

15/04/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor:*

Context: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor.

About Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor:

- ❖ The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway is a 210 km highway built at a cost of ₹11,868 crore, inaugurated by Narendra Modi.
- ❖ It reduces travel time between Delhi and Dehradun from 6.5 hours to 2.5 hours and distance from 235 km to 210 km.
- ❖ The expressway is designed for speeds of at least 100 kmph and includes a spur connecting to Haridwar and the Char Dham highway.
- ❖ The project was initiated with its foundation stone laid on December 4, 2021.
- ❖ The first section decongests northeast Delhi with six lanes and major elevated stretches in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh.
- ❖ The second section passes through Baghpat, Shamli, Muzaffarnagar, and Saharanpur districts.
- ❖ The third section is a four-lane stretch from Saharanpur Bypass to Ganeshpur.
- ❖ The fourth section is a six-lane stretch passing through forests of Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, including Rajaji National Park.
- ❖ It features a 10.97 km-long animal underpass and one of Asia's longest elevated wildlife corridors.
- ❖ The corridor includes the 340 m Daat Kali tunnel and supports safe movement of large animals like elephants.

2. *Glufosinate:*

Context: Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) has restricted imports of the herbicide Glufosinate and its salts.

What is Glufosinate?

- ❖ **Glufosinate** is a broad-spectrum, non-selective contact herbicide used for weed control in agriculture.
- ❖ It is widely used as an alternative to glyphosate-based herbicides.
- ❖ It acts by irreversibly inhibiting glutamine synthetase, a key enzyme in nitrogen metabolism.
- ❖ This inhibition leads to toxic ammonia accumulation in plant cells.
- ❖ The buildup of ammonia causes rapid destruction of weed tissues and plant death.
- ❖ It poses environmental risks, especially to aquatic life and non-target plant species.
- ❖ There is potential for water contamination due to its usage in fields.

3. *Right to Vote:*

Context: The Supreme Court of India observed that the right to remain enrolled in the rolls and to vote in one's country of birth is not merely a constitutional entitlement but also holds deep sentimental value.

About Right to Vote:

- ❖ The right to vote and to be elected in India is a constitutional right.
- ❖ Article 325 ensures no person is excluded from electoral rolls on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex.
- ❖ Article 326 provides for elections based on adult suffrage.
- ❖ Section 62, of RPA 1951 deals with the right to vote.
- ❖ Section 16 of RPA 1950 specifies disqualifications for registration in electoral rolls.

4. Article 142:

Context: Supreme Court dissolved a marriage by invoking its extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution.

Background of the case:

- ❖ The couple reached a mediated divorce settlement where the husband paid ₹75 lakh, ₹14 lakh for a car, and returned listed jewellery, but the wife later violated the agreement and filed a domestic violence case.
- ❖ The wife alleged non-return of jewellery and gold worth crores, claiming they were omitted to evade tax scrutiny, but the Court found no evidence in the agreement or communications.
- ❖ The Court termed her claims “highly egregious” and criticised her for misuse of legal process.

About Article 142:

- ❖ Article 142(1) empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary to ensure complete justice in a case.
- ❖ Such orders are enforceable across the entire territory of India.
- ❖ Enforcement is carried out as per laws made by Parliament or as prescribed by the President until such laws exist.
- ❖ Article 142(2) gives the Supreme Court powers to secure attendance of persons and production of documents.
- ❖ It also empowers the Court to investigate and punish for contempt of itself.

5. Hubble tension:

Context: On April 10, astronomers narrowed down the local expansion of the universe to be 73.5 km/s per megaparsec.

What is Hubble tension?

- ❖ Scientists measure the universe’s expansion using the **Hubble constant**.

- ❖ **Two main methods give different results:**
 - **Local Method (Cosmic Distance Ladder):** Uses nearby stars (Cepheids) and supernovae → gives $\sim 73\text{--}73.5$ km/s/Mpc.
 - **Early Universe Method (Cosmic Microwave Background):** Uses leftover radiation from the Big Bang → gives ~ 67 km/s/Mpc.
- ❖ **The Problem (Hubble Tension):**
 - Both methods are very accurate but give conflicting values.
- ❖ **Recent Finding:**
 - New measurements confirm the higher value (~ 73.5), strengthening the disagreement instead of resolving it.
- ❖ **Implication:**
 - Suggests our current understanding of the universe may be incomplete.
- ❖ **Possible Reasons:**
 - Measurement errors (less likely now)
 - New physics (e.g., unknown properties of dark energy or changes in cosmic models)
- 6. ***The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026:***

Context: The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026 proposes significant changes to the size and composition of the Assemblies by restarting the process of delimitation and removing the long-standing constitutional freeze, in effect since 1976, on readjustment of seats based on population.

Details about The Constitution (One Hundred and Thirty-First Amendment) Bill, 2026:

- ❖ The Constitution (Amendment) Bill to be introduced in Parliament proposes to restart delimitation based on a future Census after ending the long-standing freeze since 1976.
- ❖ It amends Article 170 to allow revision of the number of Assembly seats and redrawing of constituency boundaries in States according to updated population data.
- ❖ The Bill removes the existing restriction that had postponed delimitation and links seat allocation to the Census decided by Parliament, likely the post-2026 Census.
- ❖ It replaces earlier provisions by mandating a Delimitation Commission to carry out the exercise, instead of leaving the mechanism open.
- ❖ The Commission will be chaired by a Supreme Court judge and include Election Commission and State Election Commission representatives.
- ❖ It also introduces a revised definition of “population” based on the relevant Census adopted by Parliament for delimitation purposes.
- ❖ A key provision is enabling 33% reservation for women in State Assemblies through a new Article 334A, but only after delimitation based on the latest Census.
- ❖ Special safeguards are included to ensure tribal representation, particularly in Northeastern States, is not reduced during the redrawing of constituencies.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ World Quantum Day 2026, celebrated on April 14, focuses on "Quantum Readiness" and shaping the future workforce, highlighting the shift from theoretical research to practical, industrial quantum technologies.
- ☐ Researchers from Nagaland University have identified a traditional polyherbal formulation used by the Konyak tribe for its potential anti-cancer properties, comprising five plants—*Persicaria maculosa* (Redshank), *Acorus calamus* (Sweet Flag), *Erythrina variegata* (Indian Coral Tree), *Stereospermum chelonoides* (Padri Tree), and *Oroxylum indicum* (Indian Trumpet Flower); the formulation's bioactive compounds are found to target VEGFR2, a key protein involved in tumour blood vessel formation, thereby indicating its potential role in cancer treatment.
- ☐ The International Monetary Fund has lowered global growth forecasts due to rising energy prices and supply disruptions from the Iran conflict. In its World Economic Outlook, it outlined scenarios ranging from moderate slowdown (3.1% growth in 2026) to a severe case with prolonged conflict and high oil prices, reducing growth to 2.0%. The IMF warned that such a scenario could push the global economy close to recession levels.

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