09/04/2026 Daily Current Affairs

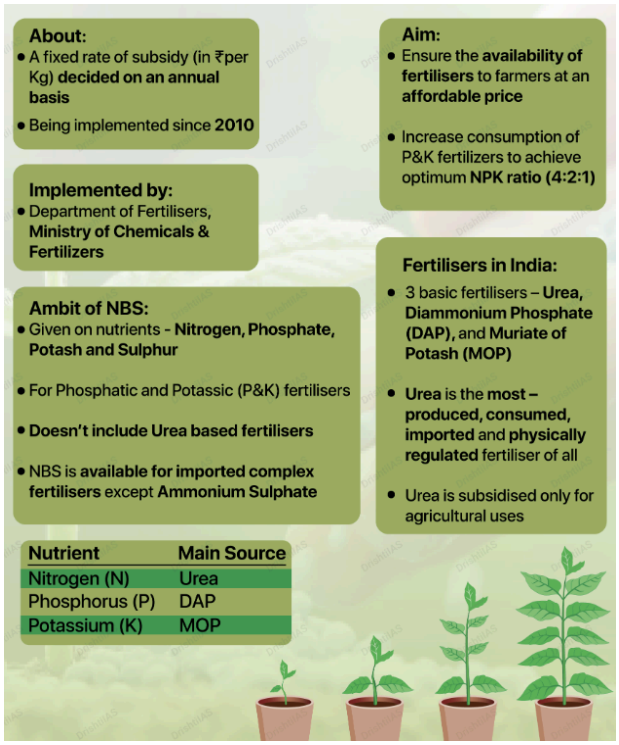
1. *Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS):*

Context: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Narendra Modi, has approved the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the Kharif Season 2026, based on a proposal from the Department of Fertilizers, with the objective of ensuring adequate availability of essential nutrients to farmers at affordable prices, and has allocated an estimated budgetary outlay of ₹41,533.81 crore for this purpose.

Background:

- Fertilisers are basically food for crops, containing nutrients necessary for plant growth and grain yields.
- Balanced fertilisation means supplying these primary (N, phosphorus-P and potassium-K), secondary (sulphur-S, calcium, magnesium) and micro (iron, zinc, copper, manganese, boron, molybdenum) nutrients in the right proportion, based on soil type and the crop's own requirement at different growth stages.
- All-India NPK use ratio widened from 7.7:3.1:1 during 2021-22 to 11.8:4.6:1 during 2022-23.
- A NPK ratio of 4:2:1 is generally considered ideal and accepted for macro-level monitoring of consumption of plant nutrients for the country as a whole.

About Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS):



- The nutrient-based subsidy (NBS) system, instituted in April 2010, was expected to promote balanced fertilisation.
- Under it, the government fixed a per-kg subsidy for N, P, K and S.
- The subsidy on any fertiliser was, thereby, linked to its nutrient content.
- The underlying idea was to induce product innovation and wean away farmers from urea, DAP (18% N and 46% P content) and MOP (60% K), in favour of complex fertilisers containing N, P, K, S and other nutrients in balanced proportions with lower concentrations.
- The subsidy amount is provided directly to fertilizer manufacturers, who then sell the fertilizers to farmers at a reduced price.

