

26/04/2026 Daily Current News

1. Census 2027:

Context: Census 2027 will mark India's first digital enumeration, leveraging mobile-based data collection to enable faster and more efficient nationwide data availability.

Details about census 2027:

- ❖ Census is the process of collecting, compiling, analyzing and disseminating demographic, social, cultural and economic data relating to all persons in the country or a designated area.
- ❖ The earliest references to conducting census in the country can be found in Kautilya's Arthashastra (321-296 BC) and later in the writings of Abul Fazl in 'Ain-e-Akbari' during the days of Emperor Akbar.
- ❖ The first modern population census in India was conducted between 1865 and 1872, though it didn't happen simultaneously across all regions. India conducted its first synchronous census in 1881.
- ❖ Census 2027 will be the 16th in the series of Indian census and 8th since independence.
- ❖ Post-independence, the Census is governed by the Census Act, 1948, and the Census Rules, 1990, ensuring a strong legal and institutional framework.
- ❖ The Census is a Union subject under the Seventh Schedule (listed at serial number 69) of the Constitution.
- ❖ The intent of the Government to conduct the Population Census 2027 was notified in Gazette of India on 16th June, 2025.
- ❖ The Union Cabinet has approved a financial outlay of ₹11,718.24 crore for its implementation.

Salient features:

Expansion of Administrative Units		
Census 2011–2027 Comparison		
Administrative Unit	Census 2011	Census 2027
State/UT	35	36
District	640	784
Sub-district	5,990	7,092
Statutory Town	4,041	5,128
Census Town	3,892	4,580
Village	6,40,932	6,39,902

- ❖ Census 2027 will introduce major administrative and technological reforms to improve accuracy, efficiency, transparency, and speed of data collection.

- ❖ The Census aims to generate comprehensive and timely demographic data for evidence-based policymaking.
- ❖ Census 2027 will include caste enumeration beyond only Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs).
- ❖ The decision for caste enumeration was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs on 30 April 2025.
- ❖ Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital Census exercise.
- ❖ The Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) portal has been developed for near real-time monitoring of Census operations.
- ❖ CMMS enables officials at sub-district, district, state, and national levels to track field progress and operational readiness.
- ❖ The Houselisting and Housing Census (HLO) Mobile App allows secure offline data collection and direct server upload by enumerators.
- ❖ The HLO Mobile App supports both Android and iOS platforms in 16 regional languages.
- ❖ The Houselisting Block Creator (HLBC) web mapping application uses satellite imagery for digital creation of houselisting blocks.
- ❖ HLBC helps ensure complete geographic coverage without omission or duplication.
- ❖ Census 2027 will provide an optional 15-day Self-Enumeration facility before field visits.
- ❖ The Self-Enumeration Portal allows eligible households to submit details online securely.
- ❖ After successful self-enumeration, households will receive a unique Self-Enumeration ID (SE ID).
- ❖ Enumerators will verify submitted details using the SE ID during field visits.

2. *Mythos:*

Context: The Finance Minister formed a panel under SBI Chairman to assess risks from Anthropic's AI model Mythos.

About Mythos:

- ❖ Autonomous Security Model is an advanced unreleased frontier AI model developed by Anthropic with high-end cybersecurity capabilities.
- ❖ Anthropic has released the Mythos Preview under Project Glasswing to selected trusted organisations for controlled evaluation.
- ❖ The model is capable of identifying and exploiting zero-day vulnerabilities.
- ❖ It can target vulnerabilities across major operating systems and web browsers.
- ❖ A zero-day vulnerability refers to a software or hardware flaw unknown to the developer.
- ❖ Developers get “zero days” to respond once such vulnerabilities are discovered or exploited.
- ❖ The model raises concerns over the automation of sophisticated cyberattacks.
- ❖ Potential risks include threats to national security, banking systems, power infrastructure, and critical sectors.

3. *Avocado Imports in India:*

Context: Driven by a shift toward heart-healthy diets, India's avocado imports surged over three-fold to \$42.27 million in FY26 (through February). This massive demand for nutrient-dense fats is primarily met by exporters in Tanzania, Kenya, and Australia, cementing the fruit's status as a booming staple in the Indian health-food market.

About Avocado:

- ❖ Avocado is a nutrient-rich fruit grown on the *Persea americana* tree, believed to have originated in Mexico and Central America.
- ❖ Avocado was introduced into India between 1906 and 1914 by an American missionary.
- ❖ Avocado is rich in fibre and healthy monounsaturated fats, supporting heart health and diabetes-friendly diets.
- ❖ Avocado is one of the highest-fat plant-based foods and is widely used in low-carbohydrate diets.

4. *Cerium-Magnesium Changesite:*

Context: New mineral Cerium-Magnesium Changesite has been discovered in lunar meteorite named Pakepake 005 found in Taklamakan Desert, China. The finding raises total known lunar minerals to 11.

