

07/04/2026 Daily Current Affairs

1. *Government e Marketplace (GeM):*

Context: The Government e Marketplace (GeM) has achieved a cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹18.4 lakh crore, including crossing ₹5 lakh crore GMV in the financial year 2025–26.

About Government e Marketplace (GeM):



- ❖ It is an online platform for public procurement.
- ❖ It was launched in 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I).
- ❖ It was created with the objective to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers to facilitate the online procurement of goods and services.
- ❖ The purchases through GeM by Government users have been authorised and made mandatory by the Ministry of Finance under the General Financial Rules, 2017.
- ❖ The platform is owned by GeM SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle) which is a 100% Government-owned, non-profit company under the MoC&I.

2. *Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE):*

Context: NSO launches the first ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE) covering incorporated services sector enterprises across India with the reference period being the financial year 2024-25.

More about:

- ❖ The survey is aimed at developing a comprehensive database of the incorporated services sector of the country.
- ❖ The survey uses GSTN database as sampling frame. More than 1.21 lakh enterprises will be surveyed in ASISSE.
- ❖ NSO publishes “Know Your Survey: A User Guide to the Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)” as part of MoSPI’s broader outreach efforts to engage with users and communicate survey processes in a more transparent and user-friendly manner.

3. *Market for Textiles & Clothing: National Household Survey 2024:*

Context: The Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh, today released study report on Domestic Demand of Textiles “Market for Textiles and Clothing: National Household Survey 2024”

Major highlights:

- ❖ Market Growth: India’s textile market expanded from ₹4.89 lakh crore (2010) to ₹14.95 lakh crore (2024), registering ~8.3% CAGR.
- ❖ Household Demand: Household consumption rose from ₹4.18 lakh crore to ₹8.77 lakh crore, driving domestic demand.
- ❖ Per Capita Demand: Increased from ₹2,119 (2010) to ₹6,066 (2024) with ~7.8% CAGR, indicating rising individual consumption.
- ❖ Fiber Share: Man Made Fibers & blended fibers lead with 52.2%, followed by cotton (41.2%), silk (5.2%), and wool (1.3%).
- ❖ MMF Growth: Demand grew from ₹1.47 lakh crore to ₹4.47 lakh crore (~8.28% CAGR).
- ❖ Cotton Growth: Demand increased from ₹0.87 lakh crore to ₹3.53 lakh crore (~10.53% CAGR).
- ❖ Silk & Wool: Silk grew at ~8.93% CAGR and wool at ~7.02% CAGR.
- ❖ The study further shows that women consumers, who are the major buyers of textile products have contributed 55.5% of textile purchases as compared to 44.5% by men.

4. *Starlink project:*

Context: Meghalaya becomes the third Indian state after Maharashtra and Gujarat to partner with Starlink formally.

About Starlink project:

- ❖ It is a SpaceX project, launched in 2019, to build a broadband network with a cluster of thousands of orbiting satellites.
- ❖ The goal of the project is to create a low-cost, satellite-based broadband network that can provide global internet access.
- ❖ The Starlink satellites will be placed in an altitude range between 350 km and 1,200 km in Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ Starlink satellites operate in Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) which results in lower latency and faster data transfer rates than typical geostationary satellites orbit at much higher altitudes.

5. *Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):*

Context: The European Union has tightened water pollution norms to target pollutants like PFAS.

What are Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS):

- ❖ Definition: PFAS are a group of over 4,700 persistent, man-made toxic chemicals known as “forever chemicals.”
- ❖ Origin & Use: Widely used since the 1950s in consumer products like non-stick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics, and firefighting foams.
- ❖ Chemical Nature: Strong carbon–fluorine bonds make PFAS extremely resistant to environmental degradation.

- ❖ Exposure Sources: Humans are exposed through contaminated water, food, air, and everyday products.
- ❖ Industrial Use: Used in aerospace, automotive, construction, and electronics industries.
- ❖ Persistence: PFAS accumulate in the environment and build up in human and animal bodies over time.
- ❖ Health Impacts: Linked to reduced fertility, developmental issues, hormonal disruption, high cholesterol, and cancer risks.
- ❖ Global Regulation: Stockholm Convention lists some PFAS like PFOS and PFOA as persistent organic pollutants.

6. ***'Ghatak' programme:***

Context: India has taken a significant step towards strengthening its air combat capabilities with the planned induction of indigenous stealth unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) under the 'Ghatak' programme.