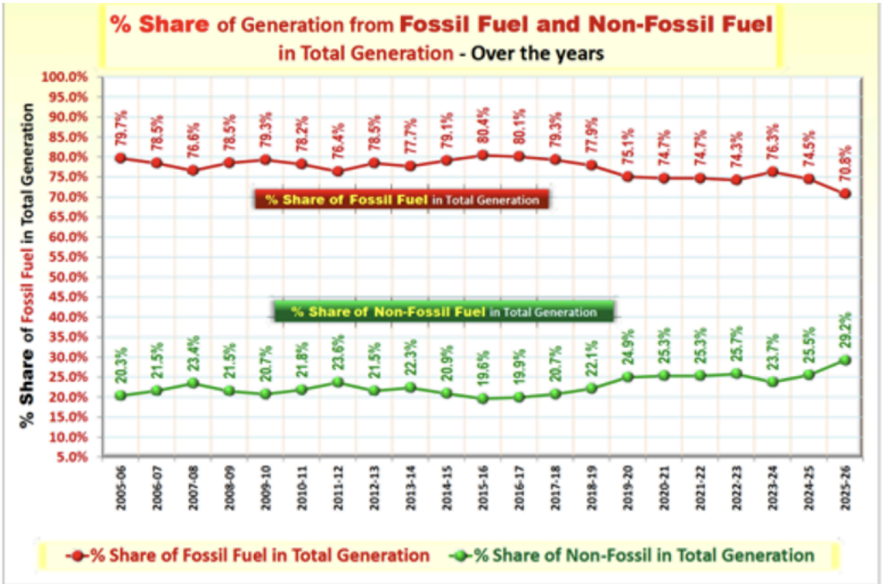
2. *India's renewable energy statistics:*

Context: India Ranks third globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity.

More details:

Total Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (GW)	
Country	**Capacity**
China	2258.02
USA	467.92
India	**250.52**
Brazil	228.20
Germany	199.92
Japan	134.53
Canada	110.51
World	**5149.28**

- So far, a total of 283.46 GW of capacity from non-fossil fuel sources has been installed in the country as on 31.03.2026. This includes 274.68 GW Renewable Energy (150.26 GW Solar Power, 56.09 GW Wind Power, 11.75 GW Bio Energy, 5.17 GW Small Hydro Power, 51.41 GW Large Hydro Power) and 8.78 GW Nuclear Power capacity.
- India stands 3rd globally in Renewable Energy Installed Capacity (as per IRENA RE Statistics 2026 with data as on December, 2025).
- Installed capacity is the maximum potential power output of a generator under ideal conditions, measured in megawatts (MW).
- Generation (or actual output) is the amount of electricity actually produced over time, measured in megawatt-hours (MWh).
- They differ because of maintenance, fuel availability, or lower renewable resource availability, a ratio defined as the capacity factor.



Generation Performance during April-March 2026 (Prov.)

Category-wise :	Target Generation during Current Year 2025-26 (Upto March 2026) (BU)	Generation during Current Year 2025-26 (Upto March 2026) * (BU)	Ach. w.r.t Targets (%)	Generation during Previous Year 2024-25 (Upto March 2025) (BU)	Growth w.r.t. Previous Year Generation (%)	% of Total Generation
Generation from Fossil Fuel :						
Coal	1429.000	1250.189	87.49	1298.052	-3.69	67.7
Gas	37.262	26.009	69.80	31.580	-17.64	1.4
Lignite	37.000	30.323	81.95	32.995	-8.10	1.6
Diesel	0.400	0.430	107.42	0.443	-2.93	0.0
Total (Fossil Fuel) :	1503.662	1306.951	86.92	1363.069	-4.12	70.8
Generation from Non-Fossil Fuel :						
Generation from Renewable Sources (Including Hydro) :						
Wind	91.712	106.089	115.68	83.347	27.29	5.7
Solar	152.499	173.525	113.79	144.150	20.38	9.4
BioPower & Others	30.789	29.199	94.84	27.512	6.13	1.6
Total : Solar, Wind & Other RE	275.000	308.813	112.30	255.009	21.10	16.7
Hydro	155.674	167.163	107.38	148.634	12.47	9.1
Bhutan Import	9.472	7.813	82.48	5.484	42.46	0.4
Total RE Generation (Incl. Hydro)	440.146	483.789	109.92	409.127	18.25	26.2
Nuclear	56.592	55.181	97.51	56.681	-2.65	3.0
Total (Non-Fossil Fuel) :	496.738	538.970	108.50	465.808	15.71	29.2
Total Generation (Fossil Fuel & Non-Fossil Fuel) :						
Total Generation :	2,000.400	1,845.921	92.28	1,828.877	0.93	100.0

3. *Skills Outcomes Fund:*

Context: Union Minister Shri Jayant Chaudhary initiates campaign to build 'Skills Outcomes Fund' to unlock aspirational livelihood opportunities for youths across India.

