

# 14/04/2026 Daily Current Affairs

## 1. *Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:*

Context: Prime Minister pays homage to the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.

### About Jallianwala Bagh Massacre:

- ❖ The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar.
- ❖ Ordered by Reginald Edward Harry Dyer, troops fired on an unarmed gathering.
- ❖ Protest was against the Rowlatt Act allowing detention without trial.
- ❖ Mahatma Gandhi had called for nationwide satyagraha and hartal (6 April 1919).
- ❖ The arrest of Dr. Satyapal and Saifuddin Kitchlew triggered protests in Punjab.
- ❖ Martial law was imposed in Punjab before the incident.
- ❖ On Baisakhi (13 April), villagers gathered unaware of restrictions at Jallianwala Bagh.
- ❖ Dyer blocked the only exit and ordered indiscriminate firing on the crowd.
- ❖ Over 1,000 people were killed, including men, women, and children.
- ❖ The massacre became a turning point in India's freedom struggle.
- ❖ It led to the launch of the Non-Cooperation Movement.
- ❖ Gandhi renounced the Kaiser-i-Hind title in protest.
- ❖ Rabindranath Tagore returned his knighthood.
- ❖ Hunter Commission condemned Dyer but took no strict action.
- ❖ Congress inquiry led by Motilal Nehru criticized British repression.
- ❖ Udham Singh assassinated Michael O'Dwyer in 1940.
- ❖ Udham Singh was executed in 1940, and his ashes were brought back to India in 1974.

### About Rowlatt Act 1919:

- ❖ Rowlatt Act was a repressive law to curb nationalist activities in India.
- ❖ Enacted during/after World War I, making emergency wartime measures permanent.
- ❖ Based on recommendations of the Sedition Committee led by Sir Sidney Rowlatt.
- ❖ Replaced the Defence of India Act.
- ❖ Allowed detention without trial up to 2 years and arrest on suspicion.
- ❖ Imposed strict censorship on press and restrictions on speech & assembly.
- ❖ Provided for secret trials by special courts with no right to appeal.
- ❖ Suspended habeas corpus and civil liberties, intensifying colonial repression and triggering mass protests led by Mahatma Gandhi.

## 2. *Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0:*

Context: The Government has notified the Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 (Startup India FoF 2.0) with a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore for the purpose of mobilizing venture and growth capital for the startup ecosystem of the country.

### About Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0:

- ❖ The Startup India FoF 2.0 builds upon the strong performance of the Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS 1.0), which was launched in 2016 under the Startup India Action Plan to address funding gaps and catalyse the domestic capital for startups.
- ❖ Startup India FoF 2.0 will have a total corpus of ₹10,000 crore for commitments to eligible Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) spread across the 16th and 17th Finance Commission cycles.
- ❖ The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will commence operationalization of the scheme as the Implementation Agency (IA) with effect from the date of notification, and in addition, another domestic Implementation Agency will also be selected to implement the proposed Scheme.
- ❖ The Startup India FoF 2.0 will contribute to the corpus of SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) for investing in entities recognised as ‘startups’ by the Central Government.

### 3. **SARAL AI:**

Context: ANRF developing AI-based platform ‘SARAL AI’ to convert complex research publications into simplified rich social media content in many Indian languages.

#### What is ‘SARAL AI’?

- ❖ ‘SARAL AI’, an AI-based platform that demystifies and converts complex research publications and patents into podcasts, short videos, posters, business briefs, presentations and rich social media content.
- ❖ It is made in 18 Indian languages, enabling wider dissemination of scientific knowledge across the country.

#### **About Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF):**

- ❖ Established under the ANRF Act, 2023 to promote research and innovation across India.
- ❖ Aims to seed, grow, and foster a research culture as envisaged in the National Education Policy (NEP).
- ❖ The Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) has been subsumed into ANRF.
- ❖ Funding target: ₹50,000 crore for the period 2023–2028.

### 4. **Indian Ocean Conference (IOC):**

Context: India Foundation, in association with the Government of Mauritius, organised the 9th Indian Ocean Conference—IOC 2026—in Mauritius from April 10 to 12, 2026.

#### **About Indian Ocean Conference (IOC):**

- ❖ The Indian Ocean Conference was started in 2016 by India Foundation in association with think tanks and institutions from the region, with participation from 30 countries.
- ❖ In the last 8 years, the Conference has emerged as the flagship forum for countries to discuss and deliberate on issues of mutual interest.



- ❖ The Conference endeavours to bring together critical states and principal maritime partners on a common platform to deliberate upon the prospects of regional cooperation for Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- ❖ The participants include official representatives from countries, regional and international organizations, along with policy experts and academics.

### 5. *Whip:*

Context: The Congress on Monday issued a three-line whip to all its Lok Sabha members to “be present without fail and support the party stand” during the three-day special session of Parliament, which has been convened to amend the women’s reservation law and carry out a delimitation exercise on the basis of the 2011 Census.

