



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 08-04-2026**

### **Mapping Perspective**

1. Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

### **Prelims Perspective**

2. Guru Tegh Bahadur
3. BioNEST

### **Mains Perspective**

4. Prime Minister Tenure Debate in India
5. Iran War and Stagflation

## Mudumalai Tiger Reserve

Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Protected Areas – Tiger Reserves.

### Context:

- Recently, Nilgiris Collector inspected **Thengumarahada**, a remote village inside the core area of Mudumalai Tiger Reserve, to ensure basic amenities for voters.

### Mudumalai Tiger Reserve – Overview

#### Location

- Located in the **Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu**
- Situated at the **tri-junction of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu**
- Part of the **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve** (first biosphere reserve in India)
- Shares boundary with:
  - Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary (Kerala) on the west
  - Bandipur Tiger Reserve (Karnataka) on the north



#### Terrain

- Terrain is **undulating**
- Elevation ranges from **960 m to 1266 m**

#### Vegetation (Habitat Diversity)

- Wide range of habitats:

- Tropical evergreen forest
- Moist deciduous forest
- Moist teak forest
- Dry teak forest
- Secondary grasslands and swamps

### River System

- **Moyar River** runs through the reserve

### Flora

- Presence of **tall grasses ("Elephant Grass")**
- **Giant bamboo** and valuable timber species like **Teak, Rosewood**
- Contains **wild relatives of cultivated plants**:
  - Wild rice, ginger, turmeric, cinnamon

### Fauna

- Herbivores: **Elephant, gaur, sambar, spotted deer, barking deer, blackbuck, wild pig, mouse deer, four-horned antelope**
- Predators: **Tiger, leopard, wild dogs**

### Significance

- Part of **Nilgiris Biosphere Reserve** → **ecological connectivity across Western Ghats**
- Located at **inter-state junction** → **important for wildlife corridors (elephant & tiger movement)**
- High **biodiversity with varied habitat types** → **potential Prelims + Mains linkage (conservation & landscape ecology)**

## **Guru Tegh Bahadur**

### Syllabus: GS-1: Indian History and Culture.

#### Context:

- Recently, the Prime Minister of India offered homage to Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji on the sacred occasion of **Parkash Purab**.

### About Guru Tegh Bahadur

- Guru Tegh Bahadur (1621–1675) was the **ninth of ten Gurus of the Sikh religion**.
- He was born as **Tyaga Mal**.
- He came to be known as **Teg Bahadur (Mighty of The Sword)**, a title given by **Guru Hargobind** after showing valour in a battle against the Mughals.
- In **1664**, Guru Tegh Bahadur succeeded **Guru Har Krishan Ji** as the ninth Sikh Guru.
- He was revered with the honour of '**Hind Di Chadar**'.
- He raised an army against the Mughals and introduced the concept of **warrior saints**.



### Life and Works

- He built the city of **Anandpur Sahib** (in Rupnagar/Ropar district, on the edge of Shivalik Hills, near the Sutlej River, Punjab).
- This later became significant as the last two Sikh Gurus lived here and **Guru Gobind Singh Ji founded the Khalsa Panth in 1699**.

- He contributed **more than 100 poetic hymns to the Granth Sahib**, covering themes like nature of God, human attachments, body, mind, dignity, and service.

### **Martyrdom and Legacy**

- His martyrdom is commemorated as **Shaheedi Divas of Guru Tegh Bahadur** every year on **24 November**.
- Observed according to the **Nanakshahi calendar** released by the **Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (2003)**.

## **BioNEST**

### **Syllabus: GS-3: Science and Technology – Policy Measures.**

#### **Context:**

- Recently, the Union Minister inaugurated the **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC)-BioNEST** Incubation Centre at the Central Food Technology & Research Institute (CFTRI) in Mysuru.

#### **About BioNEST**

- Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (Bio-NEST) was launched by **Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council**.
- Launched with a vision focused on fostering the **biotech innovation ecosystem** in the country.

