



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 10-04-2025

GS-3

1. Global Impact of Trump's Tariff Onslaught and China's Retaliatory Strikes
2. POEM-4
3. Long-snouted Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla longirostris*)
4. Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary

Global Impact of Trump's Tariff Onslaught and China's Retaliatory Strikes

Syllabus: GS-3: Economy – Tariffs and Taxes.

Context:

The unfolding US-China trade war, initiated by President Donald Trump's aggressive tariff strategy and met with swift Chinese retaliation, has unleashed far-reaching disruptions in global trade and financial systems.

The ripple effects are reverberating across continents—impacting investors, producers, policymakers, and consumers alike.

Immediate Impact on Global Financial Markets

One of the first visible signs of the trade war was heightened stock market volatility:

- **Asian markets:** Hang Seng dropped by over 13%, Nikkei by 8%, and Kospi by 5.6%.
- **Indian markets:** Sensex and Nifty declined by nearly 3%, wiping out over ₹20 lakh crore in investor wealth.
- **Western markets:** US and European indices experienced erratic swings, reflecting global uncertainty.

Effect on Commodities and Crude Prices

The trade tensions impacted commodity markets significantly:

- **Crude oil:** Brent prices fell by over 15% in April, signaling reduced demand expectations.
- **Gold and other commodities:** Declined in value as investors shifted to safe-haven assets amidst growing risk aversion.

Investor Sentiment and Economic Uncertainty

Investor sentiment suffered heavily:

- The unpredictability triggered panic selling and capital flight, particularly from emerging markets.
- Trade wars increase production costs, dampen export competitiveness, and delay corporate investment decisions—ultimately slowing economic growth.

Domestic Response within the United States

Within the US, the fallout was palpable:

- Farmers and industrial communities protested rising input costs and reduced export opportunities.

- Economists warned of:
 - Rising **domestic inflation**
 - Potential **recession**
 - Ineffectiveness in protecting American jobs
- Critics argue the policy was **protectionist** in nature, lacking long-term economic reform focus.

Global Diplomatic and Economic Reactions

The global response has been mixed:

- Some nations retaliated with their own tariffs.
- Others initiated or re-negotiated trade agreements with the US to avoid tariffs.
- The US claimed that over 50 countries had approached it for trade talks.
- Meanwhile, China rallied other nations to oppose unilateralism and promote multilateral trade norms.

Broader Global Ramifications

1. Rise of Neo-Mercantilism: Nations are shifting from free-market liberalism to economic nationalism, emphasizing trade surpluses and tariff barriers.

2. Impact on Global Institutions:

- The World Trade Organization (WTO) has struggled to stay relevant.
- There's an urgent need for reforms, especially in dispute resolution mechanisms.

3. Economic Fragmentation:

- Global value chains (GVCs) are breaking down as countries localize production.
- Bilateral deals are becoming the norm but often exclude developing countries.

4. Pressure on Emerging Markets:

- Capital outflows, currency depreciation, and inflation risks are rising in weaker economies.
- Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are retreating amid global uncertainty.

Implications for India

India has felt the tremors of this conflict:

- Market capitalization losses of over ₹20 lakh crore underscore India's susceptibility to external shocks.
- **Opportunities:**

- India can attract investments from companies diversifying supply chains out of China.
- A reformed trade infrastructure could help India integrate into new GVCs.
- **Challenges:**
 - Short-term impacts include rupee depreciation, higher input costs, and volatile capital flows.
 - Indian exports face uncertainties amid fluctuating global demand.

Way Forward

Global Level:

- Revive WTO processes with stronger dispute resolution mechanisms.
- Promote **plurilateral trade agreements** in digital commerce, IP, and investment.

India's Strategy:

- Improve export competitiveness through:
 - **PLI (Production Linked Incentive)** schemes
 - **SEZ (Special Economic Zone)** reforms
- Ensure fair and balanced trade agreements, particularly in sensitive sectors like agriculture and services.
- Strengthen economic self-reliance via **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.

For Investors:

- Diversify portfolios to hedge against geo-economic risks.
- Monitor policy changes by the US Federal Reserve and European Central Bank that could influence capital flows.

Conclusion

The US-China trade war represents a broader transition toward a neo-mercantilist global order, where national interest often trumps multilateral cooperation. In this shifting landscape, countries must act judiciously to safeguard economic stability, uphold open trade norms, and restructure alliances to adapt to the evolving trade architecture. For India, the crisis presents both a warning and an opportunity—a call to build resilience and seize emerging global realignments.