About 'Ghatak' programme:

- ❖ The Ghatak UCAV, earlier known as the Autonomous Unmanned Research Aircraft (AURA), is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- ❖ Designed as a stealth combat drone, it represents India's push for self-reliance in advanced military technologies.
- ❖ The programme aims to deliver a next-generation unmanned platform capable of executing high-risk missions without endangering human pilots.
- ❖ The Ghatak is a 13-tonne class, jet-powered unmanned aircraft featuring a tailless flying-wing configuration. This design significantly reduces radar cross-section, enhancing stealth capabilities.
- ❖ The airframe is expected to use 80–90% carbon-fibre prepreg composites, further aiding low observability.
- ❖ Powered by the indigenous Kaveri engine, the UCAV can carry up to 1.5 tonnes of weapons in internal bays, ensuring stealth during operations.
- ❖ The UCAV is intended for deep strike missions, suppression of enemy air defences (SEAD), and coordinated operations alongside manned fighter aircraft such as the LCA Tejas.

7. ***Rove beetles:***

Context: Researchers have recently identified three new species of rove beetles in Arunachal Pradesh.

About Rove beetles:

- ❖ Rove beetles belong to the family Staphylinidae, one of the largest beetle families in the animal kingdom. They are typically elongate, fast-moving insects characterised by shortened wing covers (elytra), which leave much of their flexible abdomen exposed.

- ❖ A distinctive feature is their ability to raise the abdomen in a scorpion-like posture as a defensive mechanism, although they do not possess a true sting.
- ❖ Rove beetles possess chemical defence mechanisms through abdominal glands, releasing irritant or antimicrobial secretions to deter predators.

8. *Indian Softshell Turtle (Nilssonia gangetica):*

Context: In a recent incident, police rescued 16 Indian Softshell turtles in Greater Noida during a routine check, drawing attention to the persistent issue of illegal wildlife trade in India.

About Indian Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*):

- ❖ The Indian Softshell Turtle is one of the largest freshwater turtle species in the world.
- ❖ It has a green, oval soft shell with yellow border, long neck, and tube-like snout for breathing underwater.
- ❖ Its soft, compressed carapace allows fast swimming and efficient movement.
- ❖ Found in rivers, lakes, ponds, canals, and streams with sandy or muddy bottoms.
- ❖ Prefers turbid waters and can remain buried in sand for long durations.
- ❖ Distributed across Afghanistan, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.
- ❖ In India, occurs in major basins like Ganga, Brahmaputra, Indus, Yamuna, Narmada, and Mahanadi.
- ❖ It is omnivorous, feeding on fish, amphibians, insects, molluscs, carrion, and plants.
- ❖ Plays an important role in maintaining aquatic ecosystem balance.
- ❖ Breeding season is from February to April.
- ❖ Considered sacred in some regions (e.g., Odisha) and protected in temple ponds.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The Tri-Service seminar Ran Samwad is scheduled to be held on April 09-10, 2026 at the Air Force Training Command, Bengaluru. This edition marks the beginning of a continued and structured dialogue on emerging paradigms of warfare, with the theme “Multi Domain Operations: An Imperative for Addressing Conventional and Irregular Threats”.
- ☐ India achieved its highest-ever annual wind capacity addition of 6.05 GW during FY 2025-26 crossing the landmark of 5.5 GW capacity addition in FY 2016-17. With this addition, India's cumulative installed wind power capacity has crossed 56 GW.
- ☐ The Technology Development Board (TDB), Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, has signed an agreement with M/s Scharge Pvt Limited for the project titled “Powering EV Charging Innovation.” The project is supported under the India–UK Collaborative R&D Programme for Industrial Sustainability, in partnership with UK-based Albright Product Design Limited, aimed at developing advanced and efficient solutions for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure.
- ☐ **Project Maven** is a U.S. military AI programme that uses machine learning and computer vision to analyse large volumes of drone imagery, enabling automatic detection of objects, movements,

and targets. It reduces the burden on human analysts and provides real-time intelligence to support faster and more accurate military operations.

- ☐ The No-Cloning Theorem is a fundamental principle in Quantum Mechanics which states that it is impossible to create an exact copy of an arbitrary unknown quantum state. Unlike classical systems where data can be duplicated freely, this theorem ensures that quantum information cannot be perfectly replicated, thereby placing intrinsic limits on quantum computing and forming the basis for secure quantum communication.
- ☐ A major palaeontological discovery in the **Shivalik foothills near Dehradun** has revealed freshwater fish fossils, **Gourami Fish Fossils**, for the first time in the region, previously known only for terrestrial remains.
- ☐ The indigenous Appemidi mango, known for its unique flavour and cultural significance, is facing increasing threats due to climate change in Karnataka's Aghanashini valley. Appemidi mango is a renowned tender raw mango variety from Karnataka's Western Ghats region, granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag in 2009. Primarily grown in Uttara Kannada and Shimoga, it is famous for its distinct aroma, thin skin, and excellent pickling qualities.
- ☐ The 7th National Sub-Junior (Under-17) Boxing Championship commenced in Nagpur, marking a significant event in India's youth sporting calendar.
- ☐ On World Health Day 2026, celebrated on 7 April WHO unites and mobilizes the world under the theme "Together for health. Stand with science."

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