



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 06-04-2026

Mapping Perspective

1. Azerbaijan

Prelims Perspective

2. Raja Ravi Varma
3. Juang Tribe

Mains Perspective

4. Namu Drone Didi
5. Sukhna WLS

Azerbaijan

Syllabus: Prelims Bits – Mapping

Context:

- **India–Azerbaijan Relations:** India and Azerbaijan comprehensively reviewed the current state of bilateral relations, covering areas of mutual interest in **Baku**

About Azerbaijan

Location

- Located at the junction of **Eastern Europe and Western Asia** along the southern flanks of the **Caucasus Mountains**

Borders

- Bordered by **Russia (north), Georgia (northwest), Armenia (west), Iran (south)**

Water Body

- Bounded in the east by the **Caspian Sea**

Capital

- Baku



Geographical Features of Azerbaijan

Climate

- Climate is highly varied and contains examples of **nine out of the world's eleven climate zones**

Major Rivers

- Alazani, Aras, and Kura Rivers

Highest Peak

- **Mount Bazardüzü** – highest peak in the **Greater Caucasus Range** and highest mountain in Azerbaijan

Natural Resources

- Mainly consists of **gold, silver, iron, titanium, copper, manganese, cobalt, molybdenum, and chromium**

Analytical Insight

- Strategic location at **Europe-Asia crossroads** → geopolitical importance
- **Energy-rich region** (Caspian basin) → relevance for India's energy security and connectivity initiatives

Raja Ravi Varma

Syllabus: GS-1: Indian Art and Culture.

Context:

- Recently, Raja Ravi Varma's Yashoda and Krishna painting was sold for **₹167.2 crore at Saffronart**

About Raja Ravi Varma

- Born on **29 April 1848**, in the village of **Kilimanoor in Kerala** to a family of chieftains known as the **Koil Thampurans**
- Indian painter celebrated for **blending Hindu mythological themes with European realism and naturalism**
- Among the first Indian artists to **use oil paints** and **master lithographic reproduction**

Themes & Artistic Style

- Painted **scenes from Hindu mythology** and **portraits of Indian and British figures in India**
- Combined **traditional Indian subjects with Western techniques (realism, perspective, naturalism)**



Notable Works

- Shakuntala Writing a Love Letter to Dushyanta
- Shri Rama Vanquishing the Sea

Contribution to Printing & Mass Reach

- Mastered **reproduction of his work on the lithographic press** → **paintings spread far and wide**
- Set up his **own printing press in Maharashtra** → **first in Ghatkopar, later in Lonavala (1894)**

Awards & Recognition

- Received **Kaiser-i-Hind medal (1904)** → popularly known as Raja Ravi Varma
- Nair Lady Adorning Her Hair (1873) → won **Governor's Gold Medal (Madras Presidency)** and **Certificate of Merit (Vienna exhibition)**

Analytical Insight

- Pioneer in **democratization of art via lithography** → **cultural nationalism**
- Bridged **Indian tradition and Western techniques** → **foundation for modern Indian art**

Juang Tribe

Syllabus: GS-1: Human Geography - Tribes in India.

Context:

- A 16-year-old Juang tribal girl in Odisha changed the entire mindset of a village related to child health and child marriage.

About Juang Tribe



Classification

- Juang is one of the 13 particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs) of the total 62 tribes found in Odisha.

Distribution

- They are primarily concentrated in the current districts of Keonjhar and Dhenkanal in Odisha.

Language

- Linguistically, they converse in the Juang language, a member of the Munda family within the Austroasiatic languages.

Social Structure

- The Juangs are known for their clan structure and kinship organisations.

Occupation & Economic Life

- Initially reliant on hunting, gathering, and limited cultivation, the declaration of their forests as reserves during the British colonial era prompted a shift in traditional customs.
- Adapting to these changes, the Juang people showcased expertise in basket-weaving, exchanging their products with neighboring caste villages for essentials like salt, oil, and food.

Clothing

- Historically known as Patuas or “leaf-wearers,” Juang women adorned leaf girdles, while men wore small loincloths.

Beliefs & Religion

- Although they have some Hindu beliefs, Juangs practice mostly ancient animistic rituals.
- Their supreme god is the sun god.
- However, they have also adopted the Hindu deities in addition to tribal gods and goddesses.

Namo Drone Didi

Syllabus: GS-2: Social Justice – Women Empowerment.

Context:

- **Karnataka** has the **greatest number of women SHGs trained as drone pilots** under the scheme.