More details:

- ❖ Cerium-Magnesium Changesite is a rare earth-bearing phosphate mineral found with unique physical and chemical properties.
- ❖ It is colourless, transparent, and has a glass-like lustre.
- ❖ The mineral is fragile and exhibits shell-like fracture patterns.
- ❖ It shows fluorescence and glows under ultraviolet (UV) light.
- ❖ It helps scientists study volcanic activity and rare earth element distribution on the Moon.
- ❖ Its fluorescent properties may aid the development of more efficient LED technologies.

5. *Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):*

Context: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will visit Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on April 27–28 to participate in the Defence Ministers' meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).

About Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

- ❖ It is an intergovernmental political, economic, and security alliance founded in 2001.
- ❖ It was initially launched by Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.
- ❖ The first summit was held in Shanghai, China, in 2001.
- ❖ It is headquartered at Beijing.
- ❖ In 2015, at Ufa, Russia, the SCO decided to admit India and Pakistan as full members and in 2017 they officially became part.

- ❖ Later Iran became part of SCO in 2021.
- ❖ The SCO aims to promote cooperation and mutual support in areas such as trade, investment, energy, transportation, and security.
- ❖ The Shanghai Spirit is the core value of the SCO.
- ❖ It is about mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality, consultation, respect to pursuit of common development among the SCO members.
- ❖ As of April 2026, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) consists of 10 permanent member states: Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

6. *Vikram-I:*

Context: Skyroot Aerospace's orbital rocket Vikram-I, capable of launching satellites, was flagged off from the spacetechn startup's facility in Hyderabad.

About Vikram-I:

- ❖ Vikram-I Rocket is India's private orbital-class launch vehicle developed by Skyroot Aerospace.
- ❖ The rocket is named after Vikram Sarabhai.
- ❖ It generates about 1,200 kN of thrust using a lightweight all-carbon composite structure.
- ❖ Its design focuses on simplicity, reliability, and launch capability within 24 hours from any location.
- ❖ Vikram-I is a four-stage rocket with the first three stages powered by solid fuel.
- ❖ The fourth stage uses a cluster of four Raman hypergolic engines for precise orbital insertion.
- ❖ The Raman engines use MMH fuel and NTO oxidiser, which ignite instantly on contact.
- ❖ The rocket is designed mainly for launching small satellites and multiple payloads in a single mission.
- ❖ It can place up to 350 kg payload into Low Earth Orbit (LEO).
- ❖ It can deploy around 260 kg payload into Sun-Synchronous Orbit (SSO).
- ❖ Key innovations include 3D-printed engines, ultra-low-shock pneumatic separation systems, and advanced real-time guidance avionics.

7. *Aditya:*

Context: Aditya, a specialised complex dedicated to the manufacturing of high-speed rail, was inaugurated by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, on BEML's Thippasandra campus in Bengaluru.

About Aditya:

- ❖ Aditya Complex has been inaugurated for developing coaches for the B-28 high-speed trainset.
- ❖ B-28 is India's first indigenously developed high-speed electric bullet train.

- ❖ The B-28 trainset is designed to operate at speeds of up to 280 kmph.
- ❖ The Minister stated that high-speed rail technology is highly complex and technologically advanced.
- ❖ Indigenous development of high-speed rail technology marks a major achievement in India's engineering capabilities.
- ❖ High-speed rail is expected to transform regional connectivity by making major cities function like extended urban clusters.
- ❖ Travel time between Chennai and Bengaluru is expected to reduce to around 73 minutes with the new system.

8. *Falklands Islands:*

Context: A spokesperson for Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands rests with Britain, after a Pentagon memo mulled reviewing the U.S. position on the region as punishment for Britain's stance on the Iran war. Britain and Argentina fought a war in 1982 after Argentina made a failed bid to take the islands.

About Falklands Islands:



- ❖ Falkland Islands, also called the Malvinas Islands, is a self-governing overseas territory of the United Kingdom.
- ❖ The islands are located in the South Atlantic Ocean, about 480 km northeast of the southern tip of South America.
- ❖ They lie east of the Strait of Magellan.
- ❖ The territory consists of two main islands — East Falkland and West Falkland — along with about 776 smaller islands.
- ❖ East Falkland and West Falkland are separated by the Falkland Strait.
- ❖ The islands are situated in both the Southern and Western Hemispheres.

- ❖ The Falkland Islands cover an area of about 12,173 sq. km.
- ❖ Stanley on East Falkland is the capital and largest settlement.
- ❖ The islands experience a cool temperate oceanic climate with limited temperature extremes.
- ❖ The population is predominantly English-speaking and mainly of Falklander descent.
- ❖ The economy was traditionally based on sheep farming but now relies mainly on fishing and tourism.
- ❖ The official currency is the Falkland pound, which is equal in value to the British pound.
- ❖ Executive authority is vested in the British Crown through a governor appointed by the UK.
- ❖ The islands are self-governing, while defence and foreign affairs are managed by the British government.
- ❖ The Falkland Islands government also administers South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

9. Farmer producer organisations (FPOs):

Context: FPOs struggling, policy paper recommends government aid.

