

PRABHA IAS IPS COACHING ACADEMY



DAILY DOSE

CURRENT AFFAIRS – 06/04/2026

1. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL):

Recent - India condemned the killing of three Indonesian peacekeepers deployed under the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) created UNIFIL in 1978 to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and to restore peace.

Core Mandate: Under UNSC Resolution 1701, UNIFIL monitors ceasefire, patrols the Blue Line, and ensures humanitarian access for civilians.

India's Role: India is the fourth-largest contributor of troops to UNIFIL.

Timeline: UNSC has extended its mandate for the final time, aiming for withdrawal by the end of 2026.

2. FAO Food Price Index:

Recent - The FAO Food Price Index (FFPI) increased by 2.4% in March, driven by rising energy costs amid escalating Middle East conflict.

FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation, headquartered in Rome, is a UN agency founded in 1945 to combat hunger and promote sustainable agriculture.

FFPI measures monthly international export price changes of key food commodities, reflecting food security and inflation trends.

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Methodology: It uses a trade-weighted Laspeyres formula, combining export prices of 24 basic food commodities with the base period set as 2014–2016.

Composition: The index has five sub-indices — Cereals, Vegetable Oils, Dairy, Meat, and Sugar, weighted by their importance in global export trade.

3. Project Chetak:

Recent - Border Roads Organisation (BRO) marked the 47th Raising Day of Project Chetak in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

Project Chetak manages, develops, and maintains over 4,000 km of roads and 214 km of Ditch-cum-Bund for defence infrastructure.

It is one of the largest BRO projects, stretching across Rajasthan, Punjab, and northern Gujarat along India's western border.

4. Calcium Carbide:

Recent - Hyderabad police and municipal authorities have begun inspections on the use of calcium carbide for artificial mango ripening.

Calcium carbide is a greyish-black industrial chemical used in welding but exploited as a cheap, quick artificial fruit-ripening agent.

Ripening Mechanism: It reacts with moisture to release acetylene gas, which imitates ethylene, the natural fruit-ripening hormone.

Health Hazards: Commercial-grade calcium carbide contains arsenic and phosphorus, causing vomiting, ulcers, neurological disorders, and increased cancer risk.

Regulation: India prohibits its use for fruit ripening under the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales) Regulations, 2011.

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Alternatives: FSSAI allows ethylene gas up to 100 ppm; Ethephon 39% Soluble Liquid (SL) is also approved, providing more uniform and natural ripening than carbide.

5. Indian Information Service (IIS):

Recent - Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) rejected proposal of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (MoI&B) to deploy Indian Information Service (IIS) officers in diplomatic missions.

IIS is a Central Group 'A' Civil Service under the administrative control of the MoI&B.

Core Mandate: Officers oversee government communication, disseminate policies, schemes, and national developments through public information systems across India.

Key Role: They handle administrative, editorial, and content coordination to ensure accurate government messaging, countering organised disinformation campaigns.