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# Current Affairs Today — April 12, 2026

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# Current Affairs Today — April 12, 2026

 12 April 2026 · 8 min read · 9 tags

## ASHA BHOSLE PASSES AWAY AT 92

Legendary Indian playback singer Asha Bhosle died on April 12, 2026, in Mumbai at age 92. She is survived by a musical legacy spanning over seven decades, 11,000+ recorded songs in 20+ Indian languages, and multiple lifetime honours.

### Key Facts

- Born: **September 8, 1933** | Died: April 12, 2026
- Sister of Lata Mangeshkar (daughter of Master Dinanath Mangeshkar)
- Guinness World Record: Most recorded artist — over **11,000 solo, duet, and chorus-backed songs** (recognised 2011)
- **Dadasaheb Phalke Award: 2000** | **Padma Vibhushan: 2008**

Born September 8, 1933 | Sister: Lata Mangeshkar | Career: 70+ years | Songs: 11,000+ in 20+ languages | **Dadasaheb Phalke Award: 2000** | **Padma Vibhushan: 2008** | *GS1: Persons & Awards*

## CCEA APPROVES KALAI-II HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (1,200 MW)

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the ₹14,105.83 crore Kalai-II run-of-river hydroelectric project on the Lohit River in Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh — the first hydro project in the Lohit Basin.

### Key Facts

- Cost: **₹14,105.83 crore** | Capacity: **1,200 MW** (6×190 MW + 1×60 MW)
- Annual generation: **4,852.95 million units**
- Implementing agency: THDC India Limited (NTPC subsidiary, 74.5% stake) + Government of Arunachal Pradesh
- Location: Lohit River, Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh
- Jobs: ~1,700 direct; 50% reserved for project-affected families

₹14,105.83 crore | 1,200 MW | Lohit River, **Anjaw District, Arunachal Pradesh** | Annual generation: 4,852.95 MU | JV: **THDC India Ltd** (NTPC subsidiary) + Arunachal Pradesh govt | First hydro project in Lohit Basin | GS3: Economy, Geography

## PUNATSANGCHHU-I HYDROPOWER PROJECT RESUMES (BHUTAN)

Construction on Bhutan's 1,200 MW Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project resumed on April 10, 2026, after a seven-year halt triggered by a 2019 slope failure. India's Power Minister Manohar Lal attended the concrete-pouring ceremony.

### Key Facts

- Capacity: **1,200 MW** (six 200 MW turbines)
- Halted: **2019** (slope failure/geological challenges) | Resumed: April 10, 2026
- Dam: 130 m height, 239 m length | Location: Punatsangchhu River, ~80 km east of Thimphu
- India's funding: **40% grant + 60% loan** at 10% annual interest
- All surplus power exported to India
- Physical completion: ~88%; Financial completion: ~93%

1,200 MW | Six 200 MW underground turbines | Dam: **130 m height, 239 m length** | Halted: 2019 slope failure | Resumed: April 10, 2026 | India funds: **40% grant + 60% loan @ 10% p.a.** | Power exported to India | GS2: India-Bhutan Relations

## WEST BENGAL ELECTORAL ROLLS — SIR CONTROVERSY

The Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise removed approximately **91 lakh** voters from West Bengal's electoral rolls. The Supreme Court intervened, deploying judicial officers to oversee adjudication of disputed deletions ahead of Assembly elections.