POEM-4

Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology –Satellites

Context:

ISRO's PSLV-C60 POEM-4 mission achieved a milestone by germinating cowpea seeds in space and operating India's first space robotic arm, advancing space technology and extraterrestrial agricultural research.

Cowpea Seeds Experiment – PSLV-C60 POEM-4 Mission



What it is:

- **Cowpea seeds** (*Vigna unguiculata*, commonly known as **lobia** in Hindi) are **nutrient-rich legumes** known for their **resilience**, making them ideal for agricultural experiments.
- Used frequently in scientific research for their **adaptability** and **short life cycle**.

Mission Overview:

- Conducted under **ISRO's PSLV-C60 POEM-4 mission**.
- Experiment carried out using **CROPS – Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies**, developed by **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**.

- POEM stands for **PSLV Orbital Experimental Module** – a platform that uses the spent fourth stage of PSLV as an orbital platform for scientific experiments.

Significance of the Experiment:

Space Agriculture

- Marks a step toward **cultivating food crops in space**.
- Builds foundational knowledge about **plant growth in microgravity**.
- Essential for **future manned missions** to deep space, the Moon, or Mars.

Sustainability in Space

- Aims to enable **self-sufficient life support systems** in space.
- Reduces reliance on Earth-based food supplies.
- Aligns with goals of establishing **long-duration extraterrestrial habitats**.

Scientific Advancement

- Reflects **India's capability** in space-based agricultural research.
- Strengthens **interdisciplinary innovation** between space science and biotechnology.
- Enhances scope for **global collaboration** on future space farming initiatives.

Future Exploration Support

- Supports **human spaceflight programs** like Gaganyaan.
- Crucial for **long-term human settlement** strategies on celestial bodies.

Additional Highlight:

- PSLV-C60 POEM-4 also operated **India's first space robotic arm**, showcasing advancement in **space robotics** and payload handling systems.

Long-snouted Vine Snake (*Ahaetulla longirostris*)

Syllabus: GS-3: Wildlife

Context:

A rare snake species, ***Ahaetulla longirostris*** (*Long-snouted vine snake*), has been discovered in **Dudhwa Tiger Reserve**, Uttar Pradesh.

Key Points

About *Ahaetulla longirostris*:

- **Discovery Location:** Found during a **rhino translocation operation** in the **Palia division** of Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.
- **Earlier Habitat:** Previously known only from **Valmiki Tiger Reserve**, West Champaran, Bihar.



Features:

- Belongs to **Colubridae** family.
- Long, slender body with **green or brown coloration** for camouflage.
- **Distinctive long snout (rostral)** – key identification feature.
- **Arboreal** (lives on trees); expertly hides in foliage.
- **Mildly venomous** – not dangerous to humans.

Dudhwa Tiger Reserve – Snapshot:

Location:

- Situated in **Lakhimpur-Kheri district**, Uttar Pradesh.
- Lies along the **Indo-Nepal border** in the **Terai region**.

Ecological Significance:

- Represents the **finest Terai grasslands and forest ecosystems**.

➤ **High biodiversity hotspot**, home to:

- **Royal Bengal Tiger**
- **Indian Rhinoceros**
- **Swamp Deer (Barasingha)**
- **Leopard**
- Numerous bird species

Part of Terai Arc Landscape (TAL):

➤ Comprises three major protected areas:

1. **Dudhwa National Park**
2. **Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary**
3. **Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary**

Protected Area Timeline:

- **1987:** Dudhwa NP + Kishanpur WLS included under **Project Tiger** as Dudhwa Tiger Reserve.
- **2000:** **Katarniaghat WLS** added to the Reserve.

Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary

Syllabus: GS-3: Protected Areas – WLS.

Context:

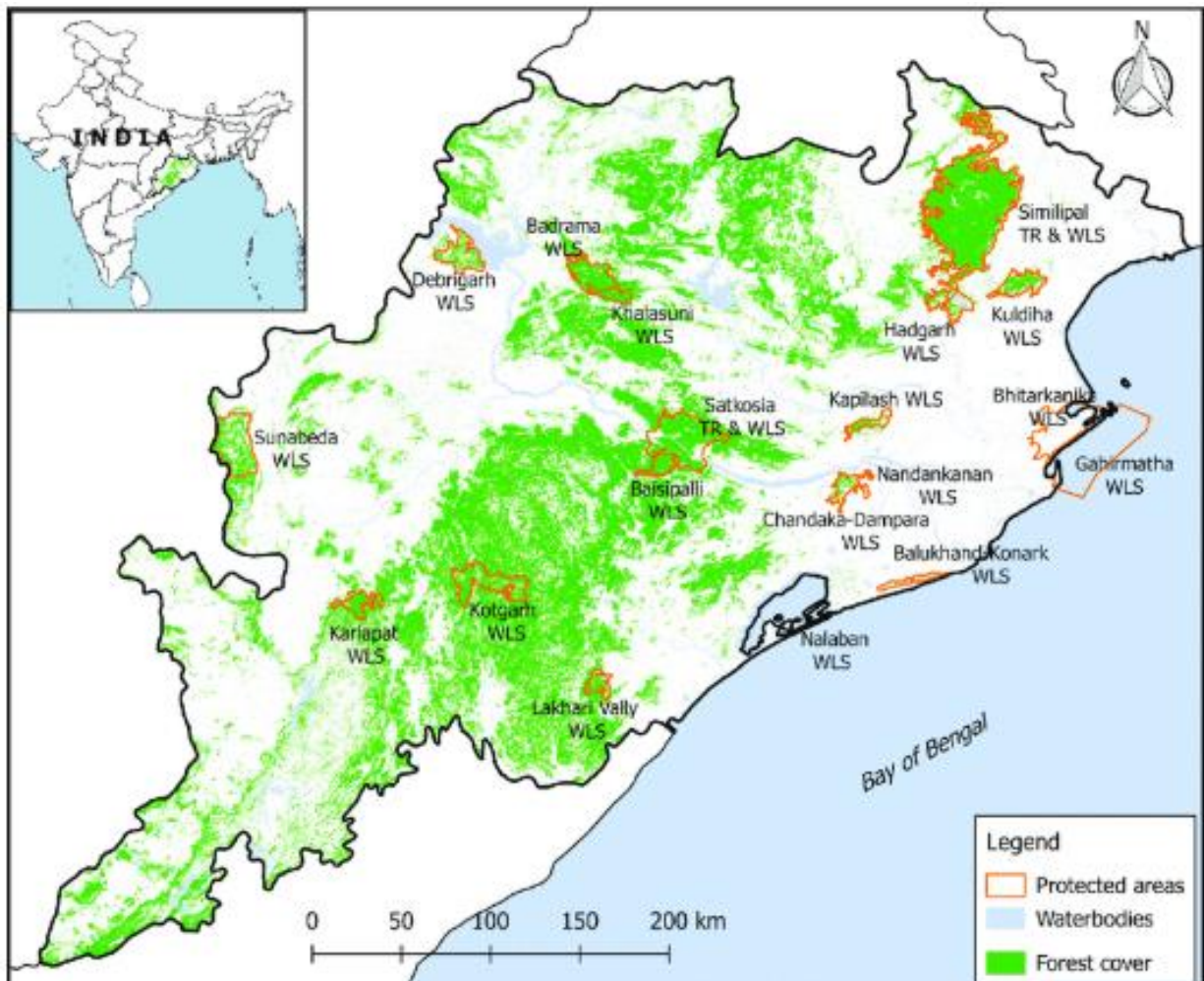
A recent study revealed that the **dense vegetation** in the **Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary** has declined:

- **1993:** 41.8% of the sanctuary was under dense vegetation.
- **2023:** Only **37.1%** remains under dense vegetation.
- This reduction may impact the habitat of key species like **spotted deer** and **blackbucks**.

About Balukhand-Konark Wildlife Sanctuary

- **Location:** Puri district, Odisha.
- **Declared a Sanctuary:** 23 April 1984.

- **Area:** 87 sq. km.
- **Habitat:** Sandy coastal tract between **Puri and Konark**, primarily planted with **casuarina** and **cashew trees**.
- **Rivers flowing through:**
 - Nuanai River
 - Kusabhadra River
 - Kadua River
 - Prachi River



Flora

- **Plantations:** Cashew, Casuarina, Eucalyptus, Australian Acacia.
- **Natural Trees** (mostly along rivers):
 - Jamun

- Ficus
- Neem
- Karanj
- Polang

Fauna

- **Herbivores:** Spotted deer, Blackbucks
- **Other Wildlife:**
 - Monkeys
 - Jungle cat
 - Hyena
 - Monitor lizard
 - Snakes
- **Marine Life:**
 - **Olive Ridley sea turtles** have been observed nesting on the nearby beach.