



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

# MAP OF THE DAY 20-04-26

Published On: 20-04-2026

**Kamaraj IAS Academy**

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## MAP OF THE DAY BHARAT

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HONORARY DIRECTOR



Monday, 20 April 2026



## Subansiri River –

### ➤ Origin and Course

- **Origin:** The Subansiri River originates in the **Himalayan region of Tibet**.
- **Entry into India:** It enters **India through the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh**.
- **Flow:** It flows through the rugged terrain of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam** before joining the Brahmaputra River in **Lakhimpur district of Assam**.
- **Nature:** It is an **antecedent river**, meaning it existed before the uplift of the Himalayas and carved its path through rising mountains.

### ➤ Important Features

- **Tributary:** It is the **largest right-bank tributary** of the Brahmaputra River.

called the **“Swarn Nadi” (Gold River)** due to gold particles found in its sand.

### ○ Ecology:

- Known for fast-flowing currents
- Famous for **white-water rafting**
- Rich in biodiversity

### ➤ Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project

- **Location:** Situated on the border of **Arunachal Pradesh and Assam**.
- **Capacity: 2000 MW**, making it one of the largest under-construction hydropower projects in India.
- **Executing Agency:** NHPC Limited

### ➤ Issues/Concerns:

- Environmental concerns
- Fear of flooding in downstream Assam

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# KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY

## MAP OF THE DAY WORLD

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### Monday, 20 April 2026



## Bab el-Mandeb Strait

- > The **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** is a critical maritime chokepoint of immense geopolitical and economic significance. Often referred to as the "Gate of Tears" (due to its treacherous navigation or a local legend), it serves as the vital link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean via the Red Sea.
- > **Geographical Location**
  - > The strait is located between **Northeast Africa** and the **Arabian Peninsula**. It connects the **Red Sea** (to the north) with the **Gulf of Aden** and the **Arabian Sea** (to the south).
- > **Bordering Countries**
  - > **East Bank:** Yemen (Middle East/Asia)
  - > **West Bank:** Djibouti and Eritrea (East Africa)
- > **Key Features**
  - > **Perim Island:** A volcanic island owned by Yemen that divides the strait into two channels.
  - > **Bab Iskender (Eastern Channel):** Narrower (approx. 3 km) and shallower.
  - > **Dact-el-Mayun (Western Channel):** Wider (approx. 25 km) and deeper, serving as the primary lane for international shipping.
- > **The Seven Brothers (Sawabi Islands):** An archipelago located near the coast of Djibouti.
- > **Strategic and Economic Importance**
  - > The Bab el-Mandeb is one of the world's most congested and important shipping lanes.
  - > **The Suez Link:** It is the southern entrance to the **Suez Canal** route. Any blockage here renders the Suez Canal inaccessible for south-bound or north-bound traffic between Europe and Asia.
  - > **Energy Security:** A massive volume of Persian Gulf oil and natural gas passes through the strait daily, destined for Europe and North America.
  - > **Global Trade:** Approximately **10% of global seaborne trade** passes through this narrow passage.
  - > **Geopolitics and Security Concerns**
    - > Due to its narrowness (roughly 29 km at its narrowest point), the strait is highly vulnerable to regional instability.
    - > **The Yemen Conflict:** The presence of Houthi rebels in Yemen has led to repeated drone and missile attacks on commercial vessels, disrupting global supply chains.
- > **Piracy:** Historically, the strait has been a focal point for Somali piracy, necessitating international naval patrols (including the Indian Navy).
- > **Foreign Military Presence:** Djibouti, bordering the strait, hosts military bases for several global powers, including the **USA, France, China, and Japan**, primarily to ensure "freedom of navigation."
- > **Relevance to India**
  - > **Energy Imports:** India relies heavily on this route for oil imports coming from Russia and parts of Europe/Africa.
  - > **Exports:** A significant portion of India's trade with the European Union and the East Coast of the US traverses this strait.
  - > **Maritime Security:** Under its **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) initiative, India maintains a "Mission Based Deployment" in the Gulf of Aden to protect Indian-flagged vessels and provide regional security.

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