



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 09-04-2026**

### **Prelims Perspective**

1. ECINet Platform
2. Government e-MarketPlace
3. Tar Balls

### **Mains Perspective**

4. Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises
5. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

## **ECINet Platform**

### **Syllabus: GS-2: Indian Polity – Elections**

#### **Context:**

- Recently, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has urged voters to make informed choices by using the “**Know Your Candidates**” (KYC) module available on its ECINet platform.

#### **About ECINet Platform**

- It is a single-point digital platform developed by the Election Commission of India.
- It is a new user-friendly digital interface for the electors and other stakeholders such as election officials, political parties, and civil society.

#### **Features of ECINet Platform**

- Integrates and reoriented over 40 of ECI’s existing mobile and web applications.
- Subsumed existing apps like Voter Helpline App, Voter Turnout App, cVIGIL, Suvidha 2.0, ESMS, Saksham, and KYC App.
- Has an aesthetic User Interface (UI) and simplified User Experience (UX) by providing a singular platform for all electoral-related activities.
- Offers services such as registration, electoral roll search, application tracking, and grievance redressal.
- Additional features include downloading digital voter ID cards (e-EPIC), connecting with election officials, and booking calls with Booth Level Officers (BLOs).
- Includes tools such as cVIGIL for reporting election code violations and Saksham for facilitating accessible services for persons with disabilities.

#### **Legal & Constitutional Backing**

- Developed in full compliance with:
  - Constitution of India
  - Representation of the People Act, 1950 and Representation of the People Act, 1951
  - Registration of Electors Rules, 1960
  - Conduct of Election Rules, 1961

#### **Analytical Significance**

- Enhances **electoral transparency and informed voting** through KYC module.
- Promotes **digital governance and ease of access** via single unified platform.

- Strengthens **inclusive participation** (PwDs via Saksham).
- Improves **electoral integrity and monitoring** (cVIGIL for MCC violations).

## **Government e-MarketPlace**

**Syllabus: GS-2: e-governance.**

**Context:**

- Government e Marketplace (GeM) has achieved **cumulative Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) of ₹18.4 lakh crore**, including **crossing ₹5 lakh crore GMV in FY 2025-26**

### **About Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**

- It is **India's national public procurement portal**, launched in **2016 by Ministry of Commerce & Industry**
- Enhances **transparency, efficiency and inclusivity in procurement**
- Portal for procurement of goods and services for **Central & State Government Ministries, Departments, PSUs and affiliated bodies**

### **Features of GeM Portal**

- **Fully digital, cashless and system-driven platform** providing **end-to-end solution** for buyers and sellers
- Uses **AI-powered tools and multilingual Learning Management System (LMS)** to facilitate access to public procurement
- Features **voice-enabled navigation and region-specific training modules** supporting onboarding and transactions, especially for **remote and underserved sellers**

### **Objectives of GeM Portal**

- Increase **efficiency, transparency and speed** in public procurement
- Provide **multiple modes of procurement**: direct purchase; bidding with reverse e-auction; e-bidding; direct reverse auction
- Make **ministries/departments mandatorily procure** goods and services from the portal

- Enable **efficient price discovery, economies of scale and dissemination of best practices**

## **Tar Balls**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Pollutants.**

**Context:**

- Recently, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change** has released **draft rules aimed at managing ‘tar balls’** to protect the coastline and marine environment from oil spills



### **About Tar Balls**

- **Definition:** Tar balls are **small, dark, sticky blobs of weathered oil** that form in marine environments due to oil spills or natural seeps

### **Formation of Tar Balls**

- Formed by **weathering of crude oil in marine environments**
- Transported from the **open sea to the shores by sea currents and waves**

- Undergo **physical, chemical, and biological processes**, resulting in **semi-solid or solid lumps**
- Often **wash ashore**, causing environmental damage and posing risks to human health
- **Size variation:** Some as big as a basketball while others are smaller globules

### Composition

- Contain **toxic contaminants**, such as:
  - Heavy metals
  - Trace elements
  - Persistent organic pollutants

### Impacts of Tar Balls

- **Biodiversity:**
  - Accumulate on beaches and pose danger to **seabirds, fish, and marine animals (e.g., sea turtles)**
  - Marine species may **mistakenly ingest them as food**
- **Geographical Impact (India):**
  - India's **western coast (Gujarat to Goa)** is significantly affected
  - Occurrence is prominent during the **seasonal period from April to September**

## **Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Indian Economy –Service Sector.**

### Context:

- Recently, the **National Statistics Office (NSO)** has launched the **first-ever Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE)**.

### About ASISSE

- **Launched by:** National Statistics Office (NSO), under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**
- **Objective:** Aimed at developing a **comprehensive database of the incorporated services sector of the country**
- **Sampling Frame:** Uses the **Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) database**
- **Coverage:** Covers **corporate entities in the services sector** – companies registered under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 or Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008
- **Scale of Survey:** Will survey **over 1.21 lakh enterprises**, making it **one of the largest exercises of its kind**
- **Legal Framework:** Conducted under the provisions of **Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 (amended in 2017)** and through the **Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2023**

#### **National Statistical Office (NSO) – Key Facts**

- **Nature:** Central statistical agency of India responsible for **collecting, processing, and disseminating official statistical data**
- **Formation:** Formed in **2019** by merging two key statistical bodies to improve **efficiency, coordination, and data quality**
- **Role:** Plays a crucial role in **evidence-based policymaking, planning, and governance**
- **Leadership:** Headed by the **Chief Statistician of India (CSI)**, who ensures coordination of statistical activities
- **Administrative Ministry:** Functions under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)**

#### **Analytical Note**

- Strengthens **data-driven governance in services sector**, which contributes significantly to GDP
- Enhances **formal sector coverage using GSTN database**, improving reliability of estimates
- Complements existing surveys like **ASI (manufacturing)** → fills gap in **services sector statistics**

## **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances**

**Syllabus: GS-3: Environment – Pollutants.**

**Context:**

- The **European Union (EU) Parliament** approved updated **EU water pollution standards**
- **Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)** added to the **pollutants list to be monitored**

**About PFAS (Forever Chemicals)**

- Toxic, man-made, hazardous chemicals
- Also known as “**Forever Chemicals**” → large chemical family of **over 4,700 substances**
- **Fluorinated chemicals** with **partially or completely fluorinated carbon chains of varied lengths**
- **Carbon–fluorine bond is one of the strongest** → **do not degrade easily in the environment**

**Subgroups**

- Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)
- Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- Classified as **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- Listed under the **Stockholm Convention** as **industrial POPs**

**Sources & Exposure Pathways**

- **Used in everyday products** → keep food from sticking to packaging/cookware, stain-resistant clothes and carpets
- **Industrial use** → aerospace, automotive, construction, electronics industries
- **Environmental leakage** → may enter **soil, water, and air over time**

**Human Exposure**

- Consumption of contaminated water or food
- Use of PFAS-containing products

- Breathing contaminated air

### Impacts on Human Health

- Decreased fertility
- Developmental effects in children
- Interference with body hormones
- Increased cholesterol levels
- Increased risk of some cancers

### Regulation & Global Framework

- **Stockholm Convention:**
  - Lists certain PFAS (e.g., **PFOS, PFOA**) as **Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**
- Focus on **monitoring, restriction, and phase-out** of hazardous chemicals

### Analytical Insight

- **Environmental concern** → persistence + bioaccumulation + long-range transport
- **Public health issue** → chronic exposure risks
- **Governance challenge** → regulating widespread industrial chemicals
- **Global cooperation needed** → conventions like Stockholm + regional actions like EU standards