### Key Facts

- WB electorate: 7.66 crore (pre-SIR) → **6.77 crore** (post-SIR) — ~91 lakh removed
- SC: Deployed judicial officers from West Bengal, Odisha, and Jharkhand; set up 19 appellate tribunals
- Controversy: Disproportionate deletions alleged in Muslim-majority districts (Murshidabad, Malda, Uttar Dinajpur)

- **West Bengal elections:** Voting — April 23 & 29 | Counting — May 4, 2026

*Electorate reduced by ~91 lakh (7.66 cr → 6.77 cr) | SC: deployed judicial officers; 19 appellate tribunals | Election dates: **April 23 & 29** | Counting: **May 4, 2026** | National SIR: removed 6.08 crore across 9 states + 3 UTs | GS2: Polity & Governance*

## CAPF (GENERAL ADMINISTRATION) ACT, 2026 — GAZETTED

*The Central Armed Police Forces (General Administration) Act, 2026 was gazetted after receiving Presidential assent in April 2026 — India's first unified administrative statute for all five Central Armed Police Forces.*

### Key Facts

- Forces covered: **BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB**
- Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs
- **Important:** The Act is an **umbrella administrative law** — it adds a unified layer for service administration (recruitment, promotion, deputation). Individual force Acts (BSF Act 1968, CRPF Act 1949, etc.) **remain in force**
- Harmonises service conditions and disciplinary procedures across all CAPFs

*Covers BSF + CRPF + CISF + ITBP + SSB | Under MHA | Gazetted: April 2026 | **Does NOT replace individual force Acts** — umbrella admin law only | BSF Act 1968, CRPF Act 1949, CISF Act 1969, ITBP Act 1992, SSB Act 2007 remain in force | GS2: Polity, Security & Defence*

## WINDFALL TAX HIKED ON DIESEL AND ATF

*The government raised the windfall tax on diesel exports to **₹55.5/litre** (from ₹21.5/litre) and on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) to **₹42/litre** (from ₹29.5/litre), following crude price spikes driven by the West Asia conflict.*

### Key Facts

- Windfall tax on diesel: ₹21.5/litre → **₹55.5/litre**
- Windfall tax on ATF: ₹29.5/litre → **₹42/litre**

- First introduced: **July 1, 2022** (Russia-Ukraine war oil spike) | Scrapped: December 2024 | Reinstated: March 2026
- Defined: A levy on unexpectedly high profits earned by industries (oil, gas, mining) due to external shocks
- Revised fortnightly via gazette notification

*Diesel: ₹55.5/litre | ATF: ₹42/litre | First introduced: July 1, 2022 | Scrapped: December 2024 | Reinstated: March 2026 | Definition: Levy on windfall profits of oil/gas companies during price shocks | GS3: Economy*

## RBI MPC HOLDS REPO RATE AT 5.25%

*The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee kept the repo rate unchanged at **5.25%** with a neutral stance — the first MPC meeting of FY 2026–27.*

### Key Facts

- **Repo rate: 5.25%** (unchanged) | Stance: Neutral
- RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra
- GDP growth projection (FY27): 6.9% (RBI internal estimate)
- Rationale: West Asia conflict raising energy costs; external uncertainty elevated
- World Bank FY27 forecast for India: **6.6%** (revised down from 7.2%)

*Repo rate: **5.25%** | Stance: Neutral | RBI Governor: Sanjay Malhotra | GDP growth (FY27): RBI → 6.9%; World Bank → **6.6%** (revised down from 7.2%) | India's FY26 actual: ~7.4% | GS3: Economy*

## JAISHANKAR VISITS UAE — COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

*External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visited UAE on April 11–12, 2026, to review the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership amid the West Asia energy crisis.*

### Key Facts

- Bilateral trade: ~**\$83 billion** (2023–24) | UAE: India's **3rd-largest trade partner**
- India's diaspora in UAE: ~**3.5 million**

- Partnership elevated: 2017 | Upgraded to Comprehensive Strategic: 2022
- ADIA (Abu Dhabi Investment Authority) is a major investor in Indian infrastructure and RE

*Trade ~\$83 billion (India's 3rd-largest partner) | Diaspora: ~3.5 million | Partnership: Comprehensive Strategic (upgraded 2022) | ADIA: key investor in Indian infra/RE | GS2: International Relations*

## INDUS RIVER DOLPHIN — CONSERVATION IN INDIA

*Conservation reserves and citizen science programmes in Punjab are working to protect the Indus River dolphin's only Indian population in the Beas River.*