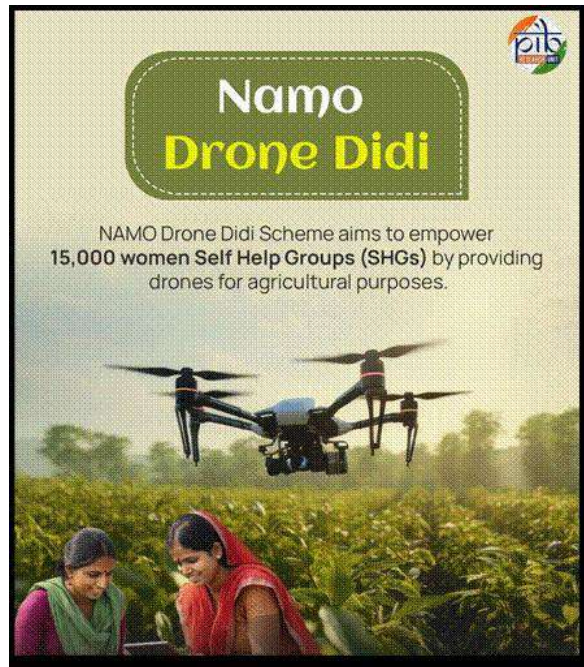
About Namu Drone Didi Yojana

- **Nature:** Central sector initiative
- **Objective:** To **empower women-led SHGs** promoted under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)** by providing **drone technology for agricultural services**

Key Features

- **Service Model:**
 - Drones provided to selected SHGs for **rental services to farmers**
 - Used for **agriculture purposes** – presently **application of liquid fertilizers and pesticides**
- **Target:**

- **15,000 drones** to be provided to selected women SHGs during **2024-25 to 2025-26**



Financial Assistance

- **Central Financial Assistance:**
 - **80% of drone package cost** (maximum up to **₹8.00 lakh**) provided to women SHGs
- **Remaining 20% Cost:**
 - SHGs can avail loans from **Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF)**
 - **Interest subvention: 3%**

Training Component

- **Beneficiary:** One member from each women SHG
- **Duration: 15 days training**
 - Mandatory **drone pilot training**
 - Additional training for **agriculture use (nutrient & pesticide application)**

Implementation Mechanism

- Implemented through **convergence of resources** of:
 - Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (DA&FW)
 - Department of Rural Development (DoRD)

- Department of Fertilizers (DoF)
- Lead Fertilizer Companies (LFCs)

Analytical Perspective

- **Women Empowerment:** Enhances **income generation & skill development** in rural areas
- **Agri-tech Adoption:** Promotes **precision agriculture & input efficiency**
- **Institutional Convergence:** Example of **inter-departmental coordination**
- **Rural Economy:** Strengthens **SHG-based service delivery model** and entrepreneurship

Sukhna WLS

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Protected Areas – Wild Life Sanctuary.

Context:

- Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary has emerged as a **remarkable success story of ecological revival**, nestled in the **fragile Shivalik Hills**

About Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary

Location & Origin

- It is a **protected area located in Chandigarh**, near the famous **Sukhna Lake** at the foothills of the **Shivalik range**
- The lake was created by **Le Corbusier in 1958** by diverting the **Sukhna Choe**, a seasonal stream flowing down from the Shivalik hills
- The sanctuary was developed as a result of **afforestation done for soil conservation** around Sukhna Lake
- The Sanctuary was **established in 1998**

Geographical Features

- The place is **geographically unstable** and prone to **soil erosion by surface runoff during rains**
- It has **sandy soil of Shivalik with pockets of clay embedded at places**
- Apart from Sukhna Lake, there are around **150 small and large water bodies** forming its **catchment area**

Ecosystem & Vegetation

- It is characterized by a **mix of forests, grasslands, and wetlands**, with **Sukhna Lake as an important component of the ecosystem**

Flora

- Common flora includes: **Khair, Phulai, Kikar, Shisham, Moonj, Amaltas, Jhingan, Amla, Rati, Vasaka, etc.**

Fauna

- Mammals found include: **Squirrel, Common Mongoose, Indian Hare, Porcupine, Jungle Cat, Jackal, Wild Boar, etc.**

Analytical Insight

- Demonstrates **successful ecological restoration through afforestation and watershed management**
- Highlights **fragile ecology of Shivalik Hills** prone to **erosion and degradation**
- Serves as a model for **urban-adjacent biodiversity conservation and catchment protection**