

Weekly Current Affairs

(16th APRIL - 22nd APRIL)



WEEKELY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Ammonia Gas

- Ammonia leak at MP factory sparks panic, workers evacuated
- Ammonia (NH₃) is **a colorless, pungent-smelling gas** composed of nitrogen and hydrogen.
- It is **highly soluble in water**, forming ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH), a weak base.
- Ammonia is basic in nature and turns red litmus paper blue.
- It is produced industrially by the **Haber process** using nitrogen and hydrogen gases.

Supreme Court Imposes Deadline for President's Decision on Pending Reserved Bills

- The Court mandated that the President must take a decision within **three months** of receiving a bill from a governor. If the President fails to act within this period, appropriate reasons must be recorded and conveyed to the concerned state.
- This ruling arose from a case where Tamil Nadu Governor RN Ravi had withheld assent to several bills for extended periods.
- The Court asserted that neither Governors nor the President can wield an "absolute veto," as granting such unchecked authority would contradict the principles enshrined in the Constitution.

Operation Chakra-V

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has initiated Operation Chakra-V to tackle transnational organized cybercrime and digital arrest scams, representing a significant advancement in India's efforts to strengthen cybercrime enforcement.
- This operation focuses on dismantling digital arrest scams, where victims are falsely imprisoned online and coerced into making substantial payments.

Types of Emergency in the constitution of India: Powered By

- **National Emergency** (Article 352): It can be proclaimed by the President of India if satisfied that the security of India or any part of it is threatened.
- **President's Rule / State Emergency (Article 356):** It can Proclaimed by the President if the state government is unable to function according to constitutional provisions.
- **Financial Emergency** (Article 360): During a Financial Emergency, the Union can reduce officials' salaries, curtail states' financial powers, and centralize control over financial matters.

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

- The year 2025 commemorates 150 years since the founding of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), Asia's oldest and the world's fastest stock exchange.
- Founded: 1875
- Location: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India
- Benchmark Index: SENSEX (30 leading companies listed on BSE)
- Regulated by: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- Market Type: Equity, Debt, Derivatives, Mutual Funds, etc.
- Recognition: First stock exchange in India to be recognized by the Government under the Securities Contracts Regulation Act, 1956.

Election Commission of India:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India at the national, state, and local levels.

- **Established**: January 25, 1950
- Constitutional Basis: Article 324 of the Indian Constitution
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Motto: "No Voter to be Left Behind"
- Originally a single-member body, the Election Commission became a three-member commission in 1990, comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:

- India and China are making efforts to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, which has been on hold since 2019.
- Lake Mansarovar, known locally as Mapam Yumtso, is a high altitude freshwater lake near Mount Kailash in the Ngari Prefecture of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).
- It has currently two routes **LIPULEKH PASS ROUTE and NATHU LA PASS ROUTE:**

Exercise 'Dustlik'

Powered By S CHAND

- The 6th edition of Exercise Dustlik took place in Pune, Maharashtra, from April 16 to 28, 2025, at the Foreign Training Node (FTN) in Aundh.
- This annual joint military exercise between **India and Uzbekistan** focuses on enhancing counterterrorism capabilities and interoperability between the two nations' armed forces
- It Aims to strengthen interoperability, foster military collaboration, and improve combat readiness in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism missions.

Lokpal and Lokayukta

- The **Lokpal and Lokayukta** are anti-corruption ombudsman institutions established to investigate complaints of corruption against public officials and ensure accountability in public administration.
- The **Lokpal**, established under the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013**, oversees corruption complaints against central government officials, including the Prime Minister, Ministers, and MPs.
- It is led by a **Chairperson** (former Chief Justice or Judge) and **8 members**, half of whom are judicial, with the first Lokpal, **Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose**, appointed in 2019.
- The **Lokayukta** investigates corruption allegations against state officials, including the Chief Minister, and is established by each state's legislature under the 2013 Act.

Permanent Lok Adalat:

- Kerala has become the first state in India to introduce online filing and hearing facilities for Permanent Lok Adalats.
- A Permanent Lok Adalat (PLA) is a statutory body established under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to resolve disputes related to public utility services through conciliation and settlement
- The first Lok Adalat camp was organized in Gujarat in 1982 as a voluntary and conciliatory agency without any statutory backing

Operation ATALANTA

- The European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) has proposed conducting a joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy under Operation ATALANTA to enhance maritime collaboration.
- **Operation ATALANTA** is the European Union's first naval military mission, launched on **8 December 2008** to combat piracy and enhance maritime security off the coast of Somalia and in the Western Indian Ocean
- It operates under the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)

Guindy National Park

Powered By S CHAND

- Location: Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- Established: 1978
- Area: 2.70 km² one of the smallest national parks in India
- Unique Feature: Only national park located within a metropolitan city in India

Blackbuck (Antilope cervicapra)

- IUCN Red List: Least Concern (LC)
- **CITES**: Appendix III (India)

- Wildlife Protection Act, 1972: Schedule I (maximum protection)
- Native Range: India, Nepal, and Pakistan

Aryabhata Satellite:

- India's First Satellite
- Launched: April 19, 1975
- Named After: Ancient Indian mathematician Aryabhata
- Developed by: ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
- Launch Site: Kapustin Yar, Soviet Union (using Kosmos-3M rocket)
- **Weight**: 360 kg

BrahMos Missile:

- India has sent a second consignment of BrahMos missile systems to the Philippines.
- Supersonic cruise missile developed jointly by India and Russia
- Name derived from **Brahmaputra** (India) and Moskva (Russia) rivers
- Developed by BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPOM (Russia)
- Range: Originally 290 km; now extended to ~450–500 km (after MTCR entry)

Earth Day 2025:

- Earth Day 2025 is being observed today, April 22, under the theme: Our Power, Our Planet
- This year the aim is to achieve the "triple clean electricity" target by 2030 through the widespread use of renewable energy.
- The first ever Earth Day was organised in the year 1970 by Senator Gaylord Nelson and Denis Hayes. Gaylord Nelson was a U.S senator who is known as the father of Earth Day.

