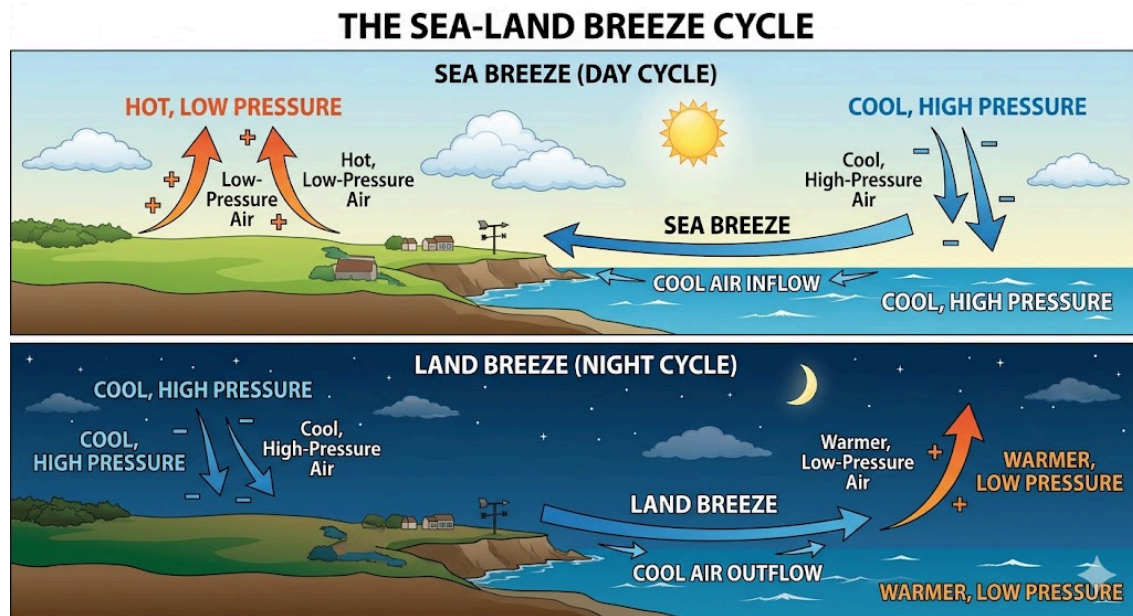


## 20/04/2026 Daily Current News

### 1. Sea-land breeze:

Context: A new study in Nature Climate Change has reported that as the oceans become warmer, the sea-land breezes around coastal megacities are becoming weaker. Urban planners consider these breezes to be essential to cool urban areas and improve air quality.

About Sea-land breeze:



- ❖ During the day, land heats faster than the sea, pulling cool air onshore. At night, the land cools faster, so the air flows offshore. This is called the sea-land breeze.
- ❖ Land and sea breezes are local winds occurring along coastal or lakeside areas due to differential heating
- ❖ They follow a diurnal cycle (day–night pattern)
- ❖ Land heats up faster than water during the day, creating low pressure over land and high pressure over water
- ❖ Cool air flows from sea to land during the day, called sea breeze
- ❖ Sea breeze develops before noon and is strongest in the afternoon, moderating coastal temperatures
- ❖ At night, land cools faster than water, creating high pressure over land and low pressure over sea
- ❖ Air flows from land to sea at night, called land breeze

### 2. River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme:

Context: River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme extended for 5 more years. The scheme will continue during the 16th Finance Commission period (2026–27 to 2030–31) with an estimated cost of ₹2183 crore, fully funded by the government.

About River Basin Management (RBM) Scheme:

- ❖ Launched in 2014 as a Central Sector Scheme for water resource development
- ❖ Aims to support detailed studies, planning, and sustainable utilisation of water resources
- ❖ Administered by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti
- ❖ Focuses on strategically important, water-rich but underdeveloped regions
- ❖ Prioritises North Eastern Region and Indus Basin in Jammu & Kashmir/Ladakh
- ❖ Targets national water security, cross-border water management, flood control, and ecological stability
- ❖ Has two main components: Brahmaputra Board and Investigation of Water Resources Development Scheme (IWRDS)
- ❖ Brahmaputra Board handles basin-level planning and flood management in Northeast India
- ❖ IWRDS supports surveys and project preparation for water resource development
- ❖ Central Water Commission conducts surveys and prepares DPRs for major river basins
- ❖ National Water Development Agency focuses on national water planning and river interlinking initiatives

### 3. *Dung beetles:*

Context: Dung beetles have shown one of the most surprising navigation abilities in the animal kingdom—they use the Milky Way to move in straight lines at night.

#### About Dung beetles:

- ❖ They are terrestrial insects that feed on the feces of large herbivores.
- ❖ Certain dung beetles navigate at night using the Milky Way, moving in straight lines while rolling dung balls.
- ❖ They rely on polarised light patterns and the diffuse glow of the night sky rather than individual stars.

### 4. *Hanging glaciers:*

Context: A new research study has identified 219 hanging glaciers in Uttarakhand's Alaknanda basin with unstable ice volumes.

#### *What are hanging glaciers?*

- ❖ A hanging glacier ends abruptly at a cliff or steep slope instead of reaching the valley floor
- ❖ Ice transfer occurs mainly through icefalls and avalanches rather than slow flow
- ❖ They are highly unstable and prone to sudden break-offs
- ❖ Collapse events can trigger glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)
- ❖ Falling ice can block rivers or cause downstream hazards

### 5. *Mesothermic fishes:*

Context: Rapid ocean warming is forcing mesothermic fishes to seek cooler waters with low availability of suitable prey bases.

**More about:**

- ❖ Mesothermic fishes can retain metabolic heat and keep parts of their body warmer than surrounding water. Examples include Great White Shark and tunas
- ❖ Ectothermic fishes are cold-blooded and depend on external water temperature for body heat regulation. Ectothermic fishes constitute the majority of fish species
- ❖ Endothermic fishes are warm-blooded and can internally regulate their body temperature

**Quick Bites:**

- ☐ The theme for World Heritage Day 2026 (April 18), as identified by ICOMOS, is "Emergency Response for Living Heritage in Contexts of Conflicts and Disasters".
- ☐ In a defining moment for India's semiconductor ambitions and Odisha's emergence as a future-ready technology destination, the foundation stone for the country's first advanced 3D chip packaging unit was laid today at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar.

-----THE END-----