#### **Key Features of BioNEST Incubators**

- Provide access to **high-end infrastructure**, specialized and advanced equipment.
- Offer business **mentorship, IP, legal** and regulatory guidance.
- Facilitate networking opportunities to start-ups.

#### **Objectives of BioNEST Scheme**

- Promote and establish **Bioincubators** in India.
- Support and encourage **startups and entrepreneurs** in the biotech sector.
- Connect Industry and Academia, enabling interactions for efficient exchange of knowledge and facilitating technical and business mentorship.
- Provide enabling services and **required mentorship for IP** and Technology management, legal support, certifications, validation, regulatory requirements, resource mobilization and a unique networking platform.

### Funding

- **BIRAC funding for BioNEST Centres** is done in alignment with the Government's umbrella scheme 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development' (Bio-RIDE).

### UPSC Value Addition (Analytical Insight)

- Strengthens India's **biotech startup ecosystem** and innovation-driven growth.
- Enhances **industry-academia linkage**, a key bottleneck in R&D translation.
- Contributes to **Atmanirbhar Bharat in biotechnology and health sectors**.

## Prime Minister Tenure Debate in India

### Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Union Government & PM.

#### Context:

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi has become the longest-serving elected head of government in India**, reigniting debate on executive term limits

#### Constitutional Position on Executive Tenure

- India's Constitution **does not prescribe any term limit** for the office of the Prime Minister
- Prime Minister continues in office **as long as they enjoy the confidence of the Lok Sabha**
- Principle rooted in the **parliamentary system adopted from the British model**
- Framers believed **democratic accountability through Parliament would act as an effective check on executive power**

#### Constituent Assembly's Rationale

- Absence of term limits **articulated during Constituent Assembly debates**
- **Dr B.R. Ambedkar emphasised "daily accountability"** through parliamentary mechanisms
  - Question Hour, No-confidence motions, Adjournment motions
- Argued these mechanisms **more effective than periodic elections** in ensuring executive responsibility
- Constitution relied on **continuous legislative oversight rather than fixed tenure restrictions**

#### Comparative Perspective on Term Limits

- India **stands out among major democracies** for not having executive term limits
- Countries like **USA, Brazil, Indonesia impose tenure limits** on executive heads
- In parliamentary systems, term limits **generally absent due to legislative removal mechanisms**
- Effectiveness depends on **strength of institutional checks within the system**

### Impact of Anti-Defection Law

- **Tenth Schedule (52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985)** altered legislature-executive balance
- Anti-defection law mandates **disqualification for voting against party whip**
- Weakens **no-confidence motions**, as ruling party members unlikely to oppose government
- Thus, **primary accountability mechanism envisioned by framers diluted**

### Weakening of Parliamentary Accountability

- Absence of **strong intra-party democracy further reduces accountability**
- Unlike UK, Indian parties lack **structured mechanisms for internal leadership challenge**
- Leads to weakening of **both legislative and intra-party checks on executive authority**

### The Presidential Convention Paradox

- Informal convention: **President limited to two terms**, though not constitutionally mandated
- No President has served **more than two terms**
- President's role **largely ceremonial**, yet follows convention
- Prime Minister **exercises real executive power but has no formal/informal limitation**
- Creates **institutional asymmetry in constitutional framework**

### Debate on Democratic Legitimacy

- Argument against term limits: **repeated electoral victories reflect people's will**
- Concern: prolonged incumbency provides **structural advantages**
  - Control over institutions
  - Influence over policy
  - Shaping political narrative

- Raises issue whether **electoral processes alone ensure adequate checks on executive power**

### Possible Reforms

- Two potential reform pathways:
  - **Restore parliamentary accountability** → exempt confidence motions from anti-defection law
  - **Introduce constitutional amendment** → limit consecutive terms for PMs/CMs (with return after gap)
- Aim: **balance democratic choice with institutional safeguards**

## Iran War and Stagflation

Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy – Inflation.