About Skills Outcomes Fund:

- Skills Outcomes Fund, a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at unlocking aspirational livelihoods for youth from low-income backgrounds.
- The fund envisages to mobilise public and private capital to scale outcomes-based financing (OBF) in India's skilling ecosystem, linking investments directly to verified employment outcomes.
- The proposed Skills Outcomes Fund will be anchored by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in partnership with not-for-profit and philanthropic organizations /stakeholders.
- It creates a unique opportunity for government and industry to work together in advancing innovative financing approaches and strengthen the skilling ecosystem with a clear and measurable focus on outcomes.

4. *Repo rate:*

Context: Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of India unanimously voted to hold the repo rate at 5.25%. It also decided to continue with the neutral stance.

What is the repo rate?

- Repo Rate (Repurchase Agreement Rate): Interest rate at which commercial banks borrow from the central bank.
- Purpose: Helps banks meet short-term liquidity needs.
- Functioning: Banks provide securities as collateral and repurchase them later at a higher price (including interest).
- Higher Repo Rate: Increases borrowing cost → reduces loans, spending, and inflation.
- Lower Repo Rate: Decreases borrowing cost → boosts loans, spending, and economic activity.
- Monetary Policy Role: Key tool used by the Reserve Bank of India to control money supply, inflation, and growth.

About Monetary Policy Committee:

- Monetary Policy Committee (MPC): Constituted under Section 45ZB to determine policy interest rates.
- Core Function of MPC: Fix repo rate to control inflation within the target range.
- Replacement: MPC replaced the earlier Technical Advisory Committee.
- Composition: 6 members – RBI Governor (Chairperson), RBI Deputy Governor (Monetary Policy), 1 RBI nominee, and 3 Government nominees.
- Tenure: External members serve for 4 years.
- Quorum: Minimum 4 members, including Governor or Deputy Governor.
- Decision-Making: Based on majority vote; Governor has casting vote in case of a tie.

- Binding Nature: MPC decisions are binding on RBI.
- Support: RBI's Monetary Policy Department assists MPC.
- Meetings: MPC meets at least four times a year.

5. 1,500-year-old reservoir unearthed on Elephanta Island near Mumbai:

Context: A major archaeological find of a stepped reservoir was made on Elephanta Island by the Archaeological Survey of India.

More details:

- **Structure Details:** The reservoir is about 1,500 years old, T-shaped, measuring ~14.7 m in length and 6.7 m & 10.8 m in width, with 20 exposed stone steps and a depth of 5 m.
- **Engineering Significance:** Built using imported stone blocks, it reflects advanced water management to conserve rainwater on the rocky island.
- **Excavation Work:** Initiated in November 2025 by ASI's Mumbai Circle, covering 19 trenches (10×10 m each).
- **Other Archaeological Finds:** Includes a brick structure (possibly a dyeing vat), storage pots, terracotta figurines, bangles, beads (carnelian, quartz), and stone anchors.
- **Evidence of Trade:** Discovery of ~3,000 amphorae and torpedo jar sherds from Mediterranean and West Asian regions indicates long-distance maritime trade.
- **Coins and Dynasty Link:** Around 60 coins (copper, lead, silver) found; several linked to Krishnaraja of the Kalachuri dynasty (6th century CE).
- **Cultural Insight:** Coin motifs (seated bull and temple symbol) and artefacts highlight the island's historical, economic, and cultural significance.

