



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 01-04-2026**

### **Mapping Perspective**

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2. Conservation of Migratory Species
3. Twenty Cities towards Zero Waste initiative

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5. Maoist Insurgency in India

## Kariba Dam

Syllabus: GS-1: Geography – Mapping.

Context:

- A 500MW Floating Solar Plant being designed by Green Hybrid Power in partnership with the Intensive Energy User Group is to be installed at Kariba Dam in Zimbabwe.

### About Kariba Dam

- **Location:** It is a concrete arch dam across the Zambezi River at Kariba Gorge; it is on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- **Construction:** The construction of the dam was completed in 1959.
- **Structure:** The 128-metre-high double-curvature concrete arch dam provides critical electricity to both countries.
- **Reservoir:** It had created the world's largest human-made lake by volume, Lake Kariba.



### Zambezi River – Key Facts

- **Rank:** It is Africa's 4th longest river and the continent's longest east-flowing stream.

### Course

- It starts off in Angola's southern highlands, at the source of a river called the Lungwebungu.
- It flows for about 3,421 kilometers through Angola, Zambia, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique before emptying into the Indian Ocean.

### Physical Features

- **Waterfalls:** Victoria Falls and Chavuma Falls are on this river.

### Hydropower Projects

- **Dams:** The Cohara Bassa and Kariba Dams, two of Africa's major hydroelectric power sources, are located along the Zambezi's course.

### Tributaries

- The main tributaries of the Zambezi River include the Shire, Kafue, Luangwa, Kabompo, and Cuando (Kwando) rivers.

## Conservation of Migratory Species

### Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Conventions and Summits.

#### Context:

- Recently, at 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), forty new species were added to the protected list category.

#### About CMS (Bonn Convention)

- Also known as the **Bonn Convention**, is an environmental treaty under the aegis of the United Nations Environment Programme.
- Provides a **global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.**
- Signed in **Bonn, Germany, on 23 June 1979.**

- Only global and UN-based intergovernmental organisation established exclusively for conservation and management of **terrestrial, aquatic and avian migratory species throughout their range.**

### Key Features

- Parties acknowledge the **importance of conserving migratory species**, and need to pay special attention to species with **unfavourable conservation status.**
- Activities by CMS Parties range from **legally binding treaties (Agreements)** to **less formal instruments (Memoranda of Understanding).**

### Institutional Mechanism

- **Conference of Parties (COP)** is the decision-making organ of this convention.

### Appendices under CMS

- **Appendix I:** Lists **endangered migratory species** and includes **prohibitions regarding the take of these species.**
- **Appendix II:** Lists species with '**unfavourable conservation status**' and encourages **range states to draft range-wide agreements for conservation and management.**

### Analytical Note

- CMS is significant for **global biodiversity governance**, especially for **transboundary conservation.**
- Emphasises **international cooperation**, since migratory species cross national jurisdictions.

## Twenty Cities towards Zero Waste initiative

### Syllabus: GS-3: Environment

#### Context:

- Recently, Varkala has been named in the inaugural 20 Cities Towards Zero Waste initiative

#### About the Initiative

- It is an initiative led by the **UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Zero Waste**, with support from **UN-Habitat and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)**
- It highlights cities demonstrating ambitious and innovative approaches **to reducing waste, advancing circular economy solutions, and building more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban systems**

### Objectives

- Recognize city leadership and innovation
- Promote exchange of good practices and lessons learned
- Inspire other cities to accelerate their transition toward zero waste
- Support implementation of circular economy approaches at the local level

### United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

#### Key Facts

- It is the **leading global authority on the environment**
- It was founded in **1972 after a UN General Assembly resolution**
- **Mandate:** It was conceived to **monitor the state of the environment and coordinate responses to the world's greatest environmental challenges**
- **Headquarters: Nairobi, Kenya**

#### Functions

- Develops and supports **global environmental treaties**, such as the **CBD, CITES, and Minamata Convention**
- Hosts **secretariats of major environmental conventions** and supports the **negotiation of new environmental agreements**
- Publishes **authoritative research and assessments**, including the **Global Environment Outlook and Emissions Gap Report**
- Supports **developing countries with environmental capacity building, funding, and technical assistance**

## **AI in Internal Security**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Cybersecurity.**

### **Context:**

- The Ministry of Home Affairs is increasingly deploying AI tools for predictive policing, cybercrime detection, and financial fraud prevention.

