

08/04/2026 Daily Current Affairs

1. *Guru Tegh Bahadur:*

Context: Prime Minister offers respectful homage to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on the occasion of Parkash Purab.

About Guru Tegh Bahadur:

- ❖ Born in 1621 at Amritsar.
- ❖ Youngest son of Guru Hargobind.
- ❖ Served as the 9th Sikh Guru.
- ❖ Founded Chak Nanki, later developed into Anandpur Sahib.
- ❖ Revered as “Hind Di Chadar” (Protector of India).
- ❖ Championed universal brotherhood and religious freedom.
- ❖ Opposed superstition, caste discrimination, and untouchability.
- ❖ His hymns in Guru Granth Sahib emphasize equality, peace, and courage.

2. *Biological Diversity Act, 2002:*

Context: Government notifies Two Key Institutions as Repositories under Biological Diversity Act, 2002.

More about:

- ❖ The National Biodiversity Authority notified **two institutions as designated repositories** under Section 39 of the Biological Diversity Act 2002.
- ❖ Decision taken in consultation with the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change.
- ❖ **Institutions notified:**
 - Referral Centre Bhavasagara at Centre for Marine Living Resources and Ecology
 - MACS Collection of Microorganisms & National Fungal Culture Collection at Agharkar Research Institute
- ❖ **Section 39 provision:** Central Government can designate institutions as repositories for biological resources.
- ❖ **Purpose:** Ensure **safe custody, documentation, and preservation** of biological materials (including voucher specimens).
- ❖ **Mandatory requirement:** Discoverers of new species must **inform repositories and deposit specimens**.
- ❖ **Selection process:** Proposals → examined by expert committee → recommended by NBA → notified by Ministry.
- ❖ **Bhavasagara Centre (CMLRE):** Focus on **deep-sea biodiversity**; maintains 3,500+ geo-referenced marine specimens.
- ❖ **MACS Collection:** Specialised in **microbial preservation**, including rare and extremophilic organisms.
- ❖ **National Fungal Culture Collection:** Repository for **fungal diversity**, supports research, industry, and training.

- ❖ **Overall significance:** Strengthens **biodiversity conservation, research, and bio-resource management in India.**

About Biological Diversity Act, 2002:

- ❖ Enacted in 2002 to conserve biodiversity and ensure sustainable use with equitable benefit sharing.
- ❖ Aims to protect biological resources and associated traditional knowledge of local communities.
- ❖ Prior approval of National Biodiversity Authority is mandatory for accessing biological resources for research or commercial use.
- ❖ Approval required for transfer of research results related to Indian biological resources.
- ❖ Prior permission needed for claiming intellectual property rights based on Indian biological resources.
- ❖ Establishes a **three-tier structure**: NBA (national), State Biodiversity Boards (state), and Biodiversity Management Committees (local).
- ❖ Provides dedicated funds and budgets for biodiversity conservation and research.
- ❖ Regulates access, sustainable use, and benefit sharing of biological resources.
- ❖ Empowers authorities to monitor financial investments and ensure fair returns from bio-resources.
- ❖ Central Government (with NBA) can notify threatened species and regulate their conservation.
- ❖ Allows designation of repositories for biological resources.
- ❖ Offences under the Act are **cognizable and non-bailable**.
- ❖ Appeals and disputes are handled by the National Green Tribunal.