### Context:

Iran War and stagflation risks rise as energy supply shocks intensify. Understand how Iran War and stagflation can impact growth, inflation, and global economic stability.

### Iran War & Stagflation

#### 1. Historical Context of Stagflation (1970s–1980s)

- In the 1970s and early 1980s, many Western countries faced **stagflation (low/negative growth + high inflation)**
- **US & UK (1974–75):** Negative/very low GDP growth + very high inflation
- **1979–1982 (US):** Fluctuating growth + persistently high inflation

#### Major Causes – Oil Shocks

- **First Oil Shock (1973):** After Yom Kippur War → Arab oil embargo
- **Second Oil Shock (1979):** Iranian Revolution + Iran–Iraq conflict

#### Later Oil Shocks

- **2008:** Slow growth without high inflation
- **2022:** Inflation without major recession
- **2026:** Combined price + supply shock (more severe risk)

#### 2. Concept of Stagflation

- **Definition:** Simultaneous occurrence of **high inflation + low/negative economic growth**

- Known as “**worst of both worlds**”
- Term coined in the **1960s** → rising prices + sluggish economy

### 3. Demand–Supply Framework (Mechanism)

- Prices & output determined by **interaction of demand and supply**
- **Equilibrium:** Where  $Q_d = Q_s \rightarrow (P_0, Q_0)$
- **Normal case:** Movement along supply curve due to price change
- **Supply shock:** Shifts entire supply curve

### Cause of Stagflation

- **Negative supply shock** → **reduction in production**
- Causes:
  - Wars
  - Pandemics
  - Natural disasters
  - Trade/shipping disruptions

### Economic Impact

- Supply curve shifts **left** ( $S_0 \rightarrow S_1$ )
- Results in:
  - Higher prices ( $P_1$ )
  - Lower output ( $Q_1$ )

### 4. Current Scenario: Is Stagflation a Risk?

- Depends on **magnitude + duration of supply shock**
- Ongoing **US–Israel–Iran conflict** causing severe disruption

### Why Current Shock is More Serious

- Unlike **2022 (price shock only)** → now **price + supply shock**
- Issue includes:
  - High prices
  - **Physical shortage of energy (oil, gas, LPG)**

### Implications

- Industrial stoppages due to shortages

- Long-term economic disruptions
- Risk of prolonged stagflation

### 5. Increased Economic Vulnerability (India)

- Higher dependence on **energy & petrochemical products**
- Critical sectors affected:
  - Fertilisers
  - LPG
  - Synthetic fibres
  - Plastics

### Systemic Impact

- Energy disruption affects **multiple industries via supply chains**
- Leads to:
  - **Complex, non-linear effects**
  - Small shocks → large economic consequences

### Challenges in Dealing with Stagflation

#### (A) Role of Supply Shock Duration

- Short-term disruption → recovery possible ( $S_1 \rightarrow S_0$ )
- Long-term disruption → persistent stagflation

#### (B) Limits of Conventional Policies

- **Fiscal policy & Monetary policy** can target:
  - Growth ( $\uparrow$  spending,  $\downarrow$  interest rates) OR
  - Inflation ( $\downarrow$  liquidity,  $\uparrow$  interest rates)

#### (C) Policy Trade-offs

- $\uparrow$  Interest rates → control inflation but worsen growth & unemployment
- $\uparrow$  Spending/ $\downarrow$  rates → boost growth but increase inflation

#### (D) Nature of the Problem

- Stagflation = **supply-side issue**
- Policies = **demand-side tools** → mismatch reduces effectiveness

### Way Forward

- Focus on **restoring disrupted supply chains**
- Address:
  - Energy availability
  - Trade/logistics bottlenecks
- However, **solution is complex and difficult to implement**

### **Analytical Insight**

- Stagflation challenges **Phillips Curve trade-off** (inflation vs unemployment)
- Highlights limits of **Keynesian demand management**
- Emphasises need for:
  - **Supply-side reforms**
  - **Energy diversification & resilience**