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Daily Current Affairs Encyclopedia

14 Apr 2025

National and International News

<p>Jallianwala massacre</p>  <p>Bagh</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi honored the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh with a heartfelt tribute. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jallianwala Bagh massacre or the Amritsar massacre of 13th April 1919 accounts for the gruesome execution of hundreds of innocent people by the Gurkha British Indian army on the orders of the then Anglo-Indian Brigadier R.E.H. Dyer. These people were protesting peacefully against the Rowlatt Act 1919. The Jallianwala Bagh tragedy was one of the causes that led Mahatma Gandhi to begin organising his first large-scale and sustained nonviolent protest (satyagraha) campaign, the Non Cooperation Movement (1920-22). The Bengali poet and Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore renounced the knighthood that he had received in 1915. <p>About Rowlatt Act 1919:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During World War I (1914-18) the British government of India enacted a series of repressive emergency powers that were intended to combat subversive activities. In this context, this act was passed on the recommendations of the Sedition Committee chaired by Sir Sidney Rowlatt. It gave the government enormous powers to repress political activities and allowed detention of political prisoners without trial for two years.
<p>Right to Information Act, 2005</p>	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congress MP Jairam Ramesh, in a letter to IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, warned that the proposed RTI Act amendment would undermine transparency and urged him to pause, review, and repeal it. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Right To Information is derived from the fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. If we do not have information on how our Government and Public Institutions function, we cannot express any informed opinion on it. The basic object of the Right to Information Act is to empower the citizens, promote transparency and accountability in the working of the Government. The Act and its rules define a format for –



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requisitioning information, ○ a time period within which information must be provided, ○ a method of giving the information, ○ charges for applying and ○ exemptions of information which will not be given. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The RTI Act, 2005 extends to the whole of India. ● All bodies, which are constituted under the Constitution or under any law or under any Government notification or all bodies, including NGOs, which are owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government are covered. ● All private bodies, which are owned, controlled or substantially financed by the Government are directly covered. ● Key Provisions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sec. 4: Public authorities must maintain records that are catalogued and indexed to facilitate access to information. Sec. 6: Individuals can request information from the Central or State Public Information Officer by submitting a written request specifying the details. Sec. 7: The Public Information Officer must provide or reject the requested information within 30 days, as per Secs. 8 and 9. Sec. 19: If no decision is made within 30 days or the individual is aggrieved by the decision, they can appeal to a senior officer. Exemptions: Information related to defense, national security, or personal details is exempt from disclosure.
Biomass mission	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The European Space Agency (ESA) is set to launch its ambitious Biomass mission later this month. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It is a European Space Agency (ESA) mission to provide more accurate measurements of forest biomass to enhance our understanding of the carbon cycle. ● It will provide detailed 3D maps of the world's most dense and remote tropical forests. ● The mission will lift off aboard the Vega C rocket from Europe's spaceport in French Guiana. ● It will be placed in a sun-synchronous orbit (SSO) — a type of orbit in which satellites are in sync with the Sun — at an altitude of around 666 km. ● It is the first space satellite to carry a long-wavelength radar, called P-band. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This special radar means that it can scan deep through the forest canopy and collect information on different parts of the forest, such as tree trunks, branches, and stems, where trees store most of their carbon. ● This will allow the satellite to provide experts on the ground with new information on forest height and above-ground forest



