1. **Namdapha Tiger Reserve:** The National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) standing committee deferred approval for the Arunachal Frontier Highway through the core zone of Namdapha Tiger Reserve.
   - **About Namdapha Tiger Reserve:** It is located in the Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh, surrounded by Myanmar in the South East.
   - **Boundary:** It has a common boundary with Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary.
   - **Terrain:** It is nestled between the Dapha Bum ridge of Mishmi Hills, of North Eastern Himalayas and the Patkai Ranges.



   - **Vegetation:** It consists of Northern Tropical Evergreen Forest, North Indian Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests, East Himalayan Moist Temperate Forests, and Moist Alpine Scrub Forests.
   - **River:** Namdapha River flows right across in a North-South direction of this reserve and hence the name Namdapha has been given.
   - **Biogeographic Location:** It is located at the junction of the Indian Sub-continent and Indo-China Biogeographic Regions.
   - **Fauna:** It is home to Elephants, Himalayan Black Bear, Himalayan Sun Bear, Hoolock Gibbon (only Ape in India), Slow Loris, etc.
   - **Flora:** It consists of species like Pinus Merkusi and Abies Delavavi being exclusive to the park.
   - **Rare Flora:** It is home to Blue Vanda, which is a rare and endangered orchid.
   - **Medicinal Plants:** Like Mishimi Teeta (Copti teeta), which is used by the local tribes to treat different types of diseases.
2. **UNESCO:** As per the government report, Manuscripts of the Bhagavad Gita and Bharat Muni's Natyashastra are among 74 new documentary heritage collections added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register.
   - **About:** United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN).
   - **Mandate:** It seeks to build peace through international cooperation in Education, the Sciences and Culture.

- **SDGs Role:** It is a member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG), a coalition of UN agencies and organizations aimed at fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Headquarters:** Located in Paris, with more than 50 field offices around the world.
- **Membership:** It has 193 Members and 11 Associate Members (As of April 2020).
- **Governance:** It is governed by the General Conference and the Executive Board.
- **Unique Members:** Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine are UNESCO members but not UN members.
- **Non-Members:** Israel, Liechtenstein, and the United States are UN members but not UNESCO members.
- **About Memory of the World Programme:** It was established in 1992, to promote the preservation of and universal access to the documentary heritage of humanity.
  - **Regional Support:** UNESCO has supported the creation of four regional registers and National "Memory of the World" Committees in more than 100 countries.

3. **Paste Fill Technology:** South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is set to become the first coal PSU in India to adopt paste fill technology for coal mining.
   - **About:** Paste filling is a modern underground mining method that eliminates the need to acquire surface land.
   - **Process:** After coal extraction, the mined-out voids are filled with a specially prepared paste made from fly ash, crushed overburden from opencast mines, cement, water, and binding chemicals.
   - **Benefit:** This process prevents land subsidence and ensures the structural stability of the mine.
   - **Sustainability:** The paste utilizes industrial waste materials, making the process environmentally sustainable and promoting waste recycling.
4. **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:** It is set to resume in 2024, after being suspended since 2020. Details of the 2025 yatra to be announced, likely before the next Special Representatives meet in Delhi.
   - **About Lake Mansarovar:** known locally as Mapam Yumtso, is a high altitude freshwater lake near Mount Kailash in the Ngari Prefecture of the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR).
     - Elevation of the lake is 4,600 metres, and Mount Kailash is 6,638 metres high.

- Lake and mountain are sacred in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and the Tibetan Bon religion.
- Hundreds of pilgrims trek to the region annually, circumambulating Mount Kailash after visiting the lake.
- Eligibility criteria included Indian passport holders, aged 18–70, and medically fit.

- **The Two Routes from India:**
  - **Lipulekh Pass Route:** Lipulekh Pass lies at 5,115 metres on the Uttarakhand-TAR border, near Nepal trijunction. Ancient trade and pilgrimage route between India and the Tibetan Plateau.
  - **Nathu La Pass Route:** Nathu La lies at 4,310 metres on the Sikkim-TAR border.
    - ✓ Fully motorable route covering ~1,500 km to reach the lake.
    - ✓ Logistics on Indian side handled by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (Lipulekh) and Sikkim Tourism Development Corporation (Nathu La).
  - **Nepal Route:** Third route via Nepal, reopened by China in 2023, accessible to Indians.
    - ✓ Visa and permit challenges, along with high China-imposed fees, limited its use.
    - ✓ India developing a viewing spot near Lipulekh in Dharchula, offering direct view of Mount Kailash.

