

17/04/2026 Daily Current News

1. *Lokayan 26:*

Context: Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, made port call at Casablanca, Morocco on 15 Apr 2026, as part of its ongoing transoceanic deployment under Lokayan 26.

About Lokayan 26:

- ❖ Lokayan 26 is a 10-month transoceanic voyage covering over 22,000 nautical miles across 18 ports in 13 countries.
- ❖ It aims to strengthen maritime cooperation under the MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision.
- ❖ The voyage includes naval diplomacy and partnership activities with host nations.
- ❖ INS Sudarshini will participate in global events like Escale à Sète and SAIL 250.
- ❖ The mission showcases India's maritime heritage and traditional seafaring practices.
- ❖ Over 200 Indian Navy and Coast Guard trainees will receive hands-on training in navigation and seamanship.
- ❖ The voyage promotes international naval interaction and capacity building.
- ❖ INS Sudarshini is India's second sail training ship after INS Tarangini.
- ❖ It has sailed over 1.4 lakh nautical miles, symbolizing India's maritime goodwill and professionalism.

2. *Tibetan antelope or chiru:*

Context: Delhi court convicted a person for illegal export of Shahtoosh shawls made from the hair of the Tibetan Antelope in violation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

About Tibetan antelope or chiru:



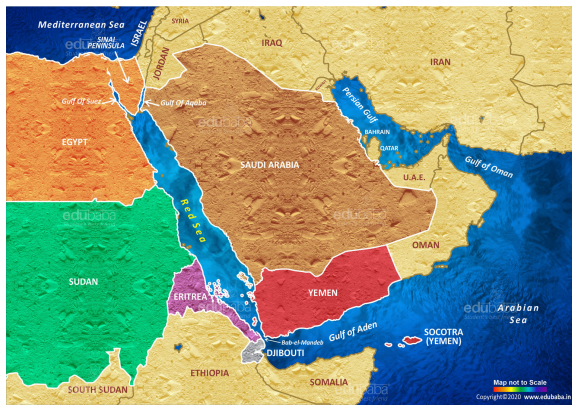
- ❖ The Tibetan antelope (chiru) is a medium-sized antelope species.
- ❖ Males are larger and have horns and black leg stripes, while females lack both.
- ❖ It has distinctive fur with long guard hairs and a soft, silky undercoat.
- ❖ Habitat: Found in alpine regions, montane valleys, and cold steppe ecosystems with sparse vegetation.
- ❖ Distribution: Mainly in China (Tibet, Xinjiang, Qinghai) and also in Chang Thang, India.

- ❖ Migration: Travels up to 400 km between summer and winter grounds.
- ❖ Diet: Herbivorous—feeds on grasses, herbs, forbs, shrubs, and sedges.
- ❖ Conservation status: IUCN: Near Threatened, CITES: Appendix I and Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- ❖ Shahtoosh shawls are made from its underfur and are extremely soft and warm.
- ❖ The Shahtoosh trade has been banned globally under CITES since 1975.

3. *Red Sea:*

Context: Iran's threatened to block trade through the Red Sea, if the US naval blockade continues around its ports.

About Red Sea:



- ❖ The Red Sea is a semi-enclosed inlet of the Indian Ocean between Africa and Asia.
- ❖ It connects to the Arabian Sea via the Gulf of Aden and the narrow Bab el-Mandeb.
- ❖ The northern part splits into the Gulf of Aqaba and Gulf of Suez by the Sinai Peninsula.
- ❖ It connects to the Mediterranean Sea through the Suez Canal.
- ❖ Known for its hot and highly saline waters, it is a key maritime route between Europe and Asia.
- ❖ Its reddish appearance is due to seasonal algae blooms.
- ❖ Geologically, it lies in a rift (fault depression) between the Arabian and African tectonic plates.
- ❖ Bordering countries: Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Eritrea, Djibouti.
- ❖ Rich in mineral resources: petroleum, evaporites, sulfur, phosphates, and heavy metals.
- ❖ Important islands include Tiran Island and Shadwan Island.

4. *Parkinson's disease:*

Context: April marks Parkinson's disease Awareness Month, highlighting the need for early recognition of this progressive neurodegenerative disorder and the importance of support groups for patients and caregivers.