### What is a Whip?

- ❖ A whip is a written order that party members be present for an important vote, or that they vote only in a particular way. In India all parties can issue a whip to their members.
- ❖ Parties appoint a senior member from among their House contingents to issue whips.
- ❖ One-line whip: A one-line whip, underlined once, is usually issued to inform party members of a vote, and allows them to abstain in case they decide not to follow the party line.
- ❖ Two-line whip: A two-line whip directs them to be present during the vote.
- ❖ Three-line whip: A three-line whip is the strongest, employed on important occasions such as the second reading of a Bill or a no-confidence motion, and places an obligation on members to toe the party line.
- ❖ In India, rebelling against a three-line whip can put a lawmaker’s membership of the House at risk.
- ❖ The anti-defection law allows the Speaker/Chairperson to disqualify such a member.
- ❖ Whips are not issued for the Rajya Sabha elections.

## 6. *Delimitation:*

Context: The Centre is proposing expansion of Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 816, retaining States' existing proportional share, with 33% reservation for women and delimitation within States based on the 2011 Census. Similar expansion and delimitation are proposed for State Legislative Assemblies.

### What is Delimitation?

- ❖ Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
- ❖ This 'delimitation process' is performed by the 'Delimitation Commission' that is set up under an act of Parliament.
- ❖ Article 82 and 170 of the Constitution provide that the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies as well as its division into territorial constituencies.
- ❖ It also envisage that they shall be readjusted after each Census.
- ❖ The seat distribution was frozen as per the 1971 Census.
- ❖ This because to encourage population control measures so that States with higher population growth do not end up having higher number of seats.
- ❖ This was done through the 42nd Amendment Act till the year 2000 and was extended by the 84th Amendment Act till 2026.
- ❖ The boundaries of territorial constituencies were readjusted and seats for SC and ST were determined as per the 2001 Census and will again be carried out after 2026.

### About Delimitation commission:

- ❖ **Constitutional Basis:** Delimitation in India is guided by constitutional provisions ensuring population-based representation.
  - Article 82: Parliament must enact a Delimitation Act after every Census.
  - Article 170: Provides for readjustment of State Assembly seats after each Census.
  - Articles 330 and 332: Mandate reservation of seats for SCs and STs based on population.
  - Article 327: Empowers Parliament to make laws regarding elections.
  - Article 329(a): Bars judicial review of delimitation orders.
- ❖ **Composition:** The Delimitation Commission is an independent body ensuring neutral boundary redrawing.
  - Chairperson: A retired Supreme Court judge heads the Commission.
  - Core Members: Chief Election Commissioner and State Election Commissioners participate.
  - Associate Members: MPs/MLAs assist in a consultative role without voting rights.
  - Final Authority: Decisions of the Commission are final and legally binding.
- ❖ **Objectives:** The Commission aims to ensure fair and equal representation across constituencies.
  - Population Equality: Seeks uniform population distribution across constituencies.
  - Social Justice: Allocates SC/ST reserved seats proportionately.
  - Electoral Fairness: Prevents over- or under-representation.
  - Federal Balance: Promotes balanced representation among States.
- ❖ **Functions:** The Commission undertakes delimitation and seat allocation tasks.
  - Boundary Redrawing: Redefines Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies.
  - Seat Allocation: Determines number of seats for each State.

Reservation Fixation: Assigns SC/ST reserved seats based on Census data.

Administrative Coherence: Ensures constituencies are compact and contiguous.

Public Participation: Publishes drafts, invites objections, and finalises orders.

Rotation System: Rotates reserved constituencies where applicable.

❖ **Legal Framework:** Delimitation Acts provide the statutory basis for the Commission's work.

Delimitation Act, 1952: Based on 1951 Census; created initial constituencies and SC/ST reservations.

Delimitation Act, 1962: Based on 1961 Census; redefined constituencies with updated reservations.

Delimitation Act, 1972: Based on 1971 Census; boundaries revised; later seat freeze introduced via 42nd Amendment.

Delimitation Act, 2002: Based on 2001 Census; updated boundaries and reservations without increasing total seats due to freeze till 2026.

## Quick Bites:

- ☐ In a major step towards empowering cadets with structured training in cyber awareness, digital hygiene and practical cyber defence skills, National Cadet Corps (NCC), in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT) has launched a comprehensive Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme.
- ☐ The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, met and felicitated the Indian contingent for delivering an outstanding performance at the Bangkok 2026 World Archery Para Series held from March 30 to April 4, 2026, in Bangkok, Thailand. India emerged as the top-performing nation, finishing first on the medal table with a total of 13 medals, including 7 gold, 3 silver, and 3 bronze. Indonesia secured the second position with 6 medals, followed by Thailand with 5.
- ☐ The **Project Him Sarovar** is a recent initiative of the Government of India aimed at ensuring year-round water security in Ladakh by conserving snowmelt and rainwater through the creation of artificial water bodies. The project focuses on addressing the region's chronic water scarcity by developing around 50 such water storage structures based on local, ground-level experience, thereby improving water availability throughout the year and supporting irrigation needs of farmers in this cold desert region.
- ☐ India's rising badminton star Ayush Shetty clinched a historic silver medal at the Badminton Asia Championships 2026 after losing the men's singles final to China's Shi Yu Qi.
- ☐ India's long-distance runner Sawan Barwal scripted history by breaking the country's longest-standing national record at the Rotterdam Marathon 2026.

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