### **Artificial Intelligence in Internal Security**

- Artificial Intelligence is transforming governance and security frameworks globally.
- In India, AI is being integrated into internal security systems to enhance surveillance, crime detection, and decision-making capabilities.

### **Role of AI in Internal Security**

- Enables predictive policing by analysing crime patterns.
- Facilitates real-time surveillance and monitoring.
- Enhances cybercrime detection through data analytics.
- Improves coordination among law enforcement agencies.
- Acts as a force multiplier by enabling faster and more accurate responses to security threats.

### **Key Initiatives and Tools**

#### **1. Predictive Policing**

- AI systems analyse historical data to identify crime-prone areas and patterns.
- Helps police forces deploy resources efficiently and prevent crimes before they occur.

#### **2. Dark Web Monitoring**

- AI-based tools monitor dark web platforms to track: phishing campaigns, fraud networks, criminal discussions.
- Enhances capability to detect cyber threats proactively.

#### **3. Mule Hunter Application**

- Uses AI and machine learning to identify “mule accounts” used for financial fraud.
- Developed in collaboration with RBI Innovation Hub.

- Uses behavioural and transaction data for suspect scoring.
- Enables real-time detection and blocking of fraudulent transactions.

#### **4. Surakshini Initiative**

- Proposed AI-based system for tackling online harmful content.
- Focuses on Child Sexual Exploitative and Abuse Material (CSEAM) and Non-Consensual Intimate Imagery (NCII).
- Creates a hash database to prevent re-upload of such content.
- Shifts from reactive takedown to preventive monitoring.

#### **5. AI-based Complaint Systems**

- Cybercrime helpline (1930) upgraded with AI-assisted complaint registration.
- Supports regional languages.
- Improves accessibility and response time.

### **News Summary (Parliamentary Standing Committee Report)**

#### **Expansion of AI in Security**

- AI used as a “critical enabler” for enhancing operational capabilities across police forces and paramilitary units.
- Includes real-time surveillance, behavioural analysis, and crime pattern recognition.

#### **Institutional Collaboration**

- Ministry of Home Affairs collaborating with: IIT Bombay (AI model development), Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (financial fraud detection).
- Aim: build robust and scalable AI systems.

#### **Cybercrime Monitoring and Prevention**

- Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) central to AI deployment.
- AI tools monitor dark web activities and scam networks.
- Complaint registration modernised with AI support.
- AI models screen cyber tipline data for harmful content.

#### **Financial Fraud Detection**

- Integration of Mule Hunter with banking systems enables: real-time suspect scoring, early identification of fraudulent accounts, prevention of financial cybercrimes.
- Marks a shift toward proactive fraud prevention.

### **Content Moderation and Online Safety**

- Surakshini introduces preventive content moderation framework.
- Automated hash-matching prevents upload of illegal content.
- Dashboard tracks complaints, FIRs, and takedown timelines.
- Enhances transparency and coordination among agencies.

### **Emerging Technologies in Immigration**

- Immigration, Visa Foreigners Registration and Tracking (IVFRT) 3.0 (launch: April 2026) integrates AI and blockchain.
- Enables intelligent traveller profiling.
- Improves security and authenticity of records.

### **Challenges and Concerns**

- Privacy Issues: Increased surveillance may affect individual privacy rights.
- Data Security: Risk of misuse or breach of sensitive data.
- Algorithmic Bias: AI systems may reflect biases in training data.
- Technological Limitations: Some applications (e.g., document forgery detection) still under development.

### **Analytical Insight**

- Shift from reactive policing to predictive and preventive governance.
- Balancing national security with privacy and ethical AI remains critical.
- Institutional collaboration indicates movement toward integrated security architecture.