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	biomass from space.
Genome India Project	<p>Why in news?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first part of India's ambitious programme to map the genetic diversity of its people is now complete, and its data are ready to be used. The Genome India Project (GIP) has catalogued entire gene sequences of 10,000 individuals from 83 population groups. <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> About Genome India Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is a Centre-backed, Department of Biotechnology's (DBT) initiative to sequence 10,000 Indian human genomes in three years and create a database. The project has sequenced close to 7,000 genomes and 3,000 of these are already available for public access by researchers. For conducting the project, investigators in hospitals will lead the data collection through a simple blood test from participants and the information will be added to biobanks. Some of the priority areas are Precision health, Rare genetic disorders, Mutation spectrum of genetic and complex diseases in the Indian population, Genetic Epidemiology of Multifactorial Lifestyle Diseases, and Translational Research. Countries like the UK, China, and the US also have projects to sequence a significant number of genomes. Significance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To gain deeper insight into India's population diversity. Improve diagnostic methods and medical counselling. Find genetic predispositions to disease. Develop personalised and customisable drugs. Improve gene therapy. Throw more light on individual susceptibility to infectious disease. What is the Human genome? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The human genome is the entire set of deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) residing in the nucleus of every cell of each human body. The DNA consists of a double-stranded molecule built up by four bases – adenine (A), cytosine (C), guanine (G) and thymine (T). Every base on one strand pairs with a complementary base on the other strand (A with T and C with G). In all, the genome is made up of approximately 3.05 billion such base pairs. What is Genome sequencing? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While the sequence or order of base pairs is identical in all humans, there are differences in the genome of every human being that makes them unique.




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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The process of deciphering the order of base pairs, to decode the genetic fingerprint of a human is called genome sequencing. ○ There are several methods of genome sequencing, but the most common is called next-generation sequencing (NGS).
Person in news: BR Ambedkar 	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PM pays tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was a prominent Indian jurist, economist, social reformer, and politician. ● He was born on April 14, 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh. ● Contributions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In 1924, he started an Association for the welfare of the depressed classes and in 1927, he started the Bahishkrit Bharat newspaper to address the cause of the depressed classes. ○ He also led the Mahad Satyagraha in March 1927. ○ He participated in all three Round Table Conferences. ○ In 1932, Dr. Ambedkar signed the Poona pact with Mahatma Gandhi, which abandoned the idea of separate electorates for the depressed classes (Communal Award). ○ In 1936, he formed the Independent Labour Party to safeguard the interests of the depressed classes. ○ He was the Chairman of Drafting Committee and remembered as the Father of the Indian Constitution.
Exercise AIKEYME (Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement) and IOS Sagar (Indian Ocean Ship Sagar). Exercise AIKEYME.	Why in news? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● India is set to enhance its military and maritime cooperation with African nations through two key initiatives, Exercise AIKEYME (Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement) and IOS Sagar (Indian Ocean Ship Sagar). Exercise AIKEYME. Key Points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Aikeyme marks India's first-ever multilateral naval exercise with 10 African nations. ● It focuses on strengthening maritime collaboration, bolstering maritime security, and tackling regional challenges. ● It is scheduled to take place off the coast of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, from April 13 to 18, 2025. ● Participating nations– Tanzania (co-host), Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, and South Africa. ● Aim– To improve interoperability between the Indian Navy and African navies, emphasizing joint efforts against piracy and drug trafficking.



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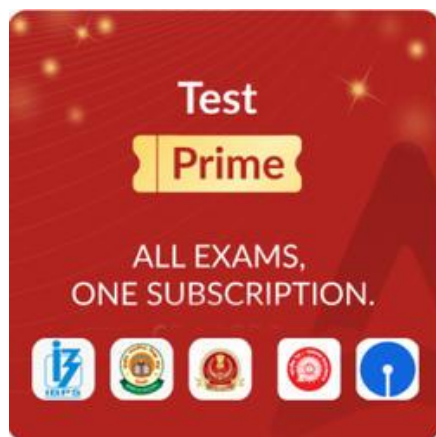
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About IOS Sagar:

- The IOS Sagar initiative is designed to **deepen India's maritime collaboration with Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries.**
- It involves the deployment of the **Indian Navy's INS Sunayna, crewed by Indian sailors alongside 44 personnel from nine African nations.**
- The initiative will take place from April 5 to May 8, 2025.
- **Key Participating Countries:** Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Seychelles, and South Africa.



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