About Parkinson's disease:

- ❖ Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder that affects movement and may lead to immobility and dementia.
- ❖ It primarily affects older individuals, though younger people can also develop it.

- ❖ Men are more commonly affected than women.
- ❖ The global prevalence of Parkinson's disease has doubled in the past 25 years.
- ❖ India accounts for about 10% of the global burden of the disease.
- ❖ The exact cause is unknown, but it involves genetic and environmental factors.
- ❖ It is characterized by the loss of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain.
- ❖ Motor symptoms include tremors, slow movement (bradykinesia), rigidity, and walking difficulties.
- ❖ Non-motor symptoms include cognitive decline, mental health issues, sleep disturbances, pain, and sensory problems.
- ❖ There is no cure, but treatment focuses on symptom management through medicines, surgery, and rehabilitation.
- ❖ Common treatment includes Levodopa / Carbidopa combination therapy.
- ❖ World Parkinson's Day is observed every year on 11th April to raise awareness.

5. Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

Context: The European Union (EU) is planning to include 180 more products under the scope of its Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) from January 2028, a move that could increase carbon tax costs on Indian-manufactured exports to Europe.

About Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM):

- ❖ Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) is part of the EU's "**Fit for 55**" package targeting a 55% emission reduction by 2030 from 1990 levels.
- ❖ It ensures imported goods face the same carbon costs as those produced within the EU.
- ❖ Importers must annually declare the quantity of goods and their embedded GHG emissions.
- ❖ They are required to purchase CBAM certificates based on emissions.
- ❖ Certificate prices are linked to the EU's EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) rates per tonne of CO₂.
- ❖ Objective: Prevent carbon leakage and protect EU climate goals from high-emission imports.
- ❖ It promotes cleaner production practices globally by influencing non-EU countries.
- ❖ It discourages industries from relocating to countries with lax environmental norms.
- ❖ Revenue generated supports EU climate and green energy initiatives.

6. Cobalt:

Context: India-Zambia critical minerals talks stall over mining rights. India last year received an allocation of 9,000 square kms to explore cobalt — a key component in batteries for EVs and mobile phones.

About Cobalt:

- ❖ Cobalt is a hard, lustrous, silver-grey metal.
- ❖ It is a ferromagnetic and strategically important alloying element.
- ❖ Chemical symbol: **Co**; Atomic number: **27**.
- ❖ It is commonly associated with ores of copper, nickel, and arsenic.
- ❖ Cobalt is mainly extracted as a by-product of copper, nickel, zinc, or precious metals.

- ❖ Major global reserves are found in Democratic Republic of the Congo, Russia, Canada, Philippines, and Cuba.
- ❖ In India, cobalt occurs in Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan, Nagaland, and Madhya Pradesh.
- ❖ Major uses include metallurgical applications, superalloys, magnets, and cutting tools.
- ❖ It is widely used in rechargeable batteries as a cathode material.
- ❖ Cobalt is important in aerospace, energy, and defence sectors for high-strength alloys.
- ❖ Cobalt compounds are used as pigments (cobalt blue) in pottery, glass, and paints.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Government Notifies India's First Chip Fabrication Plant at SEZ Dholera. The government has notified an SEZ to be set up by M/s. Tata Semiconductor Manufacturing Private Limited exclusively for Electronic Hardware and Software including IT/ITES at Dholera, Gujarat.
- ☐ Memory price inflation (memflation) refers to the continuing price hikes on Semiconductor memory chips.
- ☐ India has slipped to the sixth position in the global GDP rankings for 2025. As per IMF data, India's nominal GDP stands at approximately \$3.92 trillion in 2025, placing it behind the United Kingdom, which is estimated at \$4 trillion. Japan holds the fourth position with a GDP of \$4.44 trillion, while Germany ranks third at \$4.7 trillion. The United States continues to lead with \$30.8 trillion, followed by China at \$19.6 trillion. Notably, India had ranked fifth in 2024, ahead of the UK.
- ☐ The Mumbai Cricket Association has become the first state body in India to introduce a structured annual contract system for its domestic cricketers.
- ☐ Syria said on Thursday that it had taken control of Qasrak air base in Hasakeh province in the northeast after forces from the U.S.-led international coalition against the Islamic State group withdrew. Qasrak was considered a key U.S. base in northeast Syria and served as a logistics hub for convoys heading towards Iraq.

-----The END-----