## **Maoist Insurgency in India**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Internal Security – Naxalism.**

### **Context:**

- Recent surrender of a top CPI (Maoist) leader signals major collapse of leadership → movement nearing end
- Armed struggle declining, but deeper issues of governance and inequality remain unresolved
- Key challenge → converting security success into lasting public trust & preventing re-emergence of far-left politics

### **How the Indian State Gained Upper Hand**

#### **Leadership & Organisational Weakening**

- Top Central Committee & Politburo leaders eliminated/arrested/surrendered → fragmented command structure
- Decline acknowledged internally; cadres advised to relocate/surrender

#### **Security & Intelligence Improvements**

- Improved intelligence + local police involvement + specialised forces
- Reduced Maoists' advantage in terrain & surprise

#### **Integrated Strategy**

- Sustained military pressure + governance outreach + infrastructure development weakened insurgency

#### **Strategic Policy Framework**

- 2006: Maoism identified as major internal security threat
- Comprehensive MHA strategy →
  - Large deployment of central forces
  - Modernisation of state police
  - “Clear, Hold, Develop” approach
    - Clear: remove Maoist presence
    - Hold: establish control via camps

- Develop: extend governance & services
- Strategy continued and intensified by subsequent governments

### **Infrastructure & State Expansion**

- Expansion in remote areas:
  - 15,000+ km roads
  - 9,000+ mobile towers
  - 656 fortified police stations
  - ~200 security camps (esp. Chhattisgarh, Andhra–Odisha belt)
- Reduced isolation → weakened Maoist control

### **Decline in Violence & Spread**

- Maoist violence & deaths ↓ over 80% since 2010
- Affected districts: ~200 (early 2000s) → 38 (2025)
- Only 7 LWE-affected districts; 3 most affected: Bijapur, Narayanpur, Sukma

### **Origins of Maoism in India**

- Rooted in Naxalbari uprising (1967)
- Ideology: India as “semi-feudal, semi-colonial”
- Armed struggle seen as necessary for land, dignity, justice

### **Spread Across Regions**

- Expansion across “Red Corridor” → Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha
- Support base: landless peasants, Dalits, Adivasis
- Stronghold in areas with weak/exploitative/absent state

### **Structural Causes of Maoism**

- Unequal land distribution & failed land reforms
- Bonded labour & caste oppression
- Displacement without rehabilitation (development projects)
- Corruption/abuse by forest & police authorities

- Tribal exclusion from land/resource decisions

### **Maoists as Alternative Governance**

- Functioned as parallel authority in remote areas:
  - Dispute resolution
  - Wage enforcement
  - Punishment of local elites
- Combined coercion with perceived justice

### **State Absence as Core Factor**

- Growth driven not just by poverty but **state invisibility**
- Maoists became the only functioning authority in isolated regions

### **Post-Decline Challenges**

- Risk: emergence of new alienation or criminal networks
- Govt identified 31 “Legacy Thrust” districts for continued support
- Focus on preventing relapse

### **Development-Centric Approach**

- Long-term solution → effective delivery of: roads, schools, hospitals, basic services
- Evidence: Andhra infrastructure & CRPF field hospitals → positive public response

### **Building Local Institutions**

- Shift from external security → local governance
  - Recruit locals in police/administration
  - Expand police stations
  - Ensure schools, healthcare, grievance redress
- Requires strong political will + responsive bureaucracy

### **Possibility of Revival**

#### **Why full revival unlikely**

- Improved connectivity (roads, mobiles, social media)
- Increased awareness & aspirations

- Loss of isolated territorial control

### Internal Weaknesses

- Declining ideological strength
- Entry of non-committed elements
- Failure to attract educated youth

### Continuing Risk Factors

- Rising inequality & visible disparities → potential space for far-left ideas
- Likely future form:
  - Issue-based, low-intensity or non-violent radicalism
  - Focus: land rights, environment, job insecurity

### Role of State Legitimacy

- Digital access → multiple viewpoints → violence less attractive
- Key determinant → **credibility of governance, not just security strength**
- Sustainable peace depends on trust-building and inclusive development

### Conclusion

- Maoist insurgency has shifted from a **security challenge to a governance challenge**
- Durable solution lies in **state legitimacy + inclusive development + institutional presence**, not merely coercive capacity