About Elephanta Island/Caves:

- Elephanta Caves were constructed between the 5th–7th centuries CE, likely under regional dynasties like the Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas.
- The island had earlier habitation with Buddhist stupa mounds dating back to the 2nd century BCE.
- Portugal named it "Elephanta" after a stone elephant statue and ended its role as an active Hindu worship site.
- Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987.
- Located about 11 km from the Gateway of India, covering around 10–16 km².
- The complex has 7 caves: 5 Hindu caves on the western hill and 2 Buddhist caves on the eastern hill.
- Cave 1 (Great Cave) features a 39 m deep structure with a 27 m square mandapa supported by columns.
- Layout follows mandala-based planning reflecting cosmic order and symmetry.
- Major sculptures include Trimurti Sadashiva, Nataraja, Yogishvara, Ardhanarishvara, and Ravanaanugrahamurti.
- The Trimurti (7 m high) represents Shiva's three aspects: creation, preservation, and destruction.
- Architectural elements include mandapas, garbhagriha, dvarapalas, and rock-cut corridors showing advanced Hindu temple design.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ The second edition of the International Conference on "Spacecraft Mission Operations: SMOPS-2026" with theme of "Innovative Operations for Smart and Sustainable Space Mission Management – Next Generation" is being held during 8-10 April, 2026 in Bangalore, India. The conference, jointly organized by Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), Astronautical Society of India (ASI) and International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), is aimed to cover a wide range of topics related to mission operations.
- ☐ The Indian Army contingent has departed for Egypt to participate in the fourth edition of the India - Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone - IV, scheduled to be conducted at Anshas from 09 to 17 April 2026.
- ☐ INS Sudarshini, the Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, departed the port city of Sète on 07 Apr 2026, marking successful culmination of her participation in the renowned Escale à Sète. This biennial festival is amongst the largest maritime gatherings in the Mediterranean, celebrating global seafaring heritage.
- ☐ In a significant step towards enhancing biodiversity and integrating ecological sustainability in National Highway development, NHAI has taken the initiative to develop 'Arogya Van', the thematic medicinal tree plantations on vacant land parcels along the National Highways. The initiative aims to enrich biodiversity along the National Highways by introducing medicinal tree species that support pollinators, birds and microfauna, thereby strengthening ecosystem resilience.
- ☐ Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) established India's first Municipal Textile Recovery Facility (TRF) in Belapur, Navi Mumbai. By integrating decentralised collection, scientific sorting, traceability and women-led livelihood generation, the TRF repositions textile waste from an overlooked stream to a valuable component of the urban circular economy.
- ☐ 2026 Partnership for Healthy Cities (PHC) Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, brought together health officials, urban planners and global experts from 55 cities. PHC is a global network of 74 cities committed to prevent Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and injuries. Indian cities of Mumbai, Ahmedabad and Bengaluru are part of the PHC network.
- ☐ The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has highlighted a severe ecological decline in the lakes of Jammu and Kashmir over the past decade, noting that out of 697 lakes, 315 have disappeared, 203 have shrunk, and a total of 518 have been degraded; prominent lakes include Dal Lake in Srinagar, known for its floating gardens called Raad, Wular Lake, the second largest freshwater lake in Asia fed by the Jhelum River and located at the foothills of Haramuk Mountain, Hokersar Lake, also called the Queen of Wetlands and a key habitat for migratory birds, and Manasbal Lake, overlooked by the Mughal garden Jaroka built by Nur Jahan.
- ☐ Scientists find evidence for pair instability supernovas which leave nothing behind after exploding. A supernova — the explosive death of a star — is always violent, blasting material

into space while typically leaving behind a compact stellar remnant like a neutron star or black hole.

- ☐ The United Arab Emirates has marked a significant milestone in global digital infrastructure by launching the world's first commercial upper 6GHz (U6GHz) internet network.
- ☐ In a boost to hydro-electric power in Arunachal Pradesh, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved an investment of ₹26,069.5 crore in the construction of Kamala Hydro Electric project alongside a sum of ₹14,105.83 crore to build the Kalai-II hydro-electric project. The Kamala Hydro-electric project would account for a total installed capacity of 1,720 megawatts and expected to generate 6,870 million units of energy a year. The Kalai-II hydro-electric project, would have an installed capacity of 1,200 MW and generate 4,852.95 million units annually.

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