pipeline in Serbia that carries Russian natural gas to Hungary and beyond, leaders from the two countries said.

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