3. *Dedicated Freight corridors:*

Context: Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) fully completed by Ministry of Railways

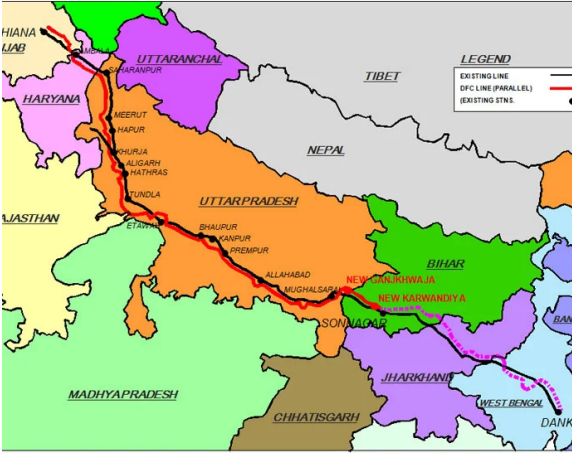
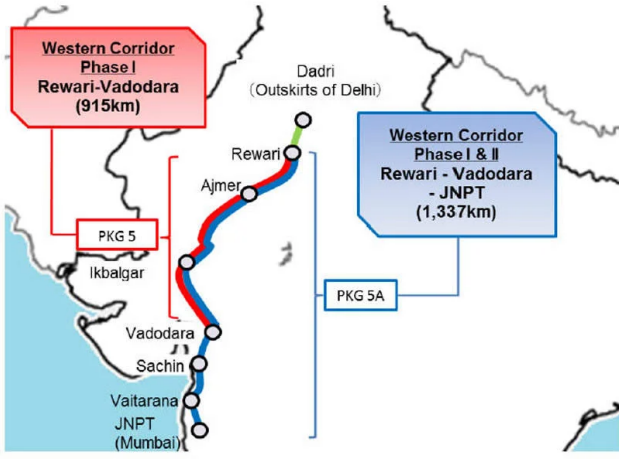
What is Dedicated Freight Corridor?

- ❖ It is a high speed and high capacity railway corridor that is exclusively meant for the transportation of freight.

India's Dedicated Freight Corridors:

- ❖ DFC is a major rail freight infrastructure project aimed at improving freight transport efficiency in India.
- ❖ It is implemented by Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Limited.
- ❖ DFCCIL was established in October 2006.
- ❖ It functions as a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Railways.
- ❖ The total planned length of DFCs is 3,306 km.
- ❖ The total estimated project cost exceeds ₹81,000 crore.
- ❖ DFC consists of two corridors: Eastern DFC and Western DFC.

Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)	Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC)

डेडीकेटेड फ्रेट करिडोर DEDICATED FREIGHT CORRIDORS (EASTERN) 	
Runs from Ludhiana to Dankuni	Runs from Jawaharlal Nehru Port to Dadri
Total length: 1,337 km	Total length: 1,506 km
Passes through Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal	Passes through Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh
Focuses on coal, steel, and bulk cargo transport	Focuses on containerized cargo and port connectivity
Funded mainly by World Bank	Funded by Japan International Cooperation Agency
Connects industrial belt of North India to Eastern ports	Connects Western ports to Northern hinterland
High relevance for power plants and heavy industries	High relevance for EXIM trade and logistics

4. Angola:

Context: India is negotiating with Angola, an important alternative to West Asia for gas supplies.

Details about Angola:

- ❖ Angola is the seventh-largest country in Africa by land area.
- ❖ It is located on the southwestern coast of Africa.
- ❖ It shares borders with Democratic Republic of the Congo (north & east), Republic of the Congo (northwest via Cabinda), Zambia (east), and Namibia (south).
- ❖ It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west.

- ❖ Major rivers include Cuanza, Cunene, Cubango (Okavango), and Zambezi River.
- ❖ Angola is rich in resources such as crude oil, natural gas, diamonds, iron ore, copper, gold, and uranium.
- ❖ India accounts for about 10% of Angola's external trade.
- ❖ India imports crude oil, diamonds, and raw minerals from Angola.
- ❖ India exports pharmaceuticals, machinery, vehicles, and agricultural goods to Angola.