5. **World's First Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project:** Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy & Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, visited the world's first and largest GW-scale Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project at Pinnapuram near Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh.
   - **About World's First Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project:** Set up by Greenko, a world's leading energy transition and decarbonization solutions company.
   - **Storage Capacity:** Has a storage capacity of 10,080 MWh per day in a single cycle.
   - **Energy Output:** Enables dispatchable, carbon-free energy generation.
   - **Sectoral Support:** Supports production in green steel, green aluminum, and green hydrogen industries.
   - **Environmental Impact:** The project will help avoid **3.3 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually**.
   - **Technology Platform**: Greenko's Intelligent RE Cloud Storage Platform, along with India's One Nation, One Grid policy, facilitates production of the world's lowest-cost green molecules.

- **About:** Renewable energy is energy derived from natural resources that are replenished naturally and continuously, making them virtually inexhaustible.
  - **Examples:** Include solar, wind, hydro, geothermal, and biomass energy.
  - These sources are considered "green" or "clean" energy as they produce minimal pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

6. **Article 142:** Recently, the Vice-President criticized Article 142 as a "nuclear missile against democratic forces", especially after its use in the Tamil Nadu Governor's case.
   - **About Article 142:**
     - **Constitutional Provision:** Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order or decree necessary for complete justice in any pending case.
     - **Nature of Power:** It is a discretionary and unique power given only to the Supreme Court.
     - **Concept of Complete Justice:** It allows justice beyond technicalities by filling legislative gaps, and interpreting or overriding laws to protect constitutional values, fundamental rights, and social welfare.
     - **Framers' Intention:** Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other framers intentionally entrusted this extraordinary power solely to the apex court.
     - **Judicial Evolution:** Jurisprudence under Article 142 has evolved over 50+ years, with the Court maintaining self-imposed limits.
     - **Role in Democracy:** Article 142 elevates the Supreme Court as the guardian of the Constitution, enabling intervention in cases of public interest, human rights, or democratic breakdown.
     - **Democratic Strengthening:** It strengthens democracy by protecting minority rights, ensuring equality before law, and checking executive and legislative overreach.
     - **Judicial Innovation:** The Article allows the Court to create guidelines and direct government authorities in matters involving public interest and constitutional values.
     - **Concerns Raised:** Lack of a clear definition of "complete justice" can cause subjectivity, inconsistent rulings, and unaccountable discretion.
     - **Basic Structure Doctrine:** These concerns raise issues under the **basic structure**, particularly regarding **separation of powers**.

7. **Operation ATALANTA:** Recently, the European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) under Operation ATALANTA has proposed a joint naval exercise with the Indian Navy.
   - **About the Proposed Joint Naval Exercise:** Exercise is expected to be conducted **around the end of May 2025**.
     - **Region of Operation:** Will take place in the **Western Indian Ocean and Red Sea**.
     - **Objective:** To enhance coordination and maritime cooperation between European naval forces and the Indian Navy.
     - **Focus Areas:** Addresses resurgent piracy threats and geopolitical instability in the Red Sea region.
     - **Advanced Drills:** Will go beyond traditional Passage Exercises (PASSEX) and include: Tactical manoeuvres → Counter-piracy operations → Inter-naval communication training
   - **About Operation ATALANTA (EUNAVFOR):** Launched in 2008, as the EU's counter-piracy mission in the Western Indian Ocean and Red Sea. Targeted piracy off the **Somali coast**.
     - **Expanded Mandate Includes:** Protection of World Food Programme (WFP) vessels → Surveillance of arms embargo on Somalia → Monitoring drug and arms trafficking → Combating IUU (Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated) fishing → Disruption of illegal charcoal trade
8. **Colossal Squid:** Marine scientists recently captured the world's first footage of a colossal squid swimming freely in its natural habitat, nearly a century after its discovery.



   - **About Colossal Squid (**Mesonychoteuthis hamiltoni): Found in the icy depths of the Southern Ocean near Antarctica.
   - **Conservation Status:** Classified as Least Concern under the **IUCN Red List**
   - **Features:** Can grow up to 7 metres (23 feet) in length and weigh up to 500 kilograms
   - **Body Type:** A **soft-bodied** marine animal similar to an octopus but **much bulkier**
   - **Physical Characteristics:** Tube-shaped body → Huge eyes (largest of any animal known) → Arms and tentacles with suckers to grab food → Sharp, swivelling hooks on its tentacles – unique among squid species
   - **Notable Fact:** Considered the largest invertebrate on Earth, despite having no bones