### Key Facts

- Scientific name: **Platanista gangetica minor** (Indus River dolphin)
- **IUCN status: Endangered**
- Protected: **Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act, 1972**
- India population: 18–35 individuals in Beas River (above Harike Barrage, Punjab) — India's only population
- Global population: ~2,000, primarily in Indus River, Pakistan
- Unique traits: Functionally blind (no eye lenses); navigates by echolocation; swims on its side

*Platanista gangetica minor | IUCN: **Endangered** | WPA 1972: **Schedule I** | India: 18–35 individuals, **Beas River, Punjab** | Global: ~2,000 (primarily Indus, Pakistan) | Functionally blind; echolocation; side-swimming | Beas Conservation Reserve: key protected stretch | GS3: Environment*

## LANJIA SAORA — PVTG OF ODISHA

*The Lanjia Saora, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) of Odisha, face pressures of cultural change as younger members engage with formal education.*

### Key Facts

- Classification: **PVTG** | Primary state: Odisha
- Language: Sora (Munda family) | Script: **Sorang Sompeng** (indigenous tribal script)
- Ethnicity: Proto-Australoid

- India has **75 PVTGs** across 18 states and 1 UT
- Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission

*PVTG | Odisha | Language: Sora (Munda) | Script: **Sorang Sompeng** | India's PVTGs: **75** across 18 states + 1 UT | Ministry: Tribal Affairs | Scheme: PM PVTG Development Mission | GS1: History, Art & Culture*

## TIGER GLOBAL TAX — GAAR UPHeld BY SUPREME COURT

*India's Supreme Court upheld the Income Tax Department's power to deny tax treaty benefits to Tiger Global Management under **GAAR** (General Anti-Avoidance Rules), reinforcing the substance-over-form doctrine.*

### Key Facts

- Entity: Tiger Global Management (US-based investment firm)
- Doctrine: Substance-over-form; GAAR applicable
- **GAAR in India:** Effective **April 1, 2017** (Income Tax Act)
- Implication: Offshore fund structures routed through Mauritius/Singapore face scrutiny if lacking commercial substance

*Effective April 1, 2017 | Doctrine: substance-over-form | Tiger Global ruling: treaty benefits denied if structure lacks commercial substance | Applies to: Mauritius/Singapore routed structures | GS3: Economy*

## UPSC RELEVANCE — TODAY'S EDITION

PAPER	KEY TOPICS
GS1	Asha Bhosle obituary; Lanjia Saora PVTG; Sorang Sompeng script
GS2	WB SIR electoral rolls; CAPF Act 2026; India-Bhutan hydro; Jaishankar UAE visit
GS3	Kalai-II hydro; windfall tax; RBI repo rate; GAAR; Indus River dolphin; sulphur supply
GS4	Ethics of voter roll deletions; environmental ethics in tribal displacement

*Dadasaheb Phalke: 2000 | Padma Vibhushan: 2008 | 11,000+ songs*

*₹14,105.83 cr | 1,200 MW | Lohit River, Anjaw District, Arunachal | THDC (NTPC sub) + Arunachal Pradesh govt*

*1,200 MW | Dam: 130m×239m | Halted 2019 → resumed April 10, 2026 | India: 40% grant + 60% loan @ 10%*

*91 lakh removed (7.66 cr → 6.77 cr) | SC: 19 tribunals | Elections: April 23 & 29 | Counting: May 4*

*BSF+CRPF+CISF+ITBP+SSB | Umbrella admin law — individual Acts remain | MHA*

*Diesel ₹55.5/litre | ATF ₹42/litre | First introduced July 1, 2022 | Scrapped Dec 2024 | Reinstated March 2026*

*Repo rate 5.25% | Neutral | FY27 GDP: RBI 6.9% / World Bank 6.6%*

*Platanista gangetica minor | IUCN: Endangered | WPA Sch I | Beas River: 18–35 individuals*

**OLDER ARTICLE →**

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