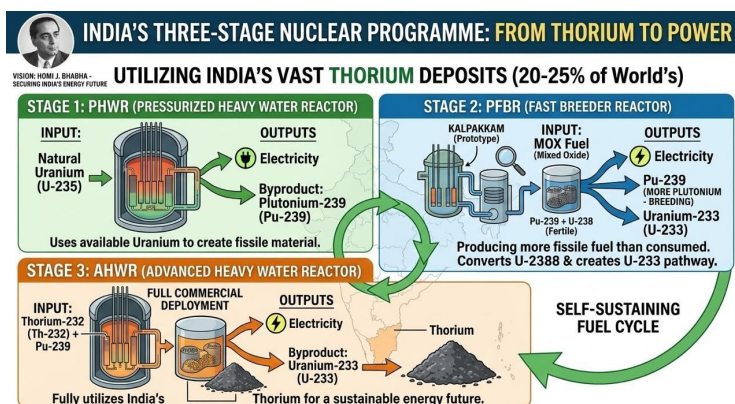
5. *Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam:*

Context: Indigenously developed Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam attains Criticality. Criticality refers to a situation when each fission event releases a sufficient number of neutron to sustain an ongoing series of reactions, in other words, it is point when nuclear reactor achieves a self-sustaining chain reaction.

More about Fast Breeder Reactor:

- ❖ A Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) is a nuclear reactor that uses fast neutrons to produce more fuel than it consumes.
- ❖ India's FBR is located at Kalpakkam.
- ❖ It is operated by Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited.
- ❖ The reactor has a power capacity of 500 MW.
- ❖ Once operational, India will become the second country after Russia to have a commercial FBR.
- ❖ It uses indigenously developed Uranium-Plutonium Mixed Oxide (MOX) fuel.
- ❖ It employs liquid sodium as a coolant instead of water.
- ❖ A Uranium-238 blanket surrounds the core and converts into more fuel through nuclear transmutation.
- ❖ The ability to generate more fuel gives it the name "Breeder Reactor."

India's Three stage Nuclear Programme:



6. *Tar Balls:*

Context: The Centre notified the draft Tar-balls Management Rules, 2026, to combat marine pollution caused by toxic oil leak residue.

Important provisions:

- ❖ Covers the entire lifecycle of oil spill management: generation, collection, storage, transport, treatment, and disposal.
- ❖ Applies the “polluter pays” principle, making oil operators liable for environmental damage and compensation.
- ❖ Clearly defines stakeholder responsibilities, including agencies like Central Pollution Control Board and Indian Coast Guard.
- ❖ Mandates monitoring, reporting, and allows declaration of “State disaster” in severe cases.

About Tar Balls:

- ❖ Tar balls are sticky lumps formed due to weathering of oil after spills and marine accidents.
- ❖ They are created through physical, chemical, and biological processes when oil mixes with water and contaminants.
- ❖ They are classified as hazardous waste requiring safe handling and disposal.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Indian Navy’s INS Sunayna, deployed under Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative, arrived at Male on 06 Apr 2026, marking the first port call of her operational deployment. IOS SAGAR, with international crew from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs), is on deployment to the South East Indian Ocean Region, reinforcing India’s Neighbourhood First policy and the vision of MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- ☐ Bank of Baroda launched **bob SAMVAD** on March 28, 2026 in Mumbai, unveiled by M. Nagaraju. It is an industry-first AI-powered multilingual conversational platform designed to transform customer interactions at bank branches by enabling seamless communication between customers and staff in their preferred languages, thereby eliminating language barriers.
- ☐ The **Ravindra H. Dholakia Committee** is a Sub-Committee on Regional Accounts constituted under ACNAS and chaired by Ravindra H. Dholakia to review and improve the methodology for compiling State Domestic Product (SDP) and District Domestic Product (DDP).
- ☐ In a remarkable story of resilience and determination, Payal Nag, an 18-year-old archer from Odisha, has scripted history by becoming the world’s first quadruple amputee to win an international archery gold medal.
- ☐ Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India have recently discovered two new species of free-living marine nematodes—*Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica*—off the coast of Tamil Nadu, highlighting the rich and still underexplored marine biodiversity of India’s coastal ecosystems.

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