More details:

- ❖ Noting that despite the government's concerted efforts, many farmer producer organisations (FPOs) are struggling to achieve economic viability, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) has recommended that institutional buyers, including the Railways, the Military, and the Food Corporation of India (FCI), must prioritise FPOs in the procurement of both food and non-food commodities.
- ❖ The policy paper adds that such a step will ensure the consistent delivery of high-quality goods and significantly reduce transaction costs associated with market searches. NAAS is headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Mangi Lal Jat.

What are Farmer producer organisations (FPOs)?

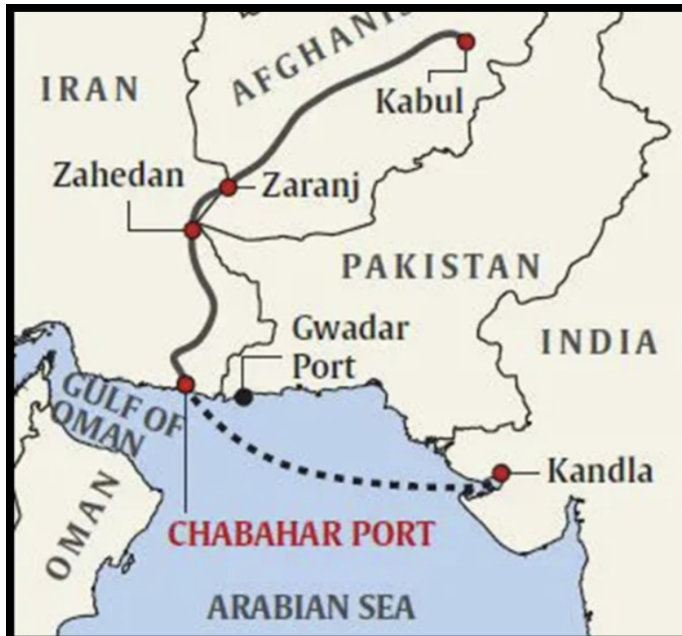
- ❖ Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) is a producer organisation with farmers as its members, supported by the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC).
- ❖ FPOs emerged in 2008 following recommendations made by economist Y. K. Alagh in 2002 to amend the Companies Act, 1956.
- ❖ FPOs can be registered under the Companies Act, 2013, the Societies Registration Act, 1860, or the Indian Trusts Act, 1882.
- ❖ A Producer Organisation is a collective of agricultural, non-farm, or artisan producers functioning as producer companies or cooperatives.
- ❖ FPOs operate on the principle of shared ownership and profit distribution among members.
- ❖ Indian agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farmers, with about 87% owning less than 2 hectares of land.
- ❖ Small farmers face challenges such as weather uncertainties, market risks, and low bargaining power.

- ❖ FPOs enable bulk purchase of inputs, reducing production costs for farmers.
- ❖ FPOs improve farmers' bargaining power and ensure better price realisation for produce.

10. Chabahar port:

Context: With Washington ruling out an extension of the sanctions waiver on Iranian oil, India faces a choice between continuing its role at Chabahar port and risking penalties or scaling back; officials say a transfer of the IPGL subsidiary's stake to an Iranian firm is being explored to navigate sanctions.

About Chabahar port:



- ❖ It is a seaport in the Sistan-Baluchistan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman, at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz.
- ❖ It can potentially help Tehran ward off the effect of Western sanctions.
- ❖ Offers India an alternative route that bypasses Pakistan, which does not allow India land access for trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia.
- ❖ It is also part of the proposed International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)
- ❖ There are two distinct ports in the Chabahar project, Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari.
- ❖ India's investment is restricted to the Shahid Beheshti port.
- ❖ India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement in April 2016.
- ❖ In December 2017, the first phase of Shahid Beheshti port was inaugurated, and India sent its first consignment of wheat to Afghanistan through Chabahar.
- ❖ In December 2018, India Ports Global Limited took over a part of the operations at Shahid Beheshti.

Quick Bites:

- ☐ Jordan became the 63rd nation to sign the Artemis Accords, a set of international principles launched in 2020 under the Artemis space exploration programme led by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The Accords aim to promote peaceful, transparent, and cooperative exploration of the Moon, Mars, and other celestial bodies while reinforcing the principles of the Outer Space Treaty of 1967.
- ☐ India approves the first withdrawal of 30 billion rupees for the Maldives under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework. This framework introduced an INR Swap Window worth ₹25,000 crore, supplementing the USD/Euro Swap Window, and aimed to promote the internationalization of the Indian Rupee.
- ☐ The Union government appointed Ashok Kumar Lahiri, economist and MLA in West Bengal, Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog on Saturday. Mr. Lahiri, a former Chief Economic Adviser to the government, replaces Suman K. Bery, who has been the Vice-Chairperson of the government's think-tank since May 2022.
- ☐ The World Health Organization (WHO) has granted prequalification approval to the first malaria treatment specifically designed for newborns and infants. The medicine, artemether-lumefantrine, marks a major step in reducing malaria deaths among the youngest and most